

News From the Sanctuary

Just what the doctor ordered

Best Friends veterinarian Dr. Richard Allen commutes between his city practice in Salt Lake City and his work here at the sanctuary where he donates his time to the Best Friends animals. During a lunch break on one of his monthly spay/neuter marathons, he talked about how the medical work of the sanctuary is developing.

"The Best Friends clinic is now on a par with good veterinary hospitals anywhere," said Dr. Allen, speaking of the major improvements to medical equipment and supplies, and the refurbishment of the building. "During the last two months it's come further than in the last two years."

New equipment. Recent donations to the clinic include a brand new blood analysis machine and a portable x-ray machine, both made possible by Guardian Angels Homer and Dolores Harris.

"We can now get an instant diagnosis on problems that used to take days while we sent blood samples to medical labs hundreds of miles away."

Medical supplies are also plentiful, thanks to the kindness of members who have donated surplus supplies from hospitals and clinics.

And the decor of the clinic got a big boost when Dave Miller, a member visiting from Colorado, spent a week building a beautiful new reception counter.

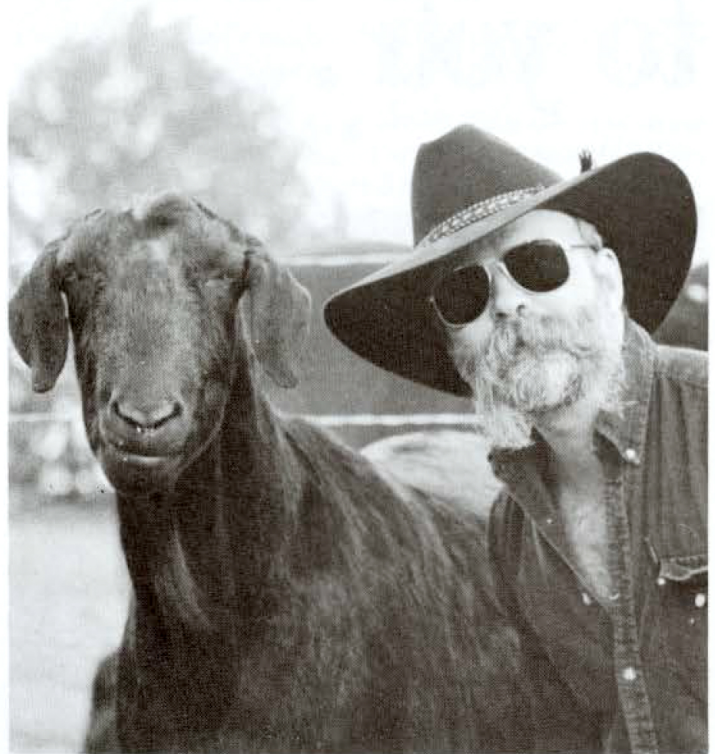
Guardian Angel program

"Our members are just terrific!" says the doc. "When I first started coming to Best Friends, it was as much as we could do to cope with the daily emergencies, as more abused and abandoned animals were brought in each day."

"Now we're able to give a real quality of life to the animals who need to stay with us."

This heartening development is due largely to the Guardian Angel program which began just over a year ago. Best Friends Guardian Angels provide for the continuing medical care of animals with special needs, including the kitties at the "TLC Cat Club" and the dogs at the "Old Folks Home."

If you'd like to become one of their Guardian Angels, just send back the form inside the front cover. (By the way, Tomato the Cat and Frederick the Great Bassett send their own little report each month to Guardian Angels, with all the good news on their special care friends!)



The one thing that really gets Dr. Allen's goat is people who don't spay or neuter their pets. Here he is with Best Friends favorite, Goatie the goat.

Spay/neuter program

Another feature of the Best Friends Clinic is the low-cost spay/neuter program (\$20 for any dog or cat.)

In this rural and ranching area near the Grand Canyon, fixing an animal has never been a major priority. When dogs and cats had an unwanted litter, people just "took care of" the puppies and kittens. Now they come from far and wide (sometimes hundreds of miles) to have animals spayed or neutered, and Dr. Allen notes a dramatic reduction in the number of homeless dogs and cats throughout our local region. "If it can be done here," he says, "it can be done anywhere."

This year, Best Friends will begin to expand the local spay/neuter program into northern Utah and Arizona. Says Faith Maloney, director of the sanctuary, "We're looking towards a time when every puppy or kitten who's ever born can be assured of a good life in a loving home."

And how are all these great advances possible? As far as Dr. Allen is concerned, it's very simple. His face lights up with a big smile as he repeats the magic formula:

"Best Friends members are just terrific!" 🐾