



Dr. LeMay . . . "fully involved with the humane treatment of animals."

It's a Dog's Life, and It's a G

"I am fully involved in the humane treatment of animals; it is my livelihood," said Dr. John LeMay, Chairman of the Duke University Department of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. LeMay's department is responsible for facilitating teaching and research and assuming the care of the 15,000 animals maintained by the medical center.

The first formally trained person in laboratory animal medicine in the country, Dr. LeMay completed his post-doctoral training at Bowman Gray and came to Duke in July, 1961, to establish the department of veterinary medicine.

Since 1961 the department has experienced rapid growth. Its staff has increased from nine to fifty, and this has meant a subsequent increase in the variety and number of animals that can be cared for. For example, the daily census of the dog population last year reached 1250, almost six times what it was in 1961.

Assisting Dr. LeMay are veterinarians Dr. Roger Costellanos and Dr. B. F. Sherwood.

"Dr. Costellanos, Dr. Sherwood, and I see about 5,000 'patients' a day; so I guess you could say we have the largest

patient practice at Duke," said Dr. LeMay with a smile.

Although many animals are under the care of the department (the Hillsborough facility houses rabbits, sheep, goats, and guinea pigs), this article is mainly concerned with the dog population.

The larger segment of the department's animal population is comprised of dogs (7200 dogs were processed last year), and much work goes into caring for them.

The department has contractual agreements with county dog pounds in a twenty-county area and buys dogs only from those pounds. (Only when necessary for special research are dogs ever bought from individuals, and proof of ownership is required in such cases.)

The dogs are first brought to the animal diagnostic laboratory center (dubbed "the Ponderosa" by caretakers). There they are kept until ready to be moved to the new quarantine building.

The dogs are separated into different pens. Puppies, expectant mothers, sick dogs, well dogs, and trouble makers are put into separate pens. Mothers are kept with their litters until the puppies are weaned.

All of this area is fenced in, and an animal caretaker lives on the grounds. At present, about 600 dogs are in the facility.

The men who work with the dogs are carefully selected; because, as Dr. LeMay said, "a dog responds to the care and treatment he receives."

While at this first facility, the dogs are assigned permanent numbers and are given identification tags. Diagnostic procedures for heart worms, etc., are conducted, any necessary treatment is begun, and shots of vitamins A, D, and E are given. They are then put under general anesthesia, while blood samples are taken, identification numbers are tattooed on their ears, and they are devocalized.

The devocalization of the dogs began when the veterinarians found that it offered numerous advantages. The dogs are not as restless when devocalized, nor

as frightened. with each other. their general health. the dogs can still vocalized, their b

Daily entries a permanent record of his teeth, skin prescribed, and e health.

Dr. LeMay p only two or three rival, improve the physical health the dogs.

A second exam the dogs are re new quarantine will be kept for a and usually for t are kept at the r periods of time, ing used in long breeding, or until gator.)

The diagnosti quarantine build short driving dis 130-acre tract of for veterinary n

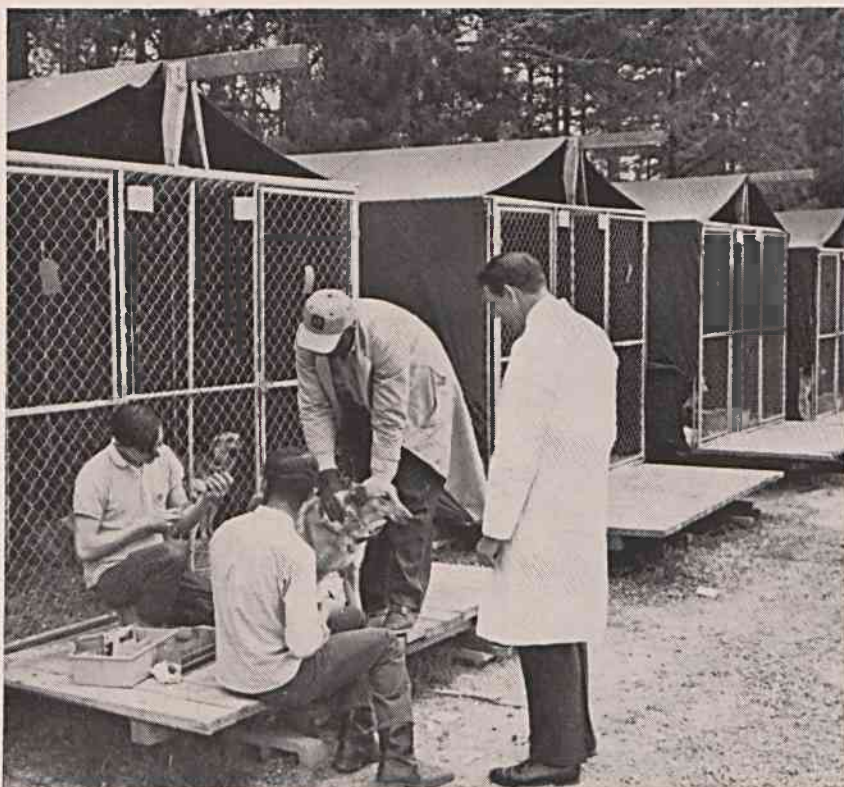
The quaranti pleted this past at it leads to the ing a dog's life pleasant experie

Sun-drenched for activity and dogs desire. Ins heated floors ma perature of 72°. cages include do to the "runs") can let themselv which fill auton water. The ca cleaned twice a

Here, as in t records are kept attention is paid

This facility ining room, a l search area, and selected for spee

It's a dog's li



Photographs by Thad Sparks

Dogs are processed at the diagnostic center before being carried to the new quarantine building.