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Veterinary College Helps with Special Olympics

Robert Blomme*

Ames was home to the Iowa Special Olympics this past year and once again the Iowa State University Veterinary College was instrumental in making it a success. The class of 1990 coordinated a petting zoo for these special children and adults. Just like past years, the petting zoo was extremely popular. Borrowing two tents from the Ames National Guard unit, we had ample room to house calves, lambs, kid goats, piglets, puppies and a pony. On both days, May 26 and May 27, our student and faculty volunteers were kept busy answering questions and accommodating visitors. Hundreds of Special Olympians came through the petting zoo those two days. Words cannot express the radiance that showed on the faces of those children as they held a puppy or stroked a baby calf. The Veterinary school petting zoo is an integral part of the Iowa Special Olympics program and will continue to be in the future. A warm "thanks" goes to all the students and faculty who volunteered their time to set up and operate the petting zoo. Everyone involved gained a warm perspective on some special Iowans.

*Mr. Blomme is a third year student in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University.