

(March 4, 2009 Stillwater, OK) – Edward and Thelma Gaylord established the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation in 1994 to support a wide range of charitable activities. While many cultural, educational and charitable organizations have been the recipients of the Gaylords' generosity over the years, this is the first time Oklahoma State University (OSU) is benefitting from an E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation gift. The OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences received \$1 million from the Gaylord Foundation to launch its Equine Critical Care Unit at the center's Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

"The establishment of a specifically designated equine critical care unit will help us provide the most progressive care possible to all equine patients," explains Dr. Michael Lorenz, professor and dean of the veterinary center. "This facility will also enable us to continue our mission to train veterinary students in the art and science of clinical veterinary medicine, professionalism and practice management."

The Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital's Large Animal Clinic treats about 1,600 equine in-hospital cases per year. With more than 214,000 Oklahomans involved in the horse industry as owners, service providers, employees or volunteers, the economic impact of the equine industry for the state of Oklahoma is estimated at \$189 million per year.



Currently horses and foals in need of critical care are placed within the equine barn in various locations. The lack of a centralized facility increases the effort needed to provide appropriate medical and nursing care. In addition, critically ill horses and foals should be isolated from other animals since their resistance to infectious disease agents may be compromised.

"The new Equine Critical Care facility will allow us to thoroughly educate and train veterinary students in equine care using the most advanced procedures," adds Lorenz. "The Gaylord Foundation \$1 million gift will launch a campaign to fund the \$3 million project, which will help advance the health of horses well into the future and have a positive impact on Oklahoma's horse industry."

"We have long recognized the excellence of OSU's Veterinary Health Sciences Center," says

Christy Gaylord Everest. "The equine area is of particular interest to us because of our family's love of horses and longtime involvement with the horse industry. We are very pleased that through the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation, we can help make the critical care facility a reality for Oklahoma."

The Equine Critical Care Unit will be located adjacent to the existing Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the east entrance. It will contain about 4,600 square feet of new and renovated space dedicated exclusively to the critical care needs of equine patients. It will be a fully enclosed, climate controlled facility with video monitoring systems including the latest in critical and intensive care equipment.

The Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences is one of 28 veterinary colleges in the United States and is fully accredited by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The center's Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital is open to the public and provides routine and specialized care for small and large animals. It also offers 24 hour emergency care and is certified by the American Animal Hospital Association. For more information, visit www.cvhs.okstate.edu or call (405) 744-7000.

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