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## VIDEOTEX AIDS VETERINARIANS

The University of Guelph has developed an information service for veterinarians using teletext technology. Called Vet-Tel, the service brings up-to-the-minute information into the homes and offices of Canadian veterinarians.

Vet-Tel is a fast, dependable, inexpensive communications tool with colour graphics and animation capabilities. It helps veterinarians keep up with the latest research findings, epidemiological information, products, services, and professional upgrading opportunities.

In addition to supplying information, Vet-Tel offers:

- messaging to link veterinarians with each other, with government agencies and farm clients;
- inventory control to provide individual clinics or multiple clinic operations with a means of keeping track of supplies, drugs, and equipment; and
- interactive programs to aid in diagnosing and treating illness and in making decisions such as whether to buy or rent, what mortgage terms to arrange, and how to optimize use of buildings and equipment.

Subscribers also have access to the vast Grassroots database, the videotex information system now serving western Canadian farmers.

Vet-Tel subscribers purchase a Telidon – NAPLPS terminal and pay a monthly subscription fee to access the database. Information is available on a 24-hour basis.

Development of the Vet-Tel network is continuing at the University of Guelph's Telidon Centre, with input from the faculty and staff at the Ontario Veterinary College, other veterinary colleges and veterinary associations, industry and practising veterinarians.

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