

place is believed to last.

Veterinary medicine has historically been regulated by the government. Beginning in 1999, it was decentralized, and now veterinarians are supposed to set up and run private practices. One problem with this new system is that the farmers have no money, and bartering is very prominent in the rural areas.

Another issue of concern is brucellosis as a public health problem. It is believed that up to one-third of the people living in the countryside are infected with brucellosis. The mountain area that I was in had a 26% prevalence among the yaks, according to Gerald's testing. Needless to say, we boiled our milk the entire time. Dr. John Thomson, Dean of the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, has been working on getting a national eradication program for brucellosis developed in Mongolia. If it is implemented, they will need many veterinarians to vaccinate all the animals which would employ them and alleviate some of their current economic problems.



Renee Funk

Construction of a ger, the traditional Mongolian dwelling. It is made of wooden beams and felt pieces.

The economic future of Mongolia is uncertain at this point, but the Mongolian people are very intelligent and determined. I believe they will find a way. My time in Mongolia was just amazing. I learned much more than I taught, and believe it or not, our family bonded. It is an awesome feeling to know that I have vet student friends on the other side of the planet.◆

Acupuncture Class to be Taught in Beijing

KIM GERAGHTY[†] AND JENNIFER FRANKLIN^{††}

On May 12, twenty-five ISU Veterinary Medicine students will embark on a study-abroad trip to China. The three-week trip will introduce the students to the principles of veterinary acupuncture and other traditional Chinese medicine techniques.

The trip will be based primarily at the China Agricultural University in Beijing. CAU is noted for its faculty and their expertise in traditional Chinese medicine. Two faculty members of the

ISU College of Veterinary Medicine will be accompanying the students to China. Dr. Walter Hsu, professor of pharmacology, has an interest in traditional Chinese medicine. Dr. Karen Kline, a neurologist, is interested in the applications of acupuncture in veterinary medicine, such as in post-operative pain management. Also joining the students are Dr. Hsu's wife Jean, and Dr. Charles McDaniel, a veterinary practitioner in Ankeny.

The majority of the classwork for the three-week course will be in a laboratory setting. Topics studied will include concepts and history of acupuncture, methods of acupuncture and moxibus-

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tion, treatment of equine and canine diseases with acupuncture, and an introduction to Chinese herbal medicine.

The trip won't be all work and no play, as many students are looking forward to sight-seeing and shopping. Day trips will be taken to Bai-Wan Hill, the Beijing Zoo, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and the Summer Palace. Shopping excursions to Tian-Cheng, Hua-Auer, and the Silk Market should prove to be an excellent opportunity for students to practice their bargaining skills.

To prepare for the trip, students took an orientation course in Chinese history, politics, food and culture, including five lessons in Mandarin, the main dialect spoken in China. According to Ryan Christensen, VM2, the course "gave me a new perspective on a country I knew little about."

Dr. Hsu, the organizer of the China trip, is looking forward to making the trip for the second time with students. "I enjoy watching students learn and

have a good time. It lets them learn something about Chinese students and how they differ from American students. Since the classroom will be right next to the vet hospital, they will have a chance to compare veterinary facilities. I hope the students gain an appreciation of Chinese culture as well as an appreciation of their own environment."

The students have a variety of reasons for going on the China trip. Emily Galloway, VM1, wants to learn acupuncture in China because she "wants to experience the culture and get a history and theory of traditional Chinese medicine." Brian Hammes, VM1, hopes to supplement his background in Western medicine with traditional Chinese medicine to provide more services for his future clients.

The Veterinary Acupuncture trip to China will give students the chance to expand their veterinary knowledge and experience another culture. In all, the trip promises to be fun, informative, and unforgettable. ♦

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