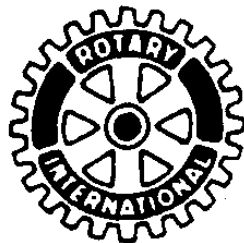


Check our web site – www.waunakeerotary.org



Waunakee Rotary Club

April 6, 2006
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The Waunakee Rotary Club learned how to clone a cat at the March 30 meeting.

Phil Damiani, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer at Genetic Savings and Clone in Waunakee, discussed his company's work cloning companion animals – cats, dogs and horses.

Phil worked at Infigin, which was formerly located in DeForest, until that company went bankrupt. Most of his staff in Waunakee also worked there. When they joined Genetic Savings and Clone (GSC), they refused to relocate to California, so the company opened a lab in Waunakee.

Cloning occurs in nature, Phil said, particularly with identical twins. Animals cloned at GSC look physically similar to the original and have a similar genetic make-up, but GSC does not guarantee that the clone will have the same personality or memories.

At GSC, scientists perform a nuclear transfer. Eggs are extracted from reproductive system and the DNA is removed. The DNA from the animal to be cloned is then transferred to that egg. Using electricity, the lab then mimics fertilization, and the embryo is transferred to a new animal.

GSC works with a company in Madison that owns dogs and cats. The eggs are placed in litter-bearing animals, and once the litter is born, a DNA test is done to determine which newborn is the clone.

Using litter-bearing animals decreases the number of animals needed for the research, Phil said. Otherwise, hundreds of animals would be needed for one clone. Phil works with animals but also owns animals, so he values them and would like to impact as few as possible.

Phil explained that GSC purchases its reproductive tracts from various

Humane Societies and veterinarians that spay animals. Normally, they would pay for the removal of what would otherwise be medical waste.

The company hopes that by purchasing reproductive tracts, they can help out with the cost of spaying and neutering animals homeless animals.

Phil has helped clone endangered species. A number of animals have been cloned, including sheep, goats, horses, cows, pigs, mice, rabbits, cats and dogs.

In the medical field, therapeutic cloning is being attempted. That involves trying to produce embryos to produce cells. GSC could use the technology to work with horses, which often have leg injuries and difficulty producing collagen. An embryo could be used to grow stem cells for collagen, eliminating the need for rejection drugs, Phil said.

That would be profitable for GSC and save horses from euthanasia.

Other business:

- The April 6 program will be a busy one, said President Elect Drew Lawrence. In addition to club assembly, J.B. Van Hollen, a Waunakee resident running for attorney general, will speak. And Don Tierney will be presented with a Paul Harris award.

- There are several openings on the Rotary board of directors. See Drew or Greg Garton if you'd like to serve on the board.

Guests: Ellen Schaaf, Chamber of Commerce.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: April 7, Connie Blau.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: April 6, Pat Durden; April 13, Msgr. Kramer; April 20, Larry Felsheim; April 27, Susan Vergeront.

OFFICERS

GREG GARTON, PRESIDENT • DREW LAWRENCE, PRESIDENT-ELECT
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BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • JASON BROWN, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

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Calendar of Events:

May 19-21, District Celebration
June, golf outing
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Oktoberfest

Programs: April 6, Club Assembly; April 13, Mark Green, candidate for governor; April 20, International Crane Foundation; April 27, Wisconsin Sports Development Corp, Ron Vincent; May 4, Club Assembly; May 11, International committee; May 18, Collector's Choice, John Kreuger.

Greeters: April 6, Paul Hermanson and Bob Hoskins; April 13, Jim Jukes and Kevin Kearney; April 20, David Kennedy and Neil King; April 27, Msgr. Jim Kramer and Dave Kruchten; May 4, Ed Kruchten and Neil Kruschek.

Signs that you have grown up:
•Your houseplants are alive, but you can't smoke any of them.
•You keep more food than beer in the fridge.
•6 a.m. is when you get up, not when you go to bed.
•You hear your favorite song in an elevator.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotarye-clubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Sarah DeKraay, club secretary.