



Paws

Winter 2004

THINK

Love Your Pet
Banquet
February 12th
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VALLEY VETERINARY CLINIC CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

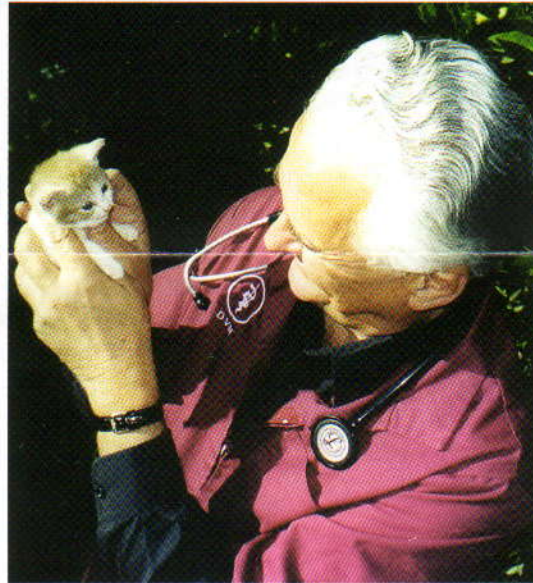
A Message From... DR. LOWELL L. NOVY

Happy 2005

I'm happy to report that the euthanasia rates for animals in Simi Valley are still dropping as we continue our work. During the first nine months of 2004, we performed low-cost spaying or neutering for 499 cats, 71 dogs and 198 feral cats. We've been offering these low-cost services for four years, so our organization has become well-known for its animal work. Now many Simi Valley residents will turn to us if they find a stray, injured animal. In the past, they would have taken the animal to the Simi Valley Animal Shelter. These cases have become an important part of our work, paid for by the Benevolent Fund which is financed by your donations.

It is wonderful to be able to help a hurting, homeless animal. Even after 44 years as a veterinarian, I am still affected when faced with a totally traumatized, homeless animal in deep shock and pain. It is very sad to see. But, through the Benevolent Fund, we can now treat these helpless critters and find them a home.

Ventura County Animal Regulation requires us to make three attempts to locate the owner and wait a minimum of ten days before trying to find the animal a home. The attempts must include completion of paperwork at the Simi Valley Animal Shelter, the placement of an advertisement in a local newspaper, and "Found" signs at the location



where the animal was rescued.

Some of you may find it difficult to read about our cases, but I am anxious for everyone to understand the amount of help our Benevolent Fund is providing. It is saving animals' lives. Here's a sampling of recent cases paid for by the Benevolent Fund.

Kermit, a feral kitten, about eight weeks old, suffered from a neurological abnormality which prevented the kitten from bringing its rear legs to the center of the body. It could not stand, and when Kermit moved, she had to drag her back legs along behind on the ground. Kermit was named at the Clinic, as are all stray animals, whose progress is carefully followed by all of the staff. Kermit's back legs were tape-braced for about five weeks, during which time she was caged, treated with physical therapy, and had very limited exercise. It was a happy day when I heard an excited shout "Kermit can stand!" from a technician in the treatment area. Kermit's new owners have continued the physical therapy and report that Kermit can now run up and down the stairs at her new happy home.

Gloria, a nine-week-old black and white kitten had been hit by a car. The people who found her were familiar with our work and phoned us. We rushed out to rescue Gloria whose back legs weren't functioning. The kitten was

"Every Animal Deserves Care, Compassion and Respect."

Happy 2005

in shock, near death, was extremely frightened and in a great deal of pain. We immediately treated for shock with oxygen and pain medications. X-rays revealed that Gloria had a severely crushed pelvis. She was kept in a cage for four weeks to allow the bones to heal, receiving very limited physical therapy. Although Gloria walks unsteadily, she is now out of pain and has been adopted into a happy home where she is kept inside, leading a normal kitten life.

Cats love to climb up under the hood of cars to keep warm. Too often they can't escape when the engine is started and are thrown into the fan. This was the fate awaiting "Fan Belt Cat" who suffered multiple lacerations from the fan. She was rescued by a passerby after being ejected into the street. The badly injured cat was immediately treated for shock and pain, and the many lacerations were cleaned and treated with antibiotics. Fan Belt Cat recovered quickly and after three weeks found a happy new home.

Maltese was brought to us after being found wandering in a street. My examination revealed that the dog was blind, probably between 12 to 14 years old, and was suffering from infected skin and arthritis. I attempted to treat her lack of sight, but it was obvious she had been totally blind for some time. For three weeks we treated Maltese for the skin condition and arthritis. Placing an old animal into a special home is difficult, particularly one with multiple disabilities, but our good friends at Animal Rescue Volunteers were able to help Maltese. She has adjusted very well in her new home, and due to her love of basking in the sun, has been renamed Sunshine. When she first arrived at her new home, Sunshine was confined to a small area she could get to know gradually. Now she is content, "a



Flyer Fun!

The best way to let people in Simi Valley know of our services is to "walk flyers." However, finding volunteers for this job is very, very hard.

loving little doll that is very well behaved and never barks."

I hope these cases help you understand the joy we experience when we are able to assist sick, homeless animals. This is only possible due to your help



through your donations. I do hope you will consider sending us another donation, no matter how small. We need to continue this important work and make sure no painful, homeless animal is left to suffer alone.

All of our other work continues. Children at Simi Valley schools will receive our Correct Pet Classes, and we have extended the program to the private schools as well as the public elementary schools. Our education staff held a successful program at Camp Keystone with hundreds of children present, and all the money received at this annual event was donated to our

But how lucky we are to have Staci O'Connell and her daughter Kayla, aged 4, sometimes aided by their dog Chloe, who will "walk flyers," placing them at each house door. Staci receives a map of the area to be covered, and day by day delivers hundreds of the flyers. Kayla proudly carries the flyers with her doll in her stroller and oversees all the deliveries, being very "picky" about their position at the doorway. Staci feels that because she and Kayla like to walk, she is helping a worthwhile cause while teaching Kayla about helping others.

We always need volunteers for work of this kind. Do call us if you can help - call (805) 584-3823.

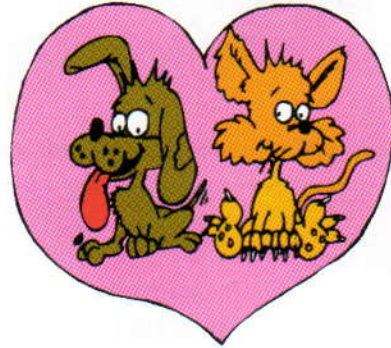
organization. If you work with local organizations, please consider our classes as part of your program, as they are suited to adults as well as children.

Your donations make all of our valuable work possible. Without them we would not be able to help so many animals and continue in our efforts to educate people about the care and empathy that all our four-footed friends should receive. If we can educate everyone in our community, the pet overpopulation problems will cease. I ask you to consider donating again.

Anything you can give will help animals like Kermit, Gloria, Fan Belt Cat, and Sunshine.

I enjoy chatting with you through these newsletters and hope you appreciate how important your support is to the success of our work. Without it we could not continue - your help gives us the means to give many animals happy, healthy lives - "every animal deserves care, compassion and respect." Thank you.

Love Your Pet Banquet



Please join us for a *Valentine's Day* salute
to our beloved pets at our third annual Love Your Pet Banquet

February 12th, 2005 — At the Wood Ranch Country Club, Simi Valley

Cocktails 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m.

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL VALET PARKING PROVIDED

This evening will include dinner, dancing, a silent auction and raffles for several exciting items.

As space is limited, we are asking interested individuals to commit to attending now. The tickets are \$125 each. Please indicate on the form below the number of tickets required, or if you would like to reserve a table for ten. A confirmation will be sent back to acknowledge your reservation and payment.

All of the proceeds from the Banquet will support Valley Veterinary Clinic Charitable Non-Profit Corporation's spay/neuter and education programs and provide assistance to pets and owners in need.

After Hours Formal Wear (multiple locations) is offering \$25.00 off any rental or 20% off any purchase — just show this newsletter.

— Please RSVP by February 1st, 2005 —



If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Peters at (805) 526-2743.

Yes, I'd like to attend the Love Your Pet Banquet (Due to limited seating, payment must accompany reservation)

Please reserve _____ ticket(s) at \$125.00 each _____ table(s) at \$1,250.00 each

Vegetarian food required for _____ people attending.

I cannot attend, but enclose my donation of \$ _____

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

(Please print and return in the enclosed envelope by February 1st.)

Card No. _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

VALLEY VETERINARY CLINIC CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Novy's Notes

In our last newsletter I mentioned that we are experiencing an increase in the number of abandoned pets - another example of our "throw away" society.

Imagine arriving at work to find a six-month-old puppy tied to the bench outside your office. The note attached to her collar said: "My name is Leona. I'm very sorry that I am here on your doorstep but my owners have tried to put me in every no kill rescue or shelter that they can.... One of my owners has had it and is about ready to kill me so my other owner brought me here as a last resort from an anonymous tip that she got from a stranger.... The stranger said that the doctor ... wouldn't have the heart to put her down and would find her a loving home...."



Well yes, thanks to you and the Benevolent Fund, she is now spayed, vaccinated, and we will find her a loving home.

But what are these people thinking? In my way of thinking, everyone needs to be responsible for themselves and their families, and I include their pets as part of their families.

Education is part of our mission statement. Looks like we have more work to do.

Thank you all for making this story ending "good" for all concerned.

Valley Veterinary Clinic Charitable Non-Profit Corporation

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Joyce Peters

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

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Cost of 4-color printing underwritten
by Clark's Printing, Ventura, California



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