

NEWS from the Office of Information
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DALLAS--A living kidney was to be flown to Washington Wednesday in a demonstration of a portable machine designed to keep donated organs alive up to 72 hours.

The device, developed by Dr. Wolcott Stewart of Fort Worth, is undergoing tests at The University of Texas (Southwestern) Medical School at Dallas.

Urologists and surgeons at the medical school were to remove an animal kidney, place it in the apparatus and ship it via American Airlines to the American Society of Artificial Internal Organs meeting getting underway in Washington Thursday.

Dr. Paul Peters, Associate Professor of Urology at UTSMS, said the kidney will subsequently be returned to Dallas and to the animal, a dog, which had donated it, after 72 or so hours.

The machine is in some ways similar to artificial kidney machines used by persons suffering kidney loss or disease. It uses a pulsating pump to force a special perfusate or fluid through the organ. The perfusate, from which certain lipo-proteins have been removed by filtering, is oxygenated and cooled by dry ice at five degrees centigrade.

Dr. Stewart's device is able to remove metabolites--the waste products of organs--with a cellophane membrane. The machine is battery powered and self contained.

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