

Submitter: Angela Gardinier

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2167

The first time I took my horse, Matcho, to the OSU Large Animal Hospital was about 20 years ago for a fungal infection in his eye. I had recently purchased this beautiful, talented warmblood as a show horse and of course my big pet. I was very worried about him losing his eye. My primary vet and ophthalmology vet (Dr. Scherlie) from Portland said he needed 24 hour care to administer an antiviral drug into his eye every hour or so via a catheter into his eye. This was to try and save his eye from being surgically removed.

The evening I arrived at OSU with Matcho, Dr. Schlipf, his staff, and students did an amazing job assessing him and realizing how much pain he was in. The vets eased his pain right away and started a plan to heal his eye. I felt so much better having left Matcho in their care. It was the first time I could take a breath and actually sleep through a night without having to medicate my poor horse.

Matcho wasn't an easy case as he took more than a week to show any improvement in his blood vessels. I visited him every couple of days and received feedback every time I was there or had a phone call with updates. He was there for about 5 weeks. I remember bringing him home and I only had enough meds for a few days. The vet student who had been looking after him, drove up to my barn in Sherwood to bring me the meds. He was so nice and caring to Matcho. I don't remember his name but I remember he wanted to be a cattle vet. I knew Matcho helped him become a great vet. Incredible customer service and compassion. I was overwhelmed with gratitude that my horse still had his eye.

However, this was not the only time Matcho was there. He was there for a minor surgery to a tendon sheath that Dr. Huber over saw with the new Dr. Kinsley. They were so gracious as taking care of him during our late night visit. Matcho healed up perfectly after that surgery.

Matcho came back to OSU a couple more times for colic, and breathing issues. He had been there so many times he would walk in like it was his vacation spot. I felt that was a good sign if your high strung horse is relaxed at the vet hospital. He knows he's going to be taken care of!

Then a few years later Matcho, age 19 at this time, was back for a surgery in his sinus to remove something that was found on a CT scan. Dr. Kinsley did a wonderful job explaining to me what was going to take place. I decided to not watch as he was

to use a trephine into Matcho's skull and I knew I couldn't handle that. I really appreciated that he videoed the procedure. Once Dr. Kinsley got into the sinus he found it was part of a tooth root that had been rolling around in his sinus for many years. The sad part, it had been making lacerations inside his sinus and this was the reason for his unexplained head tossing. I had a year and half with Matcho after that surgery but I wouldn't have traded it for anything. I finally found his pain and he was comfortable his last year and half of life and we had a great time. Thanks to everyone at OSU for listening to me and my horses needs.

I've had my other horse there as well, Royal. He was in quarantine with unexplained diarrhea and colitis. He unfortunately didn't make it home. I'm thankful I had OSU there for us during this sad time. The vets were extremely compassionate.

I've have many friends that have sent their horses to OSU over the past few decades.

I know I'm speaking for all of my "horse" friends as we are extremely thankful to have OSU large animal vet hospital so close to us. The horse community here in Oregon is still growing as more and more people have horses. I can't imagine our Oregon horse country without OSU, we would lose a lot of horses. I am forever grateful for OSU Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine.

Thank you