

## Equine Medical Center Prominently Featured at Saratoga Races and Virginia Derby

LEESBURG, Va., September 4, 2007 -- Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center was prominently featured during two recent high-profile horse racing events – the Saratoga Races and the Virginia Derby – giving the hospital and university visibility among thousands of racing enthusiasts.

“Both the Saratoga Races and the Virginia Derby are highly significant events within the equine industry and we are honored and grateful for having had the opportunity to be represented at each of them,” said Dr. Nat White, Jean Ellen Shehan Professor and Director of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center.



**Virginia Tech President Charles Steger and Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center Director Dr. Nat White pose in the Winner's Circle at the 2007 Summer Meet at Saratoga Race Track in Saratoga Springs, New York, on August 6.**

On Monday, August 6, during the 2007 Summer Meet at the Saratoga Race Track, in Saratoga Springs, New York, the fifth race on the card was named for the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in thanks to the generous support of EMC Council Member Beverly R. Steinman. Steinman, White, and Virginia Tech President Dr. Charles Steger were interviewed from the paddock by the Saratoga Race Course's commentator concerning equine programs and healthcare at Virginia Tech. In addition, a three-minute video highlighting the center's technologies for treating injuries and improving performance in equine athletes was played on the jumbotron, the official event bugler played the Virginia Tech fight song and the announcers dressed in the university's colors of maroon and orange.

Although the New York Racing Association (NYRA) is extremely involved with many charitable organizations, the visibility given to the hospital at this event was unique according to NYRA Communications Director John Lee.

“We were extremely pleased to give an extra round of support to Virginia Tech during this time and to Peggy Steinman, who is immensely important to the racing community and is very dear to our hearts,” said Lee.

Saratoga Race Course has maintained its character and elegance for 139 years. The 350-acre racetrack has captured the hearts of millions who have passed through its entrance gates and stepped back into an era of Victorian sophistication and glamour, set amidst the vibrancy and exuberance of hoof-pounding, heart-thumping Thoroughbred racing.

The Virginia Derby was held at Colonial Downs in New Kent County on Saturday, July 21. White served as the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) On Call spokesperson for the hour-long telecast of the derby which was aired for the first time on CBS. AAEP's On Call program is an innovative media-assistance campaign developed to provide accurate veterinary information to the broadcast and

print media during live network races. In addition, a 60-second commercial for the hospital was played on the jumbotron during the event.

The Virginia Derby is an American Thoroughbred horse race that has been held annually since 1998. A Grade 11 event, it is raced on turf at a distance of 10 Furlongs and is open to three-year-old horses. The Virginia Derby currently provides a purse of \$1 million and is the second leg of the Grand Slam of Grass which offers a \$2 million bonus for any horse who wins all four races.

Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center is a premier full-service equine hospital located in Leesburg, Virginia, that offers advanced specialty care, 24-hour emergency treatment and diagnostic services for all ages and breeds of horses. One of three campuses that comprise the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, the center's team of equine specialists is committed to providing exceptional treatment to patients, superior service to clients and cutting-edge research to the equine industry.