

MONGOLIA BACKGROUND INFORMATION

JEFFREY DUKE, DVM BIOGRAPHY

An Olympia native, Jeff Duke grew up in McMinnville, Oregon, and earned his bachelors degree from Oregon State University. He is a 1984 graduate of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Joining Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital in 1984 as a large animal practitioner, he joined the small animal department in 1987, and became the department lead in 1988.

Growing up with all manner of pets and livestock to care for, Jeff always wanted to be a veterinarian. Today he says, "There isn't much I don't like about being a vet." He enjoys the animals, the people who care for them, seeing animals respond to care, and the difference their recovery makes to their humans.

Dr. Duke is an active member of Central Christian Church in Snohomish, who helped support his trip to Mongolia.

ITEMS NEEDED

Christian Veterinary Mission sends containers to Mongolia several times a year. They prefer to receive items from their needs list over open donations. Dr. Jeff Duke continues to organize donations to equip the new clinic. For more information contact him at jdukedvm@hotmail.com.

WORLD CONCERN & CHRISTIAN VETERINARY MISSION

Dr. Duke's trips are sponsored by Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM) a subset of World Concern. During the last five years, over 90 veterinarians have been to Mongolia through CVM 'Shuttle Missions'. Dr. Gerald and Mrs. Frances Mitchum have lived in Ulaanbaatar for several years. They are among the four veterinarians and families on long term missions in Mongolia through CVM.

In 1976, a veterinarian from Georgia, Dr. Leroy Dorminy began to realize that veterinarians could play an important role in alleviating hunger and hopelessness in the developing world. Shortly after, Dr. Dorminy founded Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM).

Directed by Dr. Kit Flowers, since 1993, CVM has worked with veterinarians, technicians, veterinary students, and other animal health professionals facilitating hundreds of short-term and various long-term missions. CVM has also developed a *Raising Healthy Animals* series of books. Each CVM program has been and will continue to be created to bring physical and spiritual hope to people whose survival depends on livestock. CVM is affiliated with World Concern and CRISTA Ministries both headquartered in Seattle, WA.

For more information about Christian Veterinary Mission visit www.vetmission.org. For more information about World Concern visit www.worldconcern.org.

MONGOLIA

Mongolia is a landlocked country about the size of Texas located between Russia and China. The fierce mounted Mongul warriors led by Genghis Khan were active around the 13th century. After the Khan empire faded, Mongolia was controlled by China from 1691 to 1921. The Mongolian Revolution ended Chinese domination in 1921, and they developed an alliance with the Soviet Union during the 1930s.

Mongolia has been an independent country since 1990 when the Soviet Union disbanded. It was part of the Soviet Union for seven decades. They celebrate their independence on July 11 in honor of their liberation from China in 1921.

Known for subsistence living based on livestock, nomadic Mongolian life was recently highlighted in the public television documentary, *Wild Horses of Mongolia* with Julia Roberts'. (visit the web site at www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/mongolia)

The Soviets relocated the traditional nomads into cities and centralized, state-owned farms. After independence Mongolians returning to farming found they had lost much of their inherited knowledge of how to be good herdsman.

About 40% of the country's 2.4 million people continue to live as nomadic herders practicing animal husbandry. They keep 33 million head of livestock in herds of horses, goats, and sheep for milk, meat, and produce 20% of the world's cashmere. Another third live in Ulaanbaatar. The Mongolian love of horses goes back centuries, and even for urban dwellers, horse racing continues to be the nation's national pastime.

The country is historically Buddhist with the largest Buddhist population after Tibet. Communism did away with all but one monastery, but today there are more than 140 newly established.

Mongolia is also known for its high rate of literacy. Over 90% of the population can read.

For more information about Mongolia visit the Wild Horses of Mongolia web site at www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/mongolia and go to the Resources and Timeline pages.