

State and Local

Center to gain prestige, image

Veterinary school renamed

By CYNTHIA GAY
Staff Writer

The Texas Veterinary Medical Center is right here at Texas A&M, and no other state in the United States has such a designated site for veterinary medicine.

The College of Veterinary Medicine and the Veterinary Teaching Center Campus Complex were re-named this fall upon approval of the Texas A&M System Board of Regents.

"It's an image thing," said George Shelton, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"It will allow us to be seen in the eyes of Texas as more than just a veterinary teaching college," he said. "It's by no means our only function."

And when the Texas Veterinary Medical Center applies for state funds, the Legislature probably will be more apt to consider gradual increases, Shelton said.

In the long term, an enhanced image also should help the center attract faculty members and patient referrals.

CVM officials assured the board that the new name would not require a new layer of administration, he added.

Neither the CVM or the VYH will hire extra personnel, Shelton said, and he will remain head of the entire complex.

Shelton is serving in his 13th year in this position.

"It won't change our day-by-day operation," he said, adding that the title will "legitimize and recognize what we are."

They are Texas' only college of veterinary medicine and comprehensive veterinary medical center.

Situated just north of University Drive and west of Welborn Road, this complex is spread over 200 acres, including the Veterinary Medical Park.

The VTH treats between 40,000 to 45,000 clinical patients each year, and daily receives between 600 and 800 professional

telephone calls from veterinarians throughout Texas.

The CVM has the largest enrollment of students seeking the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine (138 students per class and a total of 552) of any veterinary college in the nation.

Eight hundred students are enrolled in CVM's baccalaureate degree program, and 200 more are working towards a master's degree.

These students participate in some of the 21 functioning programs on the campus complex and the Veterinary Medical Park.

Shelton said the idea for a name change first came about two years ago.

When the CVM and VTH switched to line item budgeting to meet their diverse needs, the complex had all the more reason for owning this prestigious title, he said.

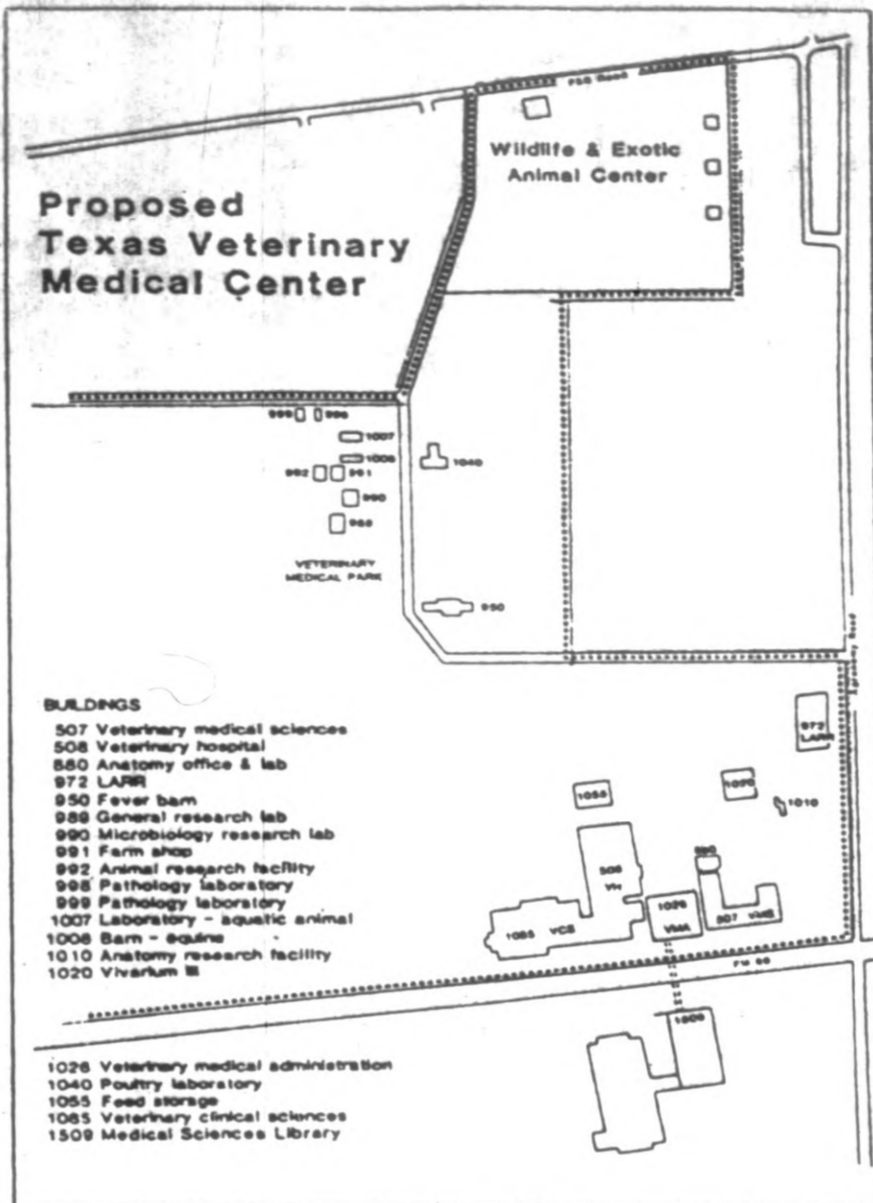
This budgeting also demonstrates the center's accomplishments in areas such as public health and the livestock industry, he said.

"We had a chance to reflect on our mission, our purpose and our goal," Shelton said, and the college officials realized their function was comparable to the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

Like the center, the CVM and VTH conduct educational programs, research activities and clinical services for the statewide community.

Among the college's many areas, Shelton is particularly proud of the Center for Comparative Medicine, the Comparative Oncology Program and the Center for Tropical Health, which has collaborated with researchers in Mexico, Colombia and Bogota.

To expand the capabilities of



the Wildlife and Exotic Animal Center (the first center of its kind at a veterinary college), 20 acres are now being fenced in to house more animals.

The biggest upcoming construction project for the college is a Large Animal Medical Hospital and Research Facility, to be completed in 1988.



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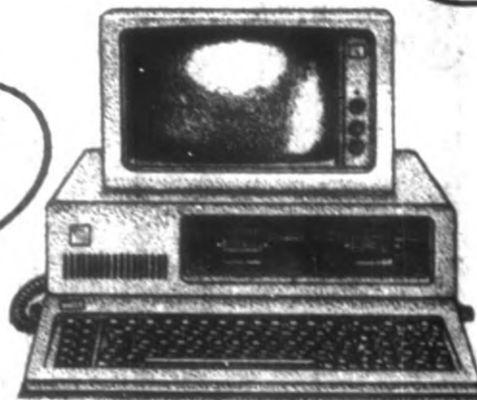
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