

High-Tech Help For Horses

(Continued from Page E1)

Besides raising Saddlebred and Thoroughbred horses, Scott was the first woman to ride astride at the national horse show and was the owner of "Battleship," the first American owned-and-trained horse to win the Grand National.

Providing 200 acres of property for the center was the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation. The foundation oversees the historic Westmoreland Davis Mansion, two equestrian museums and an equestrian center that adjoin the hospital grounds.

An additional \$2 million from other donors equipped the hospital. Eighty percent of the equipment, in fact, was made possible by private donations.

"In August of '83 there wasn't any equipment or em-

ployees," said center director Fred Fregin. "I had one desk and one lamp that I brought for myself," he said.

The need for an equine treatment center in the area was made immediately obvious, as within six months of opening they saw 600 horses.

Facilities include an intensive care unit, two surgical suites, two radiology suites, a clinical diagnostic laboratory, a pharmacy, a high-speed treadmill facility, a farriers' shop for corrective shoeing, and accommodations for 29 patients, besides an eight-stall isolation unit in progress.

A variety of horses are admitted to the hospital for treatment. "We really see the full spectrum of horses," said Ann Nadjar, assistant director of development.

"There is a perception that we see only elite horses, but we also care for everything

from horses that compete on the international level to miniature horses, mules, donkeys, and a lot of backyard horses," she said.

In addition, approximately 50 foals are referred to the center in the foaling season from January to July.

The center offers round-the-clock emergency service, so veterinarians at the center can quickly help horses with life-threatening fractures or colic.

"There is someone in the barns 24/7," said Nadjar. "Last year 750 emergencies came in, the majority during the evening or weekend." Colic is, in fact, the leading surgical procedure at the center.

Designed as a referral-only hospital, the center takes patients that are referred by the horse's regular veterinarian, so it does not compete with ambulatory practices in the area.

The original staff of 17 has more than doubled over the



A research horse moves from a walk to a canter during a workout session on the treadmill.

years. There are approximately 50 full-time employees including doctors, surgeons, technicians, professors, instructors, veterinary technicians (nurses), and administrators. Approximately 50 part-time (Turn to Page E3)



Dr. Celia Goodall, clinical instructor in equine surgery, checks the image of a horse's airway and the distance, incline, and heart rate information displayed on the screen — all information generated from the horse's treadmill workout.

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