



# Paws

# Summer 2003

# THINK

VALLEY VETERINARY CLINIC CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

## A Summer Message From... DR. LOWELL L. NOVY

Our goal to have fewer than 425 unwanted cats from Simi Valley euthanized each year was more than met. The actual number in 2002 was 298! Still a disturbing number, but MUCH BETTER than the 842 in 1998 when we started this spay/neuter program. Together we *are* making a difference.

Your generous donations have enabled us to continue our work. We have set the 2003 goal to reduce the number of cats euthanized to below 200 and the number of unwanted euthanized dogs to below 250 (last year 311).

The low-cost spaying and neutering of both dogs and cats is now performed one morning a week at the Clinic. We are keeping up with the present demand. With our lower number of excess cats and dogs, we may have no further need for the Sunday spay days! **Thank you!**

Our Love Your Pet Banquet was a wonderful success. One hundred and fifty-three of us enjoyed dancing, a silent auction and a raffle for a seven-day trip to Hawaii. The Banquet next year will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> – so mark your calendars.

Our education program will be started before the end of the school year. Short talks will be given at Simi Valley schools, emphasizing the need for spaying and neutering, and for correct pet care. We continue to educate the community regarding spaying and neutering

and will be mailing out awareness postcards in June. You may receive one shortly after this newsletter. We need to remember, however, that each of us must personally promote spaying and neutering pets to our friends and neighbors. If we are to succeed in this endeavor, we must create a social consciousness about pet care and pet population control.

We have established a Benevolent Fund. These funds are marked for the treatment of homeless dogs and cats. Most are abandoned. Many are brought in by passers-by, after being hit by cars. Emotionally they tear your heart out. It should give you great satisfaction to know you are helping to relieve their pain and that some of your donation is helping their medical/surgical rehabilitation.

Our commitment is steadfast. But to support the work for this charitable group, substantial funding is needed. Spaying and neutering, the education program and the medical/surgical care of the abandoned pets all take a considerable amount of financial assistance.

Your continued support is extremely important to us. Please make your 2003 donation to Valley Veterinary Clinic Charitable Non-Profit Corporation a substantial one. **We need your help.**

Thank you for caring,

*"Every Animal Deserves Care, Compassion and Respect."*

# A Good Time Was Had by All

Our "Love Your Pet" Banquet was held on February 8<sup>th</sup>, when 153 guests partied and danced at Wood Ranch Country Club in Simi Valley.

The Wood Ranch ballroom was festively decked with red and white Valentine colors, the tables decorated with flowers and candles. Each guest received a party favor, as well as a handsome program for the banquet, and the chance to win the beautiful red and white flower centerpieces.

Raffle tickets were snapped up quickly for the chance to win a seven-day trip to Hawaii, which included all hotel expenses, air fare and a \$500 spending certificate for the hotel.

Over 40 items, including a giant cat play tree and Sunday brunch at Saddle Peak Lodge, were offered in the silent auction which provided many exciting bidding competitions among the guests.

We will be holding another banquet on March 13, 2004. Please reserve this date, and consider donating an item for our banquet silent auction. Please indicate your interest on the form at the bottom of Page 3 and return in the envelope provided.



## WHAT WE NEED AT THE CLINIC TO SPAY AND NEUTER A CAT OR DOG

Needle/syringe, alcohol, injectable anesthetic, endotracheal tube, gas anesthesia, gauze, clippers, surgical scrub, heating pad, surgery pack which includes surgical instruments, sterile gauze, surgical drape, suture material, scalpel blade, gas anesthetic machine, pulse oximeter. Many of these items are used only once, and then disposed of after each surgery.



Add one veterinarian, two veterinary technicians and one surgical facility and you can perform a surgery.

Donations to Valley Veterinary Charitable Non-Profit Corporation pay for surgery items, allowing our important work to continue.

## TAKE A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS...

### — SIMI VALLEY — NUMBER OF CATS EUTHANIZED



In 1998  
842

During this time span we have spayed and neutered over 1,500 feral cats, and almost 3,000 cats for people who needed financial assistance.



In 2002  
298

**YOUR DONATION WILL ALLOW US TO CONTINUE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS EUTHANIZED IN SIMI VALLEY.**

# TOBY'S TALE

"ABANDONED, FOR SURE". A quiet, mellow, small Australian shepherd mix dog, probably "dumped" as he needed medical care. Unfortunately, not an uncommon incident at Valley Veterinary Clinic.

During Thanksgiving week last year, this sick and lonely canine was found in the hills north of Tapo Canyon and was brought into the Clinic needing help. Toby (named by his new owners) was suffering from a large degenerating cancerous growth on his rump, probably hormonally driven as Toby had not been neutered.

Dr. Novy donated Valley Veterinary Clinic and his time for the surgical intervention on Toby's behalf. A small portion of the tumor adhering to the colon was deemed inoperable, but the tumor's growth has been minimal since surgery, due to Toby's neutering at the time of the tumor surgery.

The Non-Profit's Benevolent Fund has funded Toby's further needed aftercare. The last biopsies reveal low-grade neoplastic growth with only a slight chance of spreading. Further treatment is being provided as needed, and Toby's lameness is being treated with acupuncture by Dr. Joan Winter.

Toby's case grabbed the emotions of everyone at the Clinic – they knew that he would be hard to place because of the cancer, but they could not conceive of taking such a gentle friend to Animal Regulation, no doubt headed for euthanasia.



With the assurance that the Benevolent Fund would pay for future surgeries, the adoption process was eased, and Toby was happily adopted by Joan and Jim Hise, joining their animal family of three other dogs, three birds and six horses.

Toby settled in immediately, locating a perfect sleeping spot on a couch in Joan's office. Joan immediately fitted Toby with collar and name tag, which allowed his return when he wandered off into the neighborhood – but he has learned his lesson. Now he will not even go out of the gate – he has found his true home and love.

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## I SUPPORT VALLEY VETERINARY CLINIC CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Yes, I plan to attend the March 13, 2004 Banquet.

Yes, I'd like more information on the March 13, 2004 Banquet. Here is my phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I'd like to help Dr. Novy and his work to reduce the animal overpopulation problems in Simi Valley:

\$20     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     \$1000     \$5000 & above     \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Friend    Supporter    Advocate    Benefactor    Silver Circle    Golden Circle    Founders' Circle    (Other)

My check is enclosed  
(Please print)

Please charge my credit card



M/C



Visa

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Valley Veterinary Clinic  
Charitable Non-Profit  
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## Novy's NOTES

If you love and care for your pet, you will also be caring for yourself.

More and more studies, including the Mayo Clinic's, point to the advantages of owning a pet, both physically and emotionally.

One such study finds that 21 percent of pet owners say they have better coping skills and lowered blood pressure.

Pets lower blood pressure and increase survival rates for heart attack patients. Ninety-four percent of patients who owned a pet were alive one year after their heart attack, whereas only 72 percent of non-pet owners were alive after one year. Children benefit greatly when a pet becomes a part of their lives.

Humans may have decided to domesticate animals to hunt, guard and protect. But we were soon to discover the pleasure of keeping them as a companion. They made their way into our hearts and will be part of us forever.

Through the years, I have had similar conversations with many senior citizens. Their concern is that if they were to acquire a pet – what would happen to their furry friends if they were unable to care of them? Just where the balance will end is always an unknown, but the mutual joy between pet and partner is always worth the gamble. It has always been my contention that if you have a loving pet in your household, the added years to your life will undoubtedly be valuable to both the pet and yourself. The companionship and mutual love shared by pet and pet owner is priceless.

And, as you consider a pet for your well-being, make certain you are committed to their care. "Every animal deserves care, compassion and respect."



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