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KNOXVILLE, TENN. — The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine has been moved from full to limited accreditation for the next two years, which means it did not meet at least two of the 11 accreditation standards when reviewed by the Council on Education (COE).

Accreditation reports are confidential, although colleges can choose to share information from evaluations.

Dr. Jim Thompson, dean of the veterinary college since last October, says deficiencies within the school's large-animal hospital, which is more than 30 years old, lowered the accreditation.

"We have an urgent need to upgrade our large-animal facility," Thompson says.

The hospital has had no major updates or infrastructure work since it opened in the 1970s.

An assessment shows a \$20.9 million investment is needed to make the necessary upgrades for the hospital, which provides medical and surgical services, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, bovine hoof care and metabolic disease treatment to animals across the state.

The college has two years to fix these

weaknesses before the next COE evaluation, and Thompson says "resolving this challenge is our No. 1 goal."

The college is seeking donors and working with the state Legislature to secure funding, according to a spokeswoman.

The COE also reviewed the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, which was granted full accreditation for seven years. It had full accreditation prior to the review.

A veterinary program can achieve full accreditation by meeting 11 standards: organization, finances, physical facilities and equipment, clinical resources, library and information resources, students, admission, faculty, curriculum, research and outcomes assessment.

Accreditation can be for up to seven years if a school is in full compliance.

The University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was granted provisional accreditation for five years, and will move forward with a required comprehensive site visit this fall.

The COE also will do a site visit to Mexico's national veterinary and zoological school this year. **dvm**



Hospitable hospital: New SFSPCA hospital offers all of the amenities and services of for-profit facilities.

SPCA opens largest nonprofit hospital in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO — A dental suite, top-of-the-line technology, scales that are built into the floor and an intensive-care unit spread over 60,000 square feet doesn't sound like a description of a nonprofit animal hospital, but it is.

The Leanne B. Roberts Animal Care Center, the new home of the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' (SFSPCA) hospital/spay and neuter clinic/shelter-medicine program opened this month.

It is the largest veterinary center in the world associated with a shelter program, composed of 17 large exam rooms, two surgery suites, multiple quarantine wards, an intensive-care unit, a radiology room, a dental suite, a pharmacy and more.

It will house the SFSPCA's primary-care hospital, shelter-medicine department, spay/neuter clinic, feral cat program, foster care program and a shelter for homeless animals. Thirteen full-time veterinarians staff the facility, which aims to sterilize 12,000 animals this year, or about twice the number as in the past.

The hospital is named for the late Leanne B. Roberts, a 15-year SP-SPCA board member whose son, Eric Bovet Roberts, sits on the board. The Roberts family donated \$13 million of the \$32 million needed to build the new hospital. Other private donations were received, and a capital campaign is under way to raise the final \$7.9 million.

The center replaces a veterinary hospital built in 1924.

The SFSPCA hospital serves about 30,000 animals a year, providing about \$1.5 million in charitable veterinary services. **dvm**

Florida scales back Rx permit requirements

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. — Practitioners in Florida who decided to act quickly to comply with a new law requiring a prescription drug permit might be out of luck when it comes to getting a refund for the permit fee after the state decided to scale back the requirements.

Originally, it was thought that every veterinarian would need to apply for Florida's new Health Care Clinic Establishment (HCCE) permit. But the state Department of Health changed its mind to require only multi-veterinarian clinics to get the permit. And only one doctor at the clinic, the person who will order pharmaceuticals, needs the permit, says Florida Veterinary Medical Association Executive Director Amber Smith.

"The only people who really need the permit are those who want to order prescriptions under their clinical name, or a corporation name," Smith says.

Associates can administer those drugs without the permit, and solo veterinarians still will be able to order



Permit problems: Refunds unlikely for those who already have permits.

drugs without the HCCE under their own license name.

Those who ordered the \$255 permit but have not yet had their application processed can call the state health department to stop the process and get a refund, Smith says. But it's unlikely that those who already received the permit will get a refund, she adds.

License status can be checked online at www.flhealthsource.com. **dvm**

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