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In January, 1928, Dean Emeritus I. A. Merchant sealed 4 cultures of Bacillus anthracis and set them aside as stock cultures. In 1941 and 1964 Dr. Packer opened one of the cultures and found viable spores still present and the revived organisms killed guinea pigs in less than 24 hours. During this winter’s class in pathogenic bacteriology two of the four cultures were examined and found viable and fully virulent after 50 years. The cultures were so completely dried that the agar was hardly visible. Five days of “soaking” in fresh broth medium were necessary before one of the cultures grew. The two unopened cultures are to be placed in the custody of the Class of 1980 for testing in the year 2028.

Pet Health Survey

In three recent nationwide surveys conducted by the Morris Animal Foundation, these questions were asked: 1) What was the cause of death of your last dog (cat, horse)? and 2) What do you believe is the most important disease of dogs (cats, horses)?

In the Dog Health Survey, cancer was listed most frequently as the cause of death, followed by old age complications, heart disease and finally gastric dilatation. While gastric dilatation was followed by hip dysplasia, parasites, and cancer were listed as the most important canine diseases.

Cat owners and breeders named the feline urologic syndrome as both the most important disease and the most common cause of death in their pets, while the feline leukemia complex ranked second in each case.

Of the responses to the Horse Health Survey: “colic” (including impaction and torsion) was by far listed most often as the leading killer of horses and also was viewed as the most important equine disease. Laminitis, followed by parasites, equine infectious anemia, and respiratory problems were also mentioned as other causes of important equine diseases.