

## Eli's Fund

*By contributing to Eli's Fund, you can help provide financial support for active duty service men and women, medically retired veterans' service dogs, and retired military dogs with veterinary medical bills at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM).*



Hank & William



Colton & Eli

retire in Orange Grove with Rusk's family. At that time, Eli was only the second dog in United States history to be granted this honor. The Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation (TVMF) has pledged to cover all of Eli's veterinary care for the rest of his life.

### **Our Objectives**

Eli's Fund is a source of financial support for active duty service men and women, medically retired veterans' service animals, and retired military animals with veterinary medical bills at the VMTH.

### **Your Support**

In appreciation of the support he received from the college and animal lovers everywhere, Cole will be donating a portion of the money he raised on Hank's behalf to Eli's Fund so that other veterans and military personnel will be able to care for the animals that mean so much to them. With a contribution to Eli's Fund, you too have the opportunity to help active duty service men and women, veterans, and retired military animals. Animals play a special role in the lives of their owners, and continued support will ensure that animals in need and their owners will have access to life-saving care.

### **The Initiative**

When Sgt. William Cole returned from serving his country in both Iraq and Afghanistan, he was haunted by nightmares and depression. Traditional therapy and medications failed to heal Cole, but soon a new friend, a Labrador retriever named Hank, would help Cole find peace. However, Hank soon fell victim to a car accident, leaving him with severe, life-threatening injuries.

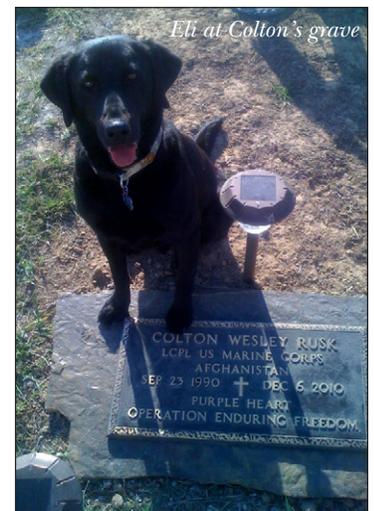
Fortunately for Hank, he was brought to the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH), where highly trained veterinarians worked as a team to address Hank's injuries. Early intervention and a lengthy stay in the ICU have given Hank a second chance.

In response to Hank's story, CVM development council member Dr. Mike Moore '79 has resurrected Eli's Fund. Moore's original gift to create Eli's Fund honored Colton Rusk, of Orange Grove, Texas, and his military working dog, Eli, whose family Moore knows well through his work on behalf of wounded warriors and their families.

After Rusk's death in active duty in 2010, Eli refused to work or even move from Rusk's cot at their base, so he was released to



LCPL Colton Rusk



Eli at Colton's grave

**O.J. "Bubba" Woytek, DVM '65, Assistant Vice President of Development**  
**Chastity Carrigan, Senior Director of Development**  
**Guy A. Sheppard, DVM '78, Director of Development**

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*Making a Difference  
in Veterinary Medicine*

# Mark Francis Fellows

*Private contributions provide the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences with the financial help required to maintain its vitality and to strengthen its national influence.*

## Giving

Although Texas A&M University is a state-assisted institution, it must rely on private contributions and support to maintain its excellence. When you have made one or more contributions totalling \$1,000 to any of the development initiatives at the college, you become a Mark Francis Fellow. Fellows help meet needs in several fundamental areas including student scholarships and financial aid, equipment, public outreach, academic programs, research, and animal treatment.

## Major Areas of Support

- Enroll the most talented students, regardless of their financial status
- Recruit and retain the very best scholars and teachers
- Provide environmental and technological resources conducive to learning and research
- Provide assistance to clients who may not otherwise be able to afford life-saving medical treatment for their pets
- Enhance innovative programs, such as practitioner involvement in clinical research, education, technology, basic research, new initiatives in patient care, and new thrusts in continuing education

## Membership Levels

As Fellows continue to give to the college, they are recognized at the following levels:

Basic .....	\$1,000–\$2,499
Maroon Level I .....	\$2,500–\$4,999
Maroon Level II .....	\$5,000–\$9,999
Maroon Level III .....	\$10,000–\$24,999
Diamond Level I .....	\$25,000–\$49,999
Diamond Level II .....	\$50,000–\$99,999
Diamond Level III .....	\$100,000 and over

## Being a Mark Francis Fellow

Fellows comprise a select group of College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences advocates who find satisfaction in close involvement with a college whose achievements are immediate, tangible, and significant.

Fellows are people who are concerned about Texas veterinary medicine—people who recognize that the college is in a unique position to make important advancements for animals and human beings through education, research, and service.

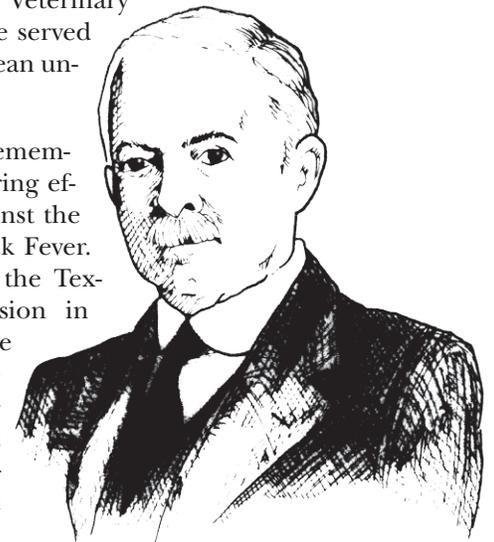
Fellows are the leaders for voluntary giving and set the pace for other donors to the college.

As a Mark Francis Fellow, your gifts will enable Texas A&M University to continue its long-standing tradition of making a difference in veterinary medicine.

## About Dr. Mark Francis

Dr. Mark Francis became the first professor of veterinary science at Texas A&M and was largely responsible for the establishment of the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1916. He served as the college's first dean until his death in 1936.

Francis is fondly remembered for his pioneering efforts in the fight against the devastating Texas Tick Fever. He helped organize the Texas veterinary profession in 1903 and became the first president of the newly formed state organization, which later became the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA).



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