

### Message from Dean Whiteley

Several clinical trials are under way at the Companion Animal Rehabilitation Service Program in our Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Dr. Dianne Dunning, small animal surgeon, started the rehab program just over a year ago with the primary goal of providing therapy to aid recovery for post-surgical patients. (See <http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/vth/animreha.html>.)

The program now serves a much broader patient base. Trials are running or starting soon to examine the effectiveness of rehabilitation therapy for neurological conditions, tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO), elbow dysplasia, cranial cruciate disease, weight loss, and general cardiovascular function and heart health.

Even long-term cancer inpatients are benefiting from rehab, which improves their conditioning and provides quality interactions.

You may be seeing Dr. Dunning's name in connection with another area of interest for her: she is implementing a shelter medicine and humane education program within the DVM curriculum and partnering with the Anti-Cruelty Society and Chicago Animal Care and Control, among others, to provide on-site experiences for students.

On March 1 our college will host more than 200 applicants interviewing for admission to the Class of 2008. The number of applications from Illinois students has dropped from 232 in 2002 to 204 in the current cycle. Meanwhile, non-resident applications have risen from 477 to 532 over the same two years.

We hope Chicago VMA members will take an active role in recruiting bright and engaged individuals to the veterinary profession. The college's Office of Academic and Student Affairs is happy to support your efforts with handouts and other support for reaching a range of high school and younger audiences.

The office also oversees a mentoring program and is looking for practitioners who can empathize with and encourage veterinary students while infecting them with enthusiasm for the profession. Proximity to the campus is not a requirement. A lively relationship can be built by sharing perspectives through phone calls and email, with periodic get-togethers at your clinic as well as at the college.

For more on recruiting and mentoring opportunities, call Mary Kelm, assistant dean in ASA, at 217/333-1192. And please continue to share your comments and questions with me in person or by email to [dean@cvm.uiuc.edu](mailto:dean@cvm.uiuc.edu).--Herb