

Unique animal exhibit to open at Penn

PHILADELPHIA — Archaeology, anthropology and veterinary medicine — all at the University of Pennsylvania — have combined efforts to produce a unique museum exhibition.

"Man and Animals: Living, Working and Changing Together," an exhibition celebrating the interactions of man and animals through the ages, is the result of an unusual collaboration between The University Museum of Archaeology/Anthropology and the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

The exhibition will open at The University Museum on Thursday and continue until June 30, 1985.

The theme of the Man and Animals exhibition is the importance of the domestication of animals to human existence, as told through ancient artifacts and modern science. This theme was chosen to honor the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1984-85.

The exhibition is comprised of artifacts, skeletal remains, graphics, photographs and text panels. It includes materials from about 10,000 years ago, when animals first began to be domesticated, to the present era, when selective breeding and modern genetics have created distinguishing physical and



Horse-drawn ambulance was used in early-1900's to bring sick and wounded animals to School of Veterinary Medicine at University of Pennsylvania.

behavioral characteristics in "man's best friends."

The exhibit focuses on four of the most useful domesticated animals — the dog, the horse, the cat and the cow. These four represent animals with a wide spectrum of importance: from pets to major food producers to powerful draft animals, that have lived and worked with man over many millennia

Framing the exhibition is a brief history of the School of Veterinary Medicine, which is the second oldest veterinary school in the United States.

Most of the artifacts, photographs and bones in the exhibition are from the collections of The University Museum and the School of Veterinary Medicine. Some are on loan from other institutions.



Penn-RAP Pennsylvania Residue Avoidance Program

Chloramphenicol in Food Animals

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The FDA is placing new emphasis on halting the use of chloramphenicol in food-producing animals. Although chloramphenicol has never been approved for use in food animals in the United States, it has been used to treat infections that did not respond to other medications. If chloramphenicol is effective, why has the FDA decided to eliminate its use in livestock? The answer lies in the drug's potentially toxic effects on human beings.

There are two types of problems associated with chloramphenicol exposure. The first is an interference with the body's protein production. This results in decreased red cell production, decreased immune response and possible circulatory collapse. All of these effects are related to the amount of chloramphenicol to which an individual is exposed, and all are reversible upon withdrawal of the drug. This type of reaction can occur in humans as well as in animals treated with chloramphenicol for an extended period of time.

The second possible consequence of chloramphenicol exposure is a severe type of bone marrow depression that is usually irreversible. This reaction is known to occur only in humans and only in a small percentage of the population. It is impossible to tell beforehand who those sensitive individuals are. The bone-marrow depression leads to an anemia that affects all blood cells, rather than just the red blood cells. The anemia develops over a period of months and is fatal in approximately 70 percent of the cases. Those who do recover have a high incidence of acute leukemia.

It is the occurrence of this type of anemia (aplastic anemia) that has alarmed the federal agencies. The

development of aplastic anemia is not related to the amount of chloramphenicol to which a person is exposed. Therefore, the USDA is unable to establish "safe" levels in meat or milk. Exposure to any amount of the drug could be harmful to susceptible individuals.

Both consumers of chloramphenicol-contaminated food products and producers who come in contact with the drug may be at risk. One case has been reported of a rancher who died of aplastic anemia a year after treating his cattle with chloramphenicol. It is thought that he absorbed the drug through a cut on his hand.

The FDA has stepped up investigations into the illegal use of chloramphenicol in food-producing animals. Legal action will be taken if misuse persists. However, it is hoped that this will be a cooperative undertaking in which veterinarians, drug manufacturers and distributors, and producers act together to protect the public health.

Although chloramphenicol is no

longer available for use in food animals, there are many other drugs approved to serve this same purpose. Even when using legal, approved drugs, proper guidelines must be followed to avoid antibiotic residues in meat and milk. Some of these guidelines follow:

Use both the dose of medication and the route of administration that are listed on the package label. Either increasing the dose or changing the way that the drug is given may prolong the time needed for the body to clear itself of the drug.

Identify all treated animals. Tail tags, leg bands or animal markers may be used.

Keep written records of the date the animal was treated and the drug that was used.

After treating, observe withdrawal times before marketing milk or meat.

If in doubt as to whether meat or milk from a certain animal is safe to market, on-farm tests such as the Delvo or LAST check for the presence of antibiotics in milk or urine

Sheep field day on Oct. 13

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN — A special Sheep Field Day will be held Saturday, Oct. 13th at the Penn State Schuylkill Campus near Schuylkill Haven. This information-packed day is planned with sessions designed to prepare producers for the upcoming lambing season. Emphasis will be primarily geared to the care and management of the breeding flock.

The event, sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and the Southeast Pennsylvania Sheep Council, should help producers prepare for a successful and profitable lamb crop. All persons interested in sheep, from novices to commercial breeders, are encouraged to attend.

Sessions run from 9 a.m. till 3

p.m. and will cover topics such as ram and ewe management for breeding, pre-lambing care and nutrition for the ewe, lambing facilities, timing for lambing, selecting replacement animals, doing your own basic veterinary work, foot care and handling plus ewe/lamb economics.

Pre-registration is required by Oct. 8. A fee of \$5.00 per individual or \$7.00 per couple (family) is requested. Individuals interested in more information can contact Nancy Kadwill at the Montgomery County Extension Service at 277-0574 for a flier and registration blank. Registrations can be sent directly to Schuylkill County Extension Service, P.O. Box 250, Schuylkill Haven, Pa. 17972.

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