Murdoch seeks support for final Animal Teaching Mannequin

In 2009, Murdoch University Veterinary Trust sought support for animal teaching mannequins – and we are proud to announce that we have only one more mannequin to sponsor to reach our goal. These very life-like and sophisticated animal mannequins are similar to the human mannequins used in nursing and medical students’ teaching courses to provide a wide range of practical experiences. Students need a significant amount of practice before they can work with live patients and Murdoch’s commitment to animal welfare means that we limit the use of other animals for teaching purposes.

Murdoch’s teaching staff use the mannequins to demonstrate a wide variety of treatment options and procedures. Students are also able to regularly practice their skills on the animal mannequins to help build confidence. Finally, the mannequins can be used to assess a student’s competency before they begin working with live patients. Each teaching mannequin has a specific teaching purpose: teaching emergency procedures, diagnosing heart conditions or positioning animals for X-ray.

We are still seeking a sponsor for a final teaching mannequin to teach bandaging techniques. This mannequin provides students with regular practice of a key component of their training. Unlike humans, animals do not understand that an injured limb should be immobilised, held in a particular position or kept dry. A pet can not tell its owner if a bandage is too loose or too tight or if it is rubbing a sore spot. For these reasons, veterinarians must learn different bandaging techniques allowing different levels of mobility and support that can withstand an animal’s inquisitive nature. Imagine trying to bandage a broken tail and you can understand the need for our students to perfect their bandaging techniques before dealing with an injured patient.

Sponsorship of the final animal teaching mannequin is $5000 which will contribute to the costs of purchasing a mannequin as well as developing teaching tools with the mannequin and using the mannequin to assess students’ competencies. If you would like to help sponsor this bandaging mannequin, please write “mannequin” on your donation form.

We would like to issue a special thanks to all those that have contributed to our Animal Teaching Mannequins, but especially Peter and Tania Young, Robert and Anne Black, DRS Medical, and Lynette Embrey and the dog walkers at Robin Reserve. These animal teaching mannequins will help thousands of veterinary students learn essential skills.

Our pets are a gift

Whether it’s the wag of a tail happy to see us after a hard day, the exhilaration of a wild run on the beach, a purr of contentment as one settles into sleep, or the look of your pet that says you are the most important person in the world, our pets enrich our lives. You can give something meaningful back – a happier, healthier future for your pet and to other pets that may not be so fortunate.

Your pet gives you unconditional love, what can you give in return?

Use the donation form on the reverse to make your donation.