



Paws

Summer 2004

THINK

VALLEY VETERINARY CLINIC CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Happy Summer

A Message From...

Dr. Lowell L. Novy

Our Board of Directors is growing! Jeffrey Moxie joined the Board early this year as our Vice-President, Development. Jeff will expand and tailor our future fund-raising efforts. He is currently the Chief Administrative Officer for Sunkist, Inc. and provides us with valuable knowledge of successful corporate management strategies and modern technology applications. Jeff will design and manage a Planned Giving Program to enable us to be named in Estate Plans. He'd be happy to answer any questions on this important topic – just complete and return the form on the bottom of Page 3. Welcome Jeff!

The euthanasia numbers continue to drop. 204 cats were euthanized from Simi Valley last year, still too many, but down from 298 in 2002, and 842 when we started our program in 1998. We have continued to increase our spaying and neutering of dogs, operating on 110 in 2003, reducing the euthanasia numbers from 311 in 2002 to 122 in 2003.

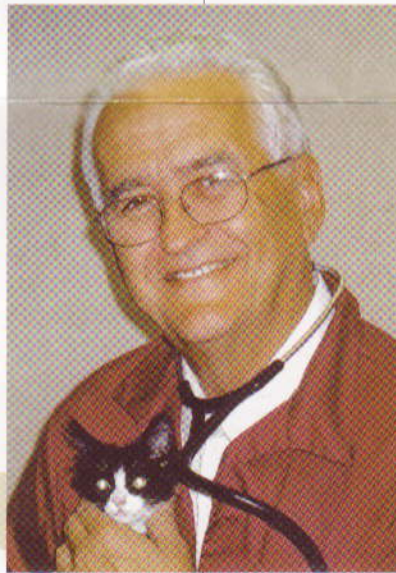
As the number of unaltered animals in Simi Valley falls, we are seeing a welcome lessening of the demand for our low-cost surgeries. However, we are experiencing a worrying increase in the number of Simi Valley residents who want to "get rid" of their misbehaving, usually untrained dogs and cats. We are studying a program to offer low-cost training sessions for owners and dogs in an effort to stop this alarming and sad trend.

Our Correct Pet Care educational program is very successful – do read about it on the following pages, along with an account of all the fun we had at our annual banquet in March. We'll be repeating the Love Your Pet banquet on

February 12, 2005, and I invite you all to come celebrate the success of our endeavors, which is due to your generous donations and help.

Please continue to donate – our costs are continuing, and we'd like to expand our spay and neuter program to other communities in Ventura County. Many are desperately in need of help, with extremely high euthanasia rates. We can only do this with your help. Please give anything you can.

We were lucky enough this year to be recognized by PETSMART Charities who gave generously to promote our educational and outreach programs; you can read about the grant we received on the following pages.



As in Ventura County, many communities in this country have not woken up to the need for intensified spaying and neutering programs. We intend to mail many copies of our "How to Form and Run a Low-cost Spay and Neuter Program" to these areas and encourage them to use our expertise to help them start a program.

Our Benevolent Fund continues to treat sick and injured homeless dogs and cats. When you read Penny's tale which follows, you will understand the heartache and joy we face when treating such helpless, lonely, homeless critters, and then finding them a home.

Please help us continue our valuable work. Without your donations we couldn't continue. Thank you for helping; there are so many animals in need.

"Every Animal Deserves Care, Compassion and Respect."



PETsMART Charities

In January, Dr. Novy accepted a generous check from PETsMART Charities. Here you see Louie Mendez, District Services Manager of PETsMART, together with Store Manager Mia Barrera, delivering the check at the PETsMART Simi Valley store. PETsMART Charities is funding our latest eye-catching outreach mailing to 20,000 Simi Valley residents. This mailing stresses the necessity for the spaying and neutering of all pets and provides information on the availability of low-cost spay and neuter services. This grant from PETsMART Charities is also covering the cost of printing the Correct Pet Care pamphlet which is given to every child who attends our pet care classes at Simi Valley elementary schools. Thank you, PETsMART Charities!



CORRECT PET CARE CLASSES

Our successful Correct Pet Care classes, tailored to each age group, continue at Simi Valley schools. Deborah Krasner and Paula Temme, our educators, cleverly hold the students' attention, illustrating important pet care points using handouts and stuffed animal toys. Each toy is named, collared and tagged, and, of course, spayed and neutered! If you know of a school or any other organization that would benefit from a Correct Pet Care class, please call (805) 386-1414. We'd love to expand our program and ensure that everyone understands the need to love and correctly care for all pets.

A 'PENNY' FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

By Carol Olson

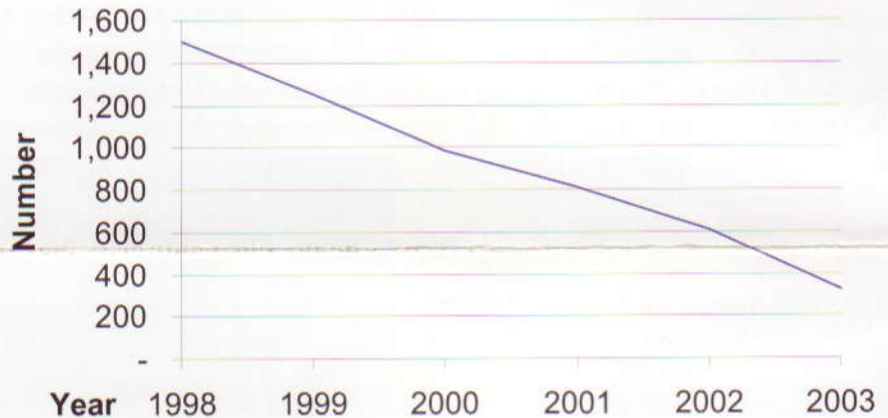
Late last year I received a call for help from an elderly gentleman who was feeding several feral cats and kittens in his backyard.

Loaded with humane traps, I arrived at his home at dusk. The traps were baited and within a couple of hours I had caught three adults and two kittens; however, mother cat and a third kitten just investigated the traps, but didn't enter. It was getting late, so I decided to leave the secure traps by a large pile of household goods, partially covered by a blue tarpaulin. I would

CONTINUED →

The Euthanasia Numbers Continue to Drop

Numbers of dogs and cats euthanized from Simi Valley from 1998 to 2003



Note: From 1998 to 2003 we performed 5,279 spay and neuter surgeries; (4,355 low-cost surgeries on dogs and cats, and 924 on feral cats)

ANOTHER EVENING FULL OF FUN!

Our 2004 annual banquet was another big success with 144 friends gathering at the Wood Ranch Country Club for an evening of dinner and dancing. Diane Bentz was presented by Dr. Novy with the first annual Diane Bentz Award. Carol Olson also left the banquet a happy lady, as she won the raffle prize of a week in Hawaii. Don't miss the fun next year – we'll be holding our 2005 banquet on February 12. Please reserve your ticket now. Just send in the form at the bottom of Page 3, indicating your interest, and we'll be in touch.

return at dawn. Then a movement from under the tarp caught my eye. Out hobbled a fourth kitten! Even by moonlight I could tell this kitten had a horribly injured front leg. It painfully limped towards the trap where it could smell the food, but then turned to return under the tarp.

As thoughts of rats and black widow spiders crossed my mind, I sprinted across the yard. It was obvious that if this kitten didn't get immediate medical attention, the consequences would be dire. As the kitten disappeared inside the jumble, I began tossing aside the tarp and clambering over, around and through old furniture, suitcases, boxes of books, etc. With my flashlight I would catch a glimpse of a tail or paw as the kitten limped through the maze. Then, through a small opening, an ear! I plunged my arm in and grabbed.

My feelings of exhilaration that I had caught the kitten were mixed with horror when I clearly saw her



front leg. It was grotesquely swollen and dark purple from infection. At home I treated her as best I could, but it was a long night waiting until I could check in with Dr. Novy in the morning. He started antibiotics, prescribed continued antibiotic treatment, but cautioned that the kitten may lose its leg. But my little black and white kitten made slow, and steady progress. I often thought

how lucky she was that she hobbled out of the tarp when she did and was able to be treated, thanks to the non-profit's Benevolent Fund. The kitten became my "Lucky Penny."

It took four months of antibiotic therapy (and love), but the only reminder Penny has of her ordeal is two slightly deformed toes. Penny has been adopted by a wonderful family that had her spayed and keep her safely indoors.

P.S. I caught the mother cat and last kitten the next morning. All the kittens were socialized, altered and adopted out to loving, indoor homes. The non-profit spay and neuter program altered all the adult cats, which were returned to the gentleman's yard where he continues to care for them.

P.S. from Dr. Novy. Stories like this make it all worthwhile!



YES, I'D LIKE TO HELP HELPLESS ANIMALS LIKE PENNY:

- I'd like to donate the sum of \$_____ to help continue to reduce the animal overpopulation problems, and provide treatment and find homes for homeless, sick and injured animals through the Benevolent Fund.

PLEASE SEND ME:

- Details of the February 12th, 2005 Love Your Pet Banquet.
- Information on how I can include the Non-Profit Corporation in my Will.

Donations are tax deductible under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code.

Just complete the following and return in the enclosed envelope:

- My check is enclosed Please charge my credit card M/C  Visa 

Card No. _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Novy's Notes

It's the season for summer flowers and barbecues - both fun filled, but both potentially dangerous to our four footed friends.

Most dogs and cats will not be attracted to poisonous plants. But we all know that it's the exception that gets us into trouble. Here is a partial list of toxic plants: rhododendron,

foxglove, azalea, oleander, lilies (almost all species), sago palm, yew, mushrooms (some species), and castor beans.

Some of the common symptoms of plant toxicity are vomiting, excess salivation, depression, excess muscle twitching and hyperexcitability. If you are suspicious of a plant poisoning involving your pet, call your veterinarian or contact the Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435, or www.apcc.asPCA.org.

Barbecues produce bones and trimmed fat. Bones can cause intestinal blockages or perforations. I know it does not happen often, but more often than you think. And the excess fat trimmings? Fat can and does cause many cases of life threatening pancreatitis every year. So keep track of those fat trimmings, and then be certain the pets cannot get into the trash.

Here's to longer and happier lives for our four-footed friends.

Valley Veterinary Clinic Charitable Non-Profit Corporation

845 E. Los Angeles Avenue
Simi Valley, CA 93065

General: (805) 386-1414

Spay/Neuter: (805) 584-3823

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Diane Bentz, R.V.T.

Patricia Meyer

Jeffrey Moxie

L.L. Novy, D.V.M.

Joyce Peters



*If you are interested in
helping us distribute flyers,
or fostering feral kittens,
please call
(805) 584-3823*

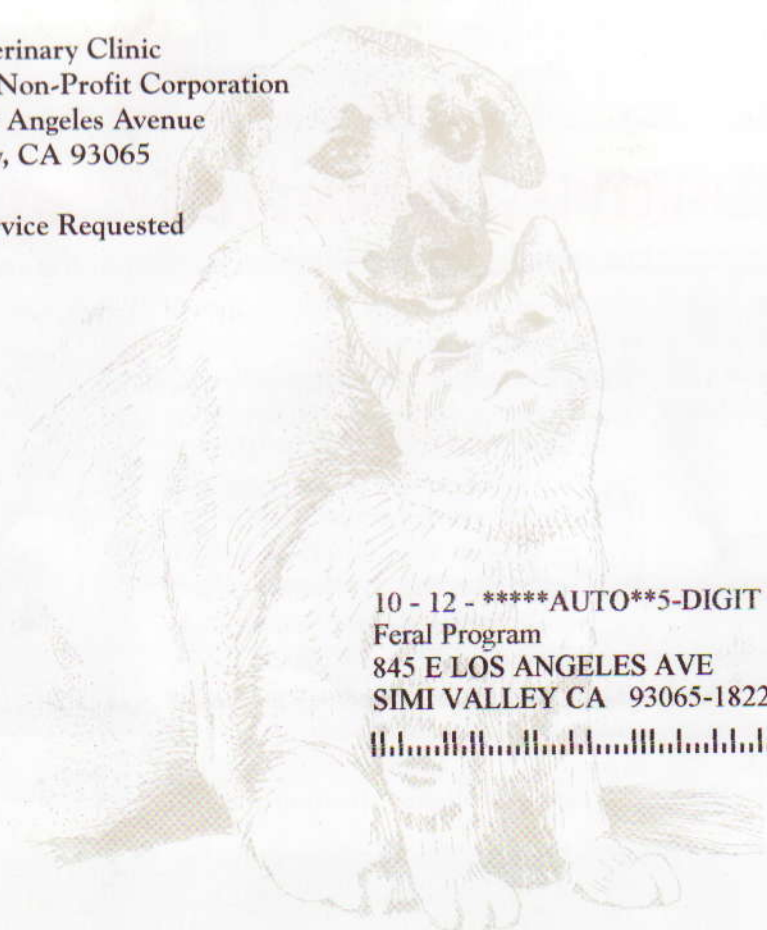
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Charitable Non-Profit Corporation
845 E. Los Angeles Avenue
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