

FUND!

In order to **find** cures we need your help to **fund** cures. Give generously to OVC Pet Trust Fund. Help the pets we love live longer, healthier lives. OVC Pet Trust is grateful for your support.



Your donations support advanced training for veterinarians like Drs. Maude Touret, left, and Fernanda Mantovani.

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Investing in the future

The OVC Pet Trust Fund is shaping the future of veterinary medicine by supporting graduate student positions at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC).

Last year, your gifts to Pet Trust provided more than \$150,000 for graduate stipends and scholarships, creating learning and training opportunities for a new generation of clinical specialists and scientists.

"It's an investment in people that will benefit animals everywhere for years to come," says Dr. Gordon Kirby, OVC's associate dean of research and innovation. "The OVC is renowned for its graduate programs in the veterinary and biomedical sciences, and Pet Trust funding helps us attract some of the brightest minds from across Canada and around the world."

Your donations support qualified veterinarians from across Canada and around the

world who come to OVC for advanced training in veterinary oncology, diagnostic imaging, neurology and ophthalmology, as well as those pursuing their PhD with an eye toward an academic career.

Dr. Maude Touret, a graduate of the National Veterinary College of Toulouse in France, is in her third year of OVC's Doctor of Veterinary Science (DVSc) degree program that combines applied clinical skills training with research in a unique residency program. Looking ahead to a career as a specialist in medical oncology, she came to Guelph after completing a MSc at the University of Montreal.

"The OVC takes a team approach to cancer

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Making a difference, for Pete's sake

From the Board of Trustees: Dr. Mary DeCaire

Everyone has their own unique story that helps explain why they support the OVC Pet Trust Fund.

Dr. Mary DeCaire explains it with three simple words: "For Pete's sake."

Although DeCaire has had many wonderful patients and clients in more than 30 years of practice, Pete was special. He was a miniature Schnauzer who enjoyed a long and happy life with his family despite dealing with chronic health problems including diabetes, problems with his bladder and pancreas, kidney disease, and dental issues.

"He was high-maintenance but dearly loved," said DeCaire, an OVC '76 graduate and the current chair of the OVC Pet Trust Fund board of trustees. "Pete had a good life but it was the care and commitment of his owners that made it possible."

Inevitably, time ran out for Pete and DeCaire helped his family face the

heartbreaking decision to say goodbye. After his passing, she received a package from Pete's 'mom,' a Muskoka-area textile artist known for naming each of her one-of-a-kind creations. In addition to a thank-you letter, the box contained a handmade scarf with a tag attached that read "For Pete's sake."

"That's the essence of why we do what we do as veterinarians," said DeCaire, a partner at Centennial Animal Hospital and Gravenhurst Veterinary Services. "Without that bond of unconditional love between pets and their people, our profession as we've known it would not exist. And without the OVC Pet Trust Fund, there would be no other major source of financial support in Canada for research that benefits the health of companion animals like Pete."

The OVC Pet Trust Fund welcomed Tom Ryley to the board of trustees in 2011.



A longtime supporter of Pet Trust, Ryley (pictured above) is a former executive vice-president of Suncor Energy, where he was responsible for Suncor's refining and marketing business.

Following his retirement from Suncor in 2008, he started Beacon Head Energy, a business advisory and investment management firm specializing in alternate and renewable energy. He also sits on the boards of several public, private and charitable organizations.

Sharing their love for each other and for their pets



For their wedding, Amanda Giordano and Gianpiero Bartella made a donation to Pet Trust in lieu of wedding favours for guests.

More and more people are choosing ways to give that reflect their particular interests and circumstances.

Weddings, parties, anything

Amanda Giordano and Gianpiero Bartella will celebrate their wedding on June 23 — and share their love for animals by making a donation to Pet Trust in lieu of wedding favours for their guests.

"Gianpiero and I have been together for about two and half years now, and from the first time we went out I knew he was the man I was going to spend the rest of my life with," says Amanda. "Especially, after I saw the way he treated the other two men in my life: my golden lab Ceaser and my short-haired cat Oscar."

For the wedding, Pet Trust is supplying gift cards that will be placed at each place setting notifying guests of the donation and thanking them for sharing their special day.

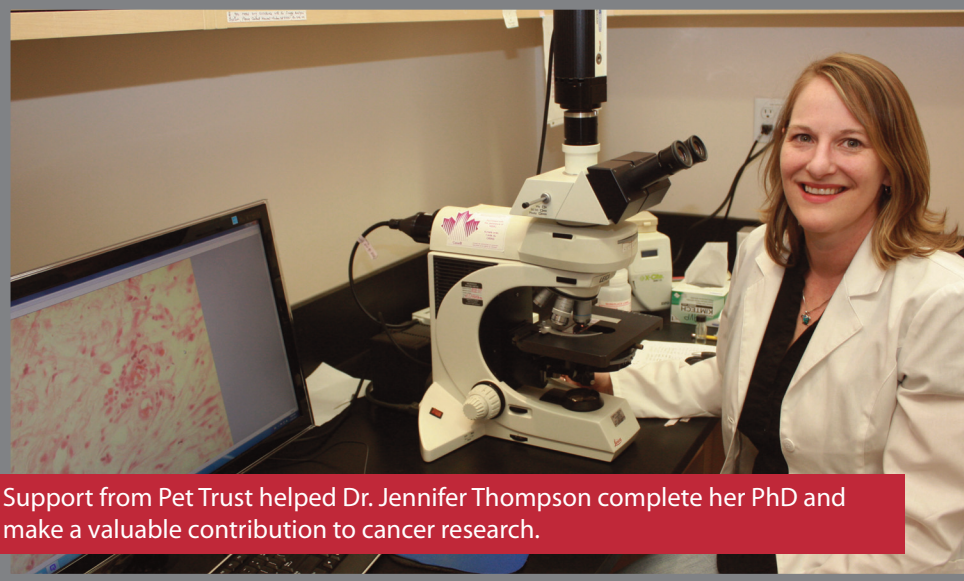
"We decided together to donate to the OVC Pet Trust Fund because our animals are one of the most important things in our lives, and if we can help other animals live longer lives then we have something to be proud of. Our pets are the ones who love us unconditionally, who wait for us at the door to come home and always know how to put a smile on our face.

We couldn't have chosen a more perfect way to celebrate the most important day of our lives."

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Runs, walks, barbecues, fashion shows, memorial donations — there have always been many ways to support the OVC Pet Trust Fund.

Creating new opportunities for young veterinarians



Support from Pet Trust helped Dr. Jennifer Thompson complete her PhD and make a valuable contribution to cancer research.

Cover story continued

care that includes medical, surgical and radiation oncologists plus specialists in other services such as diagnostic imaging — all working together to come up with a plan that's best for each patient," says Touret, who now has permanent residency status and plans to remain in Canada.

Touret's research project focuses on analyzing the DNA and RNA of bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract of dogs undergoing chemotherapy to understand why some suffer side effects such as diarrhea and others don't.

"While diarrhea isn't a big problem for most of our patients, canine lymphoma is a good model for some types of leukemia and lymphoma in humans. We hope what we learn here can be applied to help people, especially children with leukemia who often become seriously ill with diarrhea as a result of chemotherapy."

The Pet Trust Fund also supports one-year internships at OVC. That's what brought Dr. Fernanda Mantovani to Guelph from Brazil as the Spinone Oncology Intern. When she completes her internship this summer, she will remain at OVC and

begin a DVSc/residency in medical oncology.

A graduate of the Sao Paulo State University, Mantovani spent her senior clinical year at the University of Wisconsin followed by a rotating internship at the University of Missouri. It was in Missouri that she decided to pursue specialty training in oncology.

"The OVC has a great reputation and the specialty internship in oncology has allowed me to work with and learn from a wonderful group of people," says Mantovani. "OVC has a full range of specialists under one roof — which is very helpful for patients, for clients, and for my training."

These are opportunities that simply would not exist without support from the Pet Trust Fund, says Dr. Jennifer Thompson, a PhD student in the OVC's Department of Pathobiology.

Thompson's research focuses on canine mast cell tumours — in particular, determining the expression of proteins that are often impaired in animal and human cancers.

Mast cells are a special type of immune system cell found primarily in the

skin as well as the lining of the lungs and digestive tract, mouth, eyelids and nose. Mast cell tumours are one of the most common types of cancer in dogs.

"I'm looking at how expression of certain proteins differs among dogs with the disease and how these markers correlate with their prognosis," said Thompson, who graduated from OVC in 2003 and returned to Guelph in 2007 for a DVSc in pathology, then transferred to a PhD program. While working on her PhD, she has continued as a part-time practitioner at the Animal Hospital of High Park in Toronto.

Supported by the Art Rouse Memorial Scholarship in Veterinary and Comparative Cancer Studies, Thompson works with tissue samples from the University of Guelph Institute for Comparative Cancer Investigation (ICCI) tumour bank — which is also funded by Pet Trust.

In addition to contributing to understanding the mechanisms of cancer, her research has produced an added benefit: two new lines of "immortal" mast cells that can grow and replicate indefinitely in the laboratory and be preserved for study by other scientists for years to come. The cells were developed in the laboratory of Dr. Brenda Coomber, co-director of the ICCI.

"These cells are very hard to grow in the laboratory. There are less than 10 mast cell lines in the world and they're not readily available," said Thompson, whose work earned her the 2011 Merial Research Award for Graduate Veterinarians.

"In the lab there are a number of things we can do to study tumours and understand how they grow, test how they respond in the presence of certain drugs, and begin developing new therapies. But we need cell lines to do it," said Thompson.

"I would not have been able to do any of this if not for Pet Trust."

Volunteers the key to our success



Over the years, the OVC Pet Trust Fund has celebrated many successes thanks to the hard work of our passionate community of volunteers and supporters.

From organizing fundraisers to representing Pet Trust at trade shows and other events, they're building grassroots support and demonstrating that there are many, many ways to give.

"Pet Trust appeals to me because it is dedicated to improving health care for people's animal companions," said Janice O'Born, chairman of The Printing House (TPH) Charitable Office and owner of the Yorkville, Ont.-based AxiSpa.

Dedicated to promoting philanthropy among the staff at TPH, the Charitable Office supports a number of Canadian charities, particularly those that benefit women and children, in a variety of ways. Its payroll participation

program supports charities by matching employee contributions dollar-for-dollar. Funds usually go to one environmental or animal-related cause and, one children's.

The OVC Pet Trust Fund was selected as a charity of choice in 2011, and recently O'Born presented a cheque for \$21,023 on behalf of TPH and its employees in support of Pet Trust research.

A lifelong animal lover, O'Born became involved with Pet Trust in 2010 when she co-hosted an awareness-raising dinner with Pet Trust board of trustees member Roly Watt. Building upon the success of that event, O'Born played a crucial role as chair of the organizing committee for the Pet Trust Gala in October that raised more than \$240,000 (net).

"For me, the most rewarding thing was building friends for Pet Trust, increasing awareness and receiving inspiration from some of the people affiliated with the Ontario Veterinary College such as Dr. Elizabeth Stone, Dr. Paul Woods and Dr. Sarah Boston."

Pet Trust also plays an important role in

fostering opportunities for veterinary students and strengthening relationships between veterinary caregivers, clients and their pets, said Adam Little, a student volunteer who just completed his third year of the four-year DVM program at the OVC.

"I believe that the exposure Pet Trust brings to veterinary medicine and the contributions made by veterinary research are vital," said Little.

In addition to helping out at events raising awareness of Pet Trust among his fellow students, Little is the project manager developing a new pet-oriented mobile application for smartphones.

"The app itself will be geared towards children and educate them about veterinary medicine through interacting with their own personal virtual pet."

Janice O'Born, top left, has played a key role in raising awareness about Pet Trust in the Toronto area. Right, OVC student Adam Little helps out at the Pet Trust booth at the 2012 Ontario Veterinary Medical Association conference.

Focusing on the right medications for cats



Dr. Chantale Pinard is looking for a safe and effective treatment for a common feline eye disease.

OVC scientists are working to increase understanding of a common eye disease in cats and assess the safety of drugs that may be used to treat it.

The study is led by Dr. Chantale Pinard, a faculty member in OVC's Department of Clinical Studies, and supported by a \$46,841 grant from Pet Trust. The scientists are examining the role of a particular enzyme in uveitis and the effects of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) often used to treat the condition in other species.

Uveitis — an inflammatory condition that affects the middle layer or coloured part of the eye — is one of the more common eye diseases known to affect cats.

Over the past decade, one in four cats presented to the OVC Health Sciences Centre have had the disease which if left unchecked can lead to chronic pain, glaucoma and blindness, said Pinard, a board-certified ophthalmologist.

"It is an important disease that is quite prevalent in the general cat population. But it can be caused by a number of things so it can be difficult to diagnose and treat correctly," said Pinard.

The research team includes Drs. Kimberly Hsu (an OVC graduate student) and faculty members Ron Johnson (a pharmacologist), pathologist Jeff Caswell and radiologist Stephanie Nykamp. Pinard will also be

working with Dr. Dana Allen, an expert on the effects of medications on organs such as the liver and kidneys who retired recently from OVC.

They'll be studying COX-2, an enzyme linked to inflammatory eye conditions in dogs but whose role in feline eye diseases is unclear. NSAIDs act by inhibiting COX enzymes; however, NSAIDs administered orally can harm the kidneys, liver and gastrointestinal tract. This is particularly true in cats because their livers cannot metabolize NSAIDs.

One way around the problem is to limit the amount of medication absorbed throughout the body by applying NSAIDs topically in the form of eye drops.

"In dogs and people, we've found that topical NSAIDs are an effective way to treat uveitis without significant side effects," said Pinard, who cautioned that some studies have shown repeated use of NSAIDs may produce corneal lesions and increased intraocular pressure, one of the warning signs for glaucoma.

"There are no veterinary-approved NSAIDs for cats and dogs, and we don't know enough about how their systems absorb medication to predict how much can be used without damaging side effects or whether they can be used safely in combination with other drugs. We're hoping this study will answer some of those questions."

Projects funded in fall 2011

- **Dr. Olaf Berke (\$3,000)**
Time series analysis of feline retroviral infections
- **Dr. Shauna Blois (\$10,000)**
Serum and urine neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin concentrations in dogs with sepsis and dogs with neoplasia
- **Dr. Brigitte Brisson (\$24,000)**
Can silver-coated urinary catheters reduce the rate of bacteriuria and acquired catheter-associated urinary tract infections in clinical canine patients at the OVC-HSC?
- **Dr. Alice Defarges (\$22,733)**
Standardization of bronchoalveolar lavage suction techniques to optimize diagnostic yield of canine lower airway supplies
- **Dr. David Eshar (\$1,072)**
Comparison of Azostix reagent test strips with standard automated biochemical analyzer for blood urea nitrogen/urea in ferrets
- **Dr. Anthony Mutsaers (\$13,081)**
Quantification of circulating growth factor/cytokine profiles to aid dose optimization of receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors toceranib and masitinib in canine cancer patients
- **Dr. Tony Ogg (\$39,972)**
Hemostasis in cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy at diagnosis and following therapy with anti-platelet drugs
- **Dr. Tony Ogg (\$22,388)**
Pharmacology of the oral acting factor Xa inhibitor rivaroxaban in normal dogs and cats – pilot studies
- **Dr. Glen Pyle (\$30,000)**
A molecular investigation of dilated cardiomyopathy in Doberman pinschers
- **Dr. Dale Smith (\$21,025)**
Assessment of serological tests to detect avian bornavirus infection
- **Dr. Scott Weese (\$16,350)**
Preliminary evaluation of fecal bacteriotherapy (stool transplantation) for treatment of inflammatory bowel disease
- **Dr. Darren Wood (\$5,285)**
Role of the protein C pathway in pathogenesis of dogs with inflammatory bowel disease
- **Dr. Geoffrey Wood (\$15,628)**
Investigation of prognostic markers in canine mammary tumours using tissue microarrays

Equipment Funds:

- **Dr. Ron Johnson (\$25,000)**
Fluorescent microplate reader for the OVC High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) facility.

Golden thread weaves amazing stories of caring



Linda Sowerby and Brenna organized a photo day to support Pet Trust.

Cancer touches us all. It does not discriminate between the precious pets or people in our lives. It has knocked on all our doors, and we have answered. Thanks to the support of people like you and the researchers at OVC, we are finding more and better ways to deal with and treat cancer, and together, we are helping to build Canada's first comprehensive Animal Cancer Centre.

Seventeen years ago, Blues came into our home and hearts, and our lives were changed forever. Who knew, that all these years later, a very special friend, Linda Sowerby, owner of Tri-Mark Canine Services in Mississauga, would be fighting her own battle with Brenna her beloved Corgi, and that that would evolve into a very special Photo Day that raised \$576 for the Smiling Blue Skies® Cancer Fund.

An amazing golden thread weaves so many amazing people and pets together. There is Judy and her two golden retrievers. Judy, a true champion of Smiling Blue Skies, just celebrated five years of being cancer-free.

There is Tracy in Nova Scotia, whose "Pink Army" ribbons have found their way into Linda's home, my home, and all the way to Deb, in British Columbia, who along with her three goldens has completed her own chemotherapy treatments, right along with Tracy! On May 6, Deb and her dog, Bailiff, participated in Calgary's Smiling Blue Skies Walk to End Canine Cancer.

Who knew that a Smiling Blue Skies tip jar would lead to a brand new walk, helmed by Bernadette Beirnes, owner of Paws to Claws near Bradford, Ont. at the beautiful Scanlon Creek Conservation

Area, that raised \$14,000; or that Kelly Manis, owner of Kelly's Dog Walking and Pet Sitting, would be planning a walk in Toronto for the fall of 2012, as is Cynthia Reid on Vancouver Island.

Smiling Blue Skies is evolving in ways that we could not have dreamed possible even a few years ago. Thanks to the special dedication of people like OVC Pet Trust's managing director Karen Scott and the University of Guelph's web project co-ordinator Graham Price, we have specially designed websites and on-line sponsor sheets that allow us to invite walkers from coast-to-coast to participate in Smiling Blue Skies walks.

The 2012 Smiling Blues Walk in Calgary, under the leadership of Mary Shillabeer and Leanne Tucker, raised an astounding \$35,000, an increase of \$5,000 over last years event - thanks in large part to our online presence.

Did you know that "It's always a clean run with Smiling Blue Skies?" The Academy of Vancouver Island Dogs (AVID) has planned its biggest raffle ever for June's BC and Yukon Regional Agility Championships. For the very first time, competitors in the Agility Association of Canada's national championships, being hosted on Vancouver Island in August, can sponsor each other's dogs. Imagine if 600 participants sponsored one run each for \$10!

Most important of all, Smiling Blue Skies continues to offer 24/7 support to anyone whose life has been touched by cancer. It doesn't matter where you live. Smiling Blue Skies will try to help you in any way we can.

Long live blue skies, where hope is a kite, and dreams really do come true. We are all in this together. Hope . . . one word sure says it all. Here's to a world without cancer!

Gala events a big success for Pet Trust

Friends of the OVC Pet Trust Fund opened their hearts and wallets in a big way at two fall fundraisers held in Toronto.

The OVC Pet Trust Gala: A Walk in the Park raised over \$240,000 in support of the OVC Animal Cancer Centre, while the PawsGala fashion event has provided \$10,000 toward a scholarship for OVC students who excel in providing emergency and critical care.

"We're absolutely delighted and tremendously thankful for the generosity of everyone involved," said Karen Scott, Pet Trust managing director. "The cancer centre initiative has certainly struck a chord with the public. Their support is making a real difference in the lives of our animal friends and will help advance cancer treatment and research for years to come."

About 370 people attended the gala, held Oct. 13 at the Granite Club in Toronto. Over the past few years, the OVC Pet Trust Fund has raised more than \$11 million for the cancer centre project. Watch for the grand opening in the fall of 2012.

The PawsGala held Oct. 27 in the Distillery District was organized by Paws for the Cause, a not-for-profit group that raises money for dog-related causes.

"I can't say enough about our hard-working volunteers and the generosity of all our donors," Scott said. "It's a testament to what caring people can accomplish when they work together to help the pets we love live longer, healthier lives."



Photography by Bronwyn Coombs and Tom Sandler

Bequests and planned giving

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One of the greatest feelings is knowing that your gift will live on and keep on giving to help and benefit the health and well being of our beloved companion animals.

A planned gift is a charitable donation that can be arranged during your lifetime to benefit the health and well being of pets in the future. It may be made in the form of a will bequest, a gift of life insurance, or a gift annuity. We would be happy to speak with you to discuss the various options available.

For more information, contact:
Karen Scott
Managing Director Pet Trust
1-519-824-4120 ext: 54370

OVC Pet Trust Fund Best Friends Newsletter

Best Friends of Pet Trust is published by the Ontario Veterinary College for the interest of Pet Trust donors and friends. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the OVC Pet Trust board of trustees. Reproduction of material from this newsletter is welcomed. Credit should be given to Best Friends of Pet Trust.

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UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

CHANGING LIVES
IMPROVING LIFE

Strengthening the animal-human bond Grimsby Animal Hospital



Supporting the OVC Pet Trust Fund helps the veterinarians at the Grimsby Animal Hospital achieve their goals as they live by their mission statement every day:

To work together as a team to provide outstanding, up to date compassionate care for our patients. We support the human-animal bond and strive to strengthen it.

“The OVC Pet Trust Fund supports our mission and helps us provide optimal health care to pets by funding learning and research at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC). New diagnostics and treatments developed at OVC help advance the veterinary profession and assist primary care clinicians in being able to offer top medical choices to patients and their owners.

“All four veterinarians at the Grimsby Animal Hospital are OVC graduates, and so we appreciate the support that Pet Trust provides for the training of new veterinarians. Studies funded by Pet Trust are deepening society’s understanding of the human-animal bond — and supporting the values reflected in the mission statement and goals at our practice.

“It is our hope that the advances made in veterinary medicine through Pet Trust’s work will ensure pets in the future will live even longer and healthier lives.

“By contributing to exciting and worthwhile Pet Trust initiatives such as the OVC Animal Cancer Centre, we’re not only investing in the profession but also strengthening the relationship with our clients and educating them about ongoing research that will improve the quality of life for all companion animals in the future.”

EVENTS

Pet Trust Forum thanks donors

This year’s program featured Dr. Bernie Pukay, an award-winning veterinarian, television producer and newspaper columnist, who discussed “From Bambi to the Bond: The Impact of the Human-Animal Bond on the Body, Mind and Soul.”

About 100 special guests attended the Pet Trust Forum held at the Ontario Veterinary College on April 21.

The annual event is a thank-you to donors who have supported the OVC Pet Trust Fund over the years.

Nitro, a six-year-old German shepherd and five-year veteran of the Guelph Police Service’s canine unit made an appearance with handler Cst. Neil Moulton. The program also included talks by OVC

professors including “Pet Food 101” with Adronie Verbrugghe, who holds the Royal Canin Endowed Chair in Canine and Feline Clinical Nutrition at OVC.

July 7

Dog Days of Summer

Learn how to teach your old (or new) dog some new tricks and support Pet Trust at the Dog Days of Summer Fun Day to be held July 7 at McCann Dog Trainers in Flamborough, ON.

Demonstrations, information sessions, obedience and training tips, face-painting, and more. Fun for the whole family — including your well-behaved dog. For more information, contact Marie Sawford at marie@companiondogtraining.org. Proceeds go to the OVC Animal Cancer Centre.

The event goes Saturday, July 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine. For directions, visit mccanndogs.com.