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Barrows Manages Wildlife in ISU Small Animal Clinic

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Dr. Susan Ziegler Barrows, a 1984 graduate of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, assumed a joint half-time position in the Small Animal Clinic and Laboratory Animal Resources in July 1986. She now serves as an adjunct instructor in laboratory animal science and takes charge of the wildlife cases in the Clinic.

A native of Darien, Connecticut, Barrows came to ISU after working for two small animal practitioners who were graduates of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "They felt very strongly about their excellent education at Iowa State," she related. Barrows received her BS degree in animal science at ISU and was admitted to the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1980.

As a veterinary student, Barrows developed an interest in wildlife medicine and became active in the Zoo, Exotic and Wildlife (ZEW) Club. She also spearheaded the formation of a specialized Wildlife Interest Club. "I and one or two other students in my class took an interest in the raptors being admitted for orthopedic surgeries, etc.," she explained. "At that time there were never students assigned to those cases. We took it upon ourselves to make sure that those cases were treated properly and recovered, and as a result, we brought more and more people into the program. It blossomed, so to speak, into a Wildlife Interest Group." As a senior student, Barrows completed preceptorships with veterinarians at the Bronx Zoo in New York and at the Raptor Rehabilitation and Research Center in Minneapolis.

In her current position, Barrows continues to be strongly involved in the ZEW Club and seeks to heighten public awareness of the wildlife medicine program. Last September, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the club

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sponsored a public raptor release in which injured birds-of-prey that had been rehabilitated in the Clinic were released back to the wild. "In the past," Barrows explained, "most of our rehabilitated birds were sent to the Department of Natural Resources Research Station in Boone, and they would release the birds when they felt the birds were ready. Very few people were notified of these releases. Now we try to get the (ZEW) Club involved and also try to alert the public to what we are doing." More immediately, Barrows hopes to increase awareness of wildlife medicine within the Veterinary College. "My feeling all along has been that there needs to be a greater education program in wildlife medicine ... As of yet there is no course in wildlife medicine or rehabilitation, I'd like to see an elective course be offered that would teach raptor rehabilitation, but would also encompass some of the more typical mammalian and reptilian species in Iowa."

In the future, Barrows hopes to be involved in more teaching in addition to her clinical work. She enjoys her contact with students and feels that working in a university setting "definitely has its advantages."

"You get so much input from so many different people, and...it makes the situation far more challenging because you're up against questions, and you have to know everything."

"It is challenging," she summarized. "It's very challenging."