

## **Commitment to Veterinary Service Brings Fred Troutt Back to Hospital Director's Office**

By Dr. Herb Whiteley  
*Dean, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine*

I'm pleased to announce that in July Dr. Fred Troutt returned to a leadership role at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital after a 10-year hiatus. As the new interim director, Dr. Troutt brings a wealth of knowledge and experience about the challenges and opportunities the hospital faces.

"It's my goal to improve service to referring veterinarians and to be more responsive to their needs," says Dr. Troutt.

To share your constructive thoughts and insights about how the hospital can better help you and your clients, you can reach Dr. Troutt at 217-265-6554 or send email to [VTHdir@vetmed.illinois.edu](mailto:VTHdir@vetmed.illinois.edu).

There will also be three opportunities at the annual Fall Conference for Veterinarians, September 9 and 10, to provide feedback about hospital service to faculty in the small animal medicine, small animal surgery/imaging, and equine medicine and surgery sections, although Dr. Troutt will be out of the country and unable to meet with practitioners then. (See sidebar.)

Dr. Fred Troutt spent 1989 to 1999 as the head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine, a role which then encompassed being the chief administrator of the hospital.

Since that time his perspective has been further enriched by more than six years of service on the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education, where he worked diligently to monitor and improve the veterinary educational processes at the 41 institutions worldwide accredited by the AVMA COE.

His past service to the College, to the veterinary profession, and to veterinary education in particular informs his views of our hospital.

"The teaching hospital must provide the very best environment to foster clinical learning," says Dr. Troutt. "We need sufficient case material in order to develop outstanding clinical problem solvers. Students need to see 'real world' cases as well as business management practices. More hands-on involvement will give students more confidence and professional competence."

With implementation of the Illinois Integrated Veterinary Professional Curriculum, our new curriculum that incorporates at least eight weeks of clinical rotations into every year of veterinary education, the teaching aspect of the hospital has become even more important.

"At the same time, the hospital supports faculty in inquiry and scholarship that will lead to clinical advances. These two core functions—teaching and research—are the reasons our hospital exists," notes Dr. Troutt. "We have to have a commitment to providing the very best service we can to referring veterinarians to ensure that the hospital fulfills its roles."

Dr. Troutt earned his veterinary degree at the University of Pennsylvania, a master's from Purdue University, and a PhD from the University of Missouri. He is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Nutrition.

In the late 1970s, he was the founding associate dean at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. He was also instrumental in getting the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners started around that same time.

Before joining the faculty at Illinois, he served as the director of the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center at the University of California-Davis College of Veterinary Medicine, where he was involved in implementing large herd production medicine programs. He was recognized for his work there with the Merit American Association of Bovine Practitioners Award for Excellence in Preventive Veterinary Medicine (Dairy) in 1987.

His areas of expertise include food safety, production medicine epidemiology, and clinical nutrition.

Although the University and the state face severe budget shortages in the coming years, Dr. Troutt sees the glass as half full.

“Yes, there are economic challenges, but we can be entrepreneurs. We have an excellent faculty, and we will provide a top-notch Illini education for our students, while practicing good fiscal responsibility,” he says. “I’m really going to enjoy working with a great bunch of people.”

[sidebar:]

**The Veterinary Teaching Hospital Needs YOU!**

Got a comment about the referral process at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital? Please share it during Fall Conference. Veterinarians who attend will receive a coupon worth \$25 off registration for the 2011 Fall Conference.

You do not have to be registered for the conference to attend any of these sessions.

**Equine Feedback Session**

Thursday, September 9, 11 a.m., Boilermakers/Wildcats/Nittany Lions Room, Hilton Garden Inn

**Small Animal Surgery/Imaging Feedback Session**

Thursday, September 9, 1 p.m., Little Chief Room, Hilton Garden Inn

**Small Animal Medicine and ER Feedback Session**

Friday, September 10, 1 p.m., Spartans Room, Hilton Garden Inn