

a trilogy of start-ups

After speaking with Dr. Doug Dedrick '61, it is easy to see that he is driven by an intense desire to improve the world. Where others may see the current situation as something that must be adjusted to or even accepted, he has spent a lifetime changing the status quo, bettering the lives of countless animals and people in the process.

After working in a mixed animal practice in Massachusetts right after graduation, completing a tour with the Air Force in 1964, and working at a small animal practice in his hometown of East Aurora, NY, Dr. Dedrick bought his first practice in 1967. In a first for the state, he incorporated Hinckley Veterinary Hospital (now the Buffalo Small Animal Hospital) as a non-professional veterinary practice.

"This allowed me to consider selling the practice to a non-veterinarian someday in the future," said Dr. Dedrick, whose broad-based interests eventually led him to retire from the veterinary profession and return to school for a master's degree in pastoral ministry. "Veterinary medicine was an incredibly rewarding and challenging career. Life must be balanced, though, and there's a time for everything."

Before retiring, he started the first emergency clinic in the Buffalo area in 1977. Only the second such clinic in the state, the Greater Buffalo Small Animal Clinic coalesced more than 30 veterinarians who took shifts helping animals in life-threatening situations. As the founder, Dr. Dedrick wrote the constitution and organized the operation that was conceived to help people care for their beloved pets in some of the most critical situations.

In 2001, Dr. Dedrick decided to do something about pet overpopulation. He launched a mobile spay and neuter clinic that served five counties in western New York, sterilizing approximately 12,000 animals. To accomplish the task on a logistical level, he partnered with area nonprofits who promoted his service and scheduled animals for procedures. Dr. Dedrick worked two or three days a week for six years, providing this service to help reduce the number of unwanted animals and improve the health of family pets.

Earlier this year, Dr. Dedrick saw another opportunity to influence the care and well-being of animals. He recently established a charitable gift annuity at the College of Veterinary Medicine in support of the Class of 1961 Scholarship.

"My gift will be used to help people afford a quality education at Cornell," said Dr. Dedrick, whose father, brother, and uncle are all Cornell graduates as well. "I am grateful for the 'doors opened' and opportunities availed to me because of my DVM degree from Cornell. The multiple blessings have been unending and unexpected even though I was the fourth member of my family to attend Cornell. My classmates continue to be some of the many great treasures in my life. I am truly honored to be able to acknowledge my education and experiences accrued during and following my time spent at Cornell."

For more information on charitable gift annuities, please contact Kevin Mahaney, Assistant Dean of Alumni Affairs, Development, and Communications at 607.253.3779 or km70@cornell.edu.



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