

In Memory

Pamela M. Slack, D.V.M.

*A positive, energetic,
enlightened voice for
the ferrets.*



Dr. Pamela M. Slack, veterinarian and American Ferret Association member, died in a private airplane crash on the evening of May 4 over Kannapolis Lake, N.C. The small pontoon plane was piloted by Dr. Slack's close friend Mark Crafts of Melbourne, Fla. Mr. Crafts also died in the accident. They were traveling from Florida to Virginia and had stopped in North Carolina to refuel. Dr. Slack's family and her technicians are caring for her many pets.

Dr. Slack received her veterinary degree *cum laude* from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 1992. Benefiting from the recently formed tracking program at that institution, she focused her education on exotic animal species early in her career, graduating with a zoo/wildlife concentration under the umbrella of government and corporate medicine. She received the Stubb's Award in Avian Medicine in 1992.

Her first veterinary position was as an Associate at the Alexandria Animal Hospital in Alexandria, Va. At this large (13 veterinarian) American Animal Hospital Association accredited facility, her responsibilities included establishing an avian and exotics service that would not only serve local clientele, but also provide regional referral services. Within two years this goal had been met.

Dr. Slack worked at the Alexandria Animal Hospital as Director of the Avian and Exotics Service, which she established. She served as the Vice President for the Mid-Atlantic States Association of Veterinary Medicine and was a member of the Association of Avian Veterinarians, the Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians, the American Ferret Association, the House Rabbit Society, the Virginia Veterinary Medi-

cal Association (for which she served as a consultant on exotic species and sat on the exotic species committee of the association), and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Slack's recent speaking engagements have included presentations on rabbit and rodent medicine at the Virginia veterinary annual conference, as well as talks given to state and local avian groups and at the American Ferret Association's veterinary medical symposia, for which she has served as conference chairperson.

The A.F.A. Symposium 2000, which will be held on Saturday, July 22, 2000, in conjunction with the American Veterinary Medical Association meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, will honor Dr. Slack's contributions to the advancement of ferret medicine. Dr. Slack's death is a heavy loss not only to her friends and family but also to the ferret community. "She tirelessly spread the word about ferrets across the country with such enthusiasm," said Sally Heber, A.F.A. Treasurer. "A positive, energetic, enlightened voice for the ferrets has been lost." She will be greatly missed.

*by Freddie Ann Hoffman, M.D.
A.F.A. Vice President*