



Jeff Wichtel, Professor and Dean
Ontario Veterinary College



Gayle Ecker, Director
Equine Guelph

Why Donate?

It was a little over a year ago that any horse owner's worst nightmare became a reality: a barn was engulfed in flames, with more than 40 horses housed inside.

But the horse community and emergency responders pulled together to help, both during the crisis and in the weeks that followed.

Five horses died. Several were in critical condition and required highly specialized care if they were to survive. Six horses were rushed to the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) Large Animal Hospital with burned skin, singed hair, black soot tangling their manes, and the tell-tale wheezing of smoke inhalation.

One such case would be a challenge for any clinic, but six at once?

It's crises like these that illustrate the value of OVC's physical capacity and the specialty expertise of our doctors. As leaders, it was a moment of pride to know that our equine specialists, technicians, students and staff put aside their holiday plans last year to ensure round the clock care for these critically patients.

An anonymous donor stepped forward that awful day and made an immediate gift to help offset a portion of the medical bills. It is typical of the horse community, and our donors, to step up in times of need.

This event reinforced that, as the province's veterinary college, our mandate goes far beyond training the next generation of veterinarians. From Equine Guelph's workshops on barn fire prevention, training for first-responders in large animal rescue, emergency preparedness and youth and horse owner education, and its evidence-based online courses on horse health and welfare, to specialized treatment equipment and facilities, to advanced research in nutrition, respiratory issues or stem cells, to the experience and expertise of our specialists and technician teams, none of this happens without [donor support](#).



The Equine Guelph Large Animal Rescue Training program helps prepare first responders with specialized training to help in tragic barn fires, like the one that happened in 2018.

OVC is Canada's preeminent centre for advanced medical and preventive healthcare services, research and education and Equine Guelph is the Centre for the horse owner at U of G, working to provide training and programs for prevention of health, welfare and safety risks. That day, a year ago, no one expected to have to refer six critically ill patients to the OVC. But it could happen to any of us, any time. [What can you do today to help ensure we will always have a world-class referral hospital for your horse, if and when you need it?](#)

Please consider making a [donation today](#) to support education, healthcare, or research today. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wichtel
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Ontario Veterinary College

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Director
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P.S. - Working together on behalf of the industry, Equine Guelph can prevent tragedies like this in the future. **Visit www.EquineGuelph.ca** for more information.

Thank you for supporting Equine Research, Education and Healthcare at the University of Guelph

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For more information on ways to give, visit alumni.uoguelph.ca