look at this, we may find that what people thought was kennel cough is actually equine influenza.”

Epidemiological studies are now underway to find out how the greyhounds could have been exposed to the virus. There is little mystery to how it spread so quickly through racing dogs this summer; owners tend to keep greyhounds in close quarters, and the dogs are constantly moving from track to track, giving the virus plenty of opportunities to travel across state lines.

The whole experience underlines Dubovi’s longstanding concern over the extent to which public health officials monitor the transmission of disease from one species to another. In addition to greyhounds with equine influenza, there are reports of equine herpes virus in llamas, and a virus that affects fruit bats has been found in pigs in Southeast Asia. In October, about 30 tigers died at a zoo in Thailand after they were fed poultry infected with avian influenza—a virus that has also claimed the lives of more than two dozen humans in Thailand and Vietnam. “As populations get denser and domestic animals mix with each other and with wildlife, we have to be aware that disease-causing agents can jump species,” Dubovi says. He acknowledges that this may have been happening all along and is only being picked up now because of the increased number and sensitivity of contemporary testing methods. But Dubovi strongly feels that the system may be missing some important opportunities.

The current approach is one of targeted surveillance: for example, if a flock of chickens dies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will pay to test it for avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease. If those two diseases are ruled out, that may be the end of the investigation. “In New York State, the public health people take the approach that, ‘If we find something interesting in an animal, we’ll send it your way and we’ll pay you for doing it,’ but that’s a backwards situation,” Dubovi says. “You

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Gift Endows the Deanship

The name Austin Hooey may not sound familiar, but that is about to change. Miss Hooey, who in life declined to publicize her charitable intentions, left an extraordinary bequest in February to endow the deanship of the College of Veterinary Medicine. The title of Austin O. Hooey Dean has therefore been conferred by the trustees of Cornell University on Donald F. Smith, the incumbent dean of the college and will carry over to each of his successors.

“The college is greatly honored to receive this defining gift. Proceeds from this endowment will have a substantial impact on our ability to sustain academic priorities of the college,” said Dean Smith.

A second provision in Miss Hooey’s will names the directorship of Cornell’s School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering for her father, William C. Hooey, a 1912 graduate of the school. Funds in excess of the amounts required to endow the deanship and the directorship will provide scholarship aid to students in the respective programs. Miss Hooey made both bequests in memory of her father and her mother, Edna O. Hooey, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

Though an alumna of Mount Holyoke College, Miss Hooey had a lifelong relationship with Cornell. Her father maintained close ties with the campus and brought his daughter with him when he visited. He also impressed upon her early his gratitude for the financial support he had received from his uncle and without which he would not have been able to attend Cornell. Mr. Hooey repaid his uncle’s generosity by supporting the education of other worthy students at Cornell through the William C. Hooey Scholarship. Miss Hooey’s Cornell affiliations were so strong that she was elected to the Cornell University Council, serving from 1971 to 1977 and again from 1978 to 1981.
want to have a system in place so if you have a sick dog or a sick chicken, you come up with the answer to the problem. Ruling out a single disease doesn’t tell you anything. There’s a big chance of missing something significant in the very animal you have in the system, because there’s not enough funding behind it to actually [find out] why this animal has the disease.”

Dubovi would like to set up a surveillance system for companion animals, possibly associated with organizations like the SPCA and based in high-population areas like New York City, “so that if there is a new and emerging disease coming out there, we can spot it,” he says. New York State’s Department of Agriculture and Markets already contracts with Cornell to perform similar services for the food and fiber industry, subsidizing testing as a way of encouraging farmers to come forward with health problems among their livestock. State law gives the agriculture commissioner responsibility for the health and welfare of all animals in New York, including wildlife. But current concern over the potential for bioterrorist attacks has drawn much of the state’s attention—and money—away from more mundane risks like influenza. “The funding base, particularly here in New York, just isn’t there for zoonotic disease surveillance,” Dubovi says, “and I’m not sure we’ll ever see it until or unless we have a major outbreak of disease that makes it politically unacceptable to ignore the situation.”

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For a quarter of a century the Zweig Fund has supported numerous studies in all aspects of equine care. A series of events celebrates this anniversary year. To learn more, please visit: http://www.vet.cornell.edu/public/research/zweig.

“Because of her father’s love of Cornell and the activities she participated in with him relating to his class, I think she felt a certain kinship to the university,” wrote Thomas Phelan, her longtime attorney and co-executor of her estate. “In addition, some of her father’s friends had a very fine reputation for giving at Cornell, and that was an inspiration.” Those friends included Jansen Noyes and Robert Purcell, very prominent university benefactors.

Born in 1922, Miss Hooey worked on Wall Street after graduating in 1943 with a major in economics and a minor in political science. She also pursued studies in the New York University Graduate School of Business Administration and two years of night classes at Fordham University’s School of Law. She worked as a securities analyst with Lehman Brothers until 1962. She then traveled extensively and became active in local politics. She resided in Camden, N.J.

Miss Hooey’s beloved poodle, Katie, shared her home for 18 years and played an important role in inspiring her to provide for the care of future generations of animals. Late in life, she decided to consolidate a substantial portion of her estate into one gift for the benefit of animals rather than making many smaller bequests to various animal causes. When Phelan asked Cornell trust officer Jack Murphy how his client might do something especially meaningful for the College of Veterinary Medicine, he suggested the deanship. “She was genuinely excited about the possibility of doing something so major for Cornell,” Phelan recalls.

In addition to her principal bequests to Cornell, Miss Hooey bequeathed more than $1 million to animal shelters and humane organizations, charitable relief organizations, and medical, religious, and educational causes. In a final exceptional act of generosity, she donated her body for medical research. At her request, there was no obituary written to give testimony to her accomplishments and unending concern for others. It will be our special privilege to remember her here.

This statue of Ezra Cornell is presented to foremost benefactors of the university. Austin and William Hooey were given that honor for their extraordinary support to Cornell.