

Equine Medical Center: Comprehensive Teaching, Research, Service

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relax and he falls asleep against the pads. The medical team swings into action. The padded partition swivels back. The wall opens, exposing the operating area. In frantic gentleness, the attendants tug their half-ton patient onto the gurney that is positioned in the operating room ready to receive the horse, who is oblivious to all the activity around him.

When ready, the gurney is wheeled into operating position. Medical machines start. Floodlights are positioned. A light blue drape is placed over the patient. Sanitary gloves are sleeved over each hoof.

The leg with the splinter that needs to be removed is secured. Iodine covers the wounded area. A safety razor is used to shave the hair around the wound.

And thus, another of the nearly 200 operations that are done each

month are ready to commence at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Va.

What started as a dream 11 years ago has now become one of the premier medical establishments for the nation's equine industry. A \$4 million gift from the late Mrs. Marion duPont Scott and a donation of 200 acres of land by the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation made the center possible. In addition, \$2.2 million from private sources was raised to fund equipment acquisition. The Equine Medical Center serves as the Leesburg campus of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. It is part of a comprehensive veterinary teaching, research, and service program based at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., and the Avrum Gudelsky Veterinary Center at the University of Maryland at College Park.



Tugging the half-ton, sleeping patient onto the gurney requires effort.



The patient is coaxed into the padded holding area.

Dr. Fred Fregin was given the task of developing the center when it was only the building. At the time, there was no staff, no equipment, and no money to secure either. And there was no clientele.

After serving on the staff at New Bolton Center at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia for 17 years and then several years at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., Dr. Fregin heard about a possible position at the new equine center. Thinking he might like to devote himself full time to the care of horses, he applied for a position on the staff. In the first interview, he was given the opportunity to mastermind the development of both the center and the center's programs.

How do you convince established veterinarians to come and take a chance on something that exists only in the dreams of those who foresaw the potential? Dr. Fregin has just the winning personality and persuasive approaches to get the job done.

"The most exciting thing about the Center is that it is a true public/

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Getting ready to remove a large splinter.



Dr. Fred Fregin masterminded the development of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia. A portrait in oil of Marlon duPont Scott that hangs at the Center is shown at left. Also, her famous horse Battleship that in 1938 was the first American-bred and owned horse to win the Grand National Steeplechase at Aintree, England, is shown in the large oil painting.



Foals receive round-the-clock attention from medical staff and volunteers who work at the Center for the experience and the love of horses.