

PIPESTONE

Veterinary Clinic

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

EMPLOYEES COOK UP A BUSY SUMMER

Relay for Life, Pipestone County Fair BBQ Contest, and the National Rambouillet Sheep Show. What do these events have in common? Food and Pipestone Vet Clinic.

Kim Westerbur, accounting assistant, captained an 11-member walking team for a great cause, Relay for Life. As the walkers committed to miles, vet clinic employees were indulging in their favorite treats—for a price, of course. All the money, earned from an ice cream cake raffle and meals served to clinic employees, was donated to support cancer research. “When we hit the \$500 mark, the vet clinic started to match donations,” Kim says.

Clinic employees raised \$4,540.95 in sponsorship dollars for Relay for Life. That accomplishment earned team “Paws for the Cause” No. 1 fundraising honors in the annual event. While walkers tallied miles at the June event, Paws for the Cause team members found one more food-dispensing, fundraising opportunity. What did they sell to other walkers? Puppy chow, naturally.

Scott Crawford, customer service and sheep expert, helped showcase the community to visitors who came for the National Rambouillet Sheep Show in mid-July. The event drew sheep producers from 15 states. “The Rambouillet exhibitors really

enjoyed the activities and the chance to mingle with local folks,” Scott reports. “We arranged for meals every night and opened the event with a public pancake feed sponsored by Pipestone Vet Clinic.”

The first night, attendees filled up on beans and brats, courtesy of the vet clinic. The next night

it was lamb kabobs sponsored by Big Gain Feeds. Then, came pork chops from New Horizons Farms and Pepsi®. The pancake feed, sponsored by the vet clinic and held at the Pipestone County Fairgrounds, featured Chris Cakes of Rolfe, IA, a fast-paced pancake-making company that has been known to flip a flapjack just for fun.

More food and fun surrounded the annual Pipestone County Fair BBQ Contest in August. Working with event founder Mike Kelley, the Pipestone Vet Clinic offered the first-ever Rib Feed. While contestants cooked up their winning entries,

the clinic provided a rib dinner to the public. Free will donations were collected with all funds donated to a military support group, “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon”.

“People are important to us. With over 600 employees in the Pipestone Vet Clinic and Pipestone System group, we are proud of our people and communities. We really appreciate the opportunity to contribute,” shares Dr. Jay Bobb. ■



G. F. Kennedy, D.V.M.

G. D. Spronk, D.V.M.

J. D. Bobb, D.V.M.

B. R. Kerkaert, D.V.M.

J. L. Goelz, D.V.M.

L. W. Minion, D.V.M.

C. S. Schmitt, D.V.M.

S. R. Wayne, D.V.M., PhD.

C. W. Vlietstra, D.V.M.

N. L. Weber, D.V.M.

J. L. Nerem, D.V.M.

C.A. Odland, D.V.M.

D. F. Peterschmidt, D.V.M.

B. B. Myers, D.V.M.

A. M. Emme, D.V.M.

S. A. Dee, D.V.M., PhD.

Veterinary Voices

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE ABOUNDS AT THE VET CLINIC

This summer the clinic was filled with interns, job shadowers, and students. These young people appreciated the opportunity to learn in a real-life setting. Here's what they're saying about the experience.

Veterinary intern Jonathan Tangen from Pella, IA took an after-school job that led him to his true calling. "I worked for a local vet in high school and have loved working with livestock ever since," Jon explains. He's close to his goal now, with an animal science degree from Iowa State University (ISU), two internships working with cattle, and three internships in the swine industry.

Jon, a third-year student at ISU College of Veterinary Medicine learned more about swine production in Pipestone System barns around Pipestone and Independence, IA. He observed health-control strategies as events actually happened and worked on research trials of benefit to Pipestone System farmers, co-sponsored by Pfizer, Inc.

Since Zach Wilcox, another ISU veterinary student, will graduate next year he was pleased to job-shadow Dr. Vlietstra through a mix of "really interesting dairy cases." He appreciated good ultra-sound performance experience and the chance to assist in delivering a calf in distress.

The Cleghorn, IA native, who grew up on a dairy farm, is already checking out locations for a dairy practice after graduation. However, wife Lisa, a third grade teacher, will certainly weigh in on final choices.

University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine second-year student Sam Holst from Austin devoted his summer to swine research. "This was my first experience with research. It was great to be involved in something that may benefit the whole swine industry."

He values working with Dr. Spronk, Dr. Nerem, Dr. Dee, and Dr. Wayne. "I like the production side, but it was valuable to witness the dynamics of a very successful mixed practice, too."

Adam Schelkopf of DeKalb, IL grew up in a family of veterinarians, so he recognized the importance of relationships at Pipestone Vet Clinic. "The people here are like a family—contributing individual strengths and supporting each other."

To prove he understands the give-and-take of family life, Adam volunteered for dog-sitting during his visit to Pipestone. But for the most part, he's focused on a career in swine medicine. This summer, as an intern, he rode along with Dr. Dee and Dr. Spronk, attended a Pipestone System shareholder meeting with Dr. Kerkaert and Dr. Minion, and spent time with Dr. Odland at a wean-to-finish swine operation. As a result, "I'm a happy guy!"

Brady Myers is a University of Minnesota undergraduate from a Redwood Falls sheep farm with 1,000 ewes. That didn't dull his enthusiasm for a summer internship in beef and dairy cattle with Dr. Goelz and Dr. Vlietstra. A highlight was using ultrasound in a dairy herd. "Not only using it, but using it successfully," he adds.

Marketing intern Jennifer Van Der Wal accumulated hands-on experience distributing information electronically. In fact, she posted photos and stories about her fellow interns.

A senior at South Dakota State University, she exhibited an interest in public relations early. "As a child I liked to lead tours of our dairy," she says. When her family moved from Canada to the Pipestone area five years ago, she and her siblings first met "Doc" Kennedy. This summer she assisted Sylvia Wolters organizing events, updating the online veterinary catalogue, and shooting photos for the clinic website. Jen reports, "I really enjoyed working with



SAM HOLST, JONATHAN TANGEN, AND ZACH WILCOX.

technology and learning to create an electronic mailing.”

Part-time employee Ryan Lubke, who came to the vet clinic in August, works in information technology (IT) support and helps out in customer service. He holds two associate degrees from Minnesota West Community and Technical College and is learning the ropes at the clinic thanks to IT manager Bill Rolfs.

Ryan is a devoted Minnesota transplant from San Diego. He fell in love with the Pipestone area thanks to visiting his grandmother Betty Lubke. “I don’t miss city traffic and it’s so friendly here!” ■



RYAN LUBKE ASSISTS SHANNON BOUMAN.



JENNIFER VAN DER WAL

HERE’S SOMETHING TO CHEW ON

If your dog chomps on rocks, sticks, or bones, fractured teeth are a real possibility. A broken tooth exposes an area where bacteria can enter and, over time, create a painful abscess. Dr. Nicole Weber recommends periodic teeth cleaning during which she can spot more serious dental issues. A dental prophylaxis or a dental extraction performed at the Pipestone Veterinary Clinic cleans above and below the gum line to remove the dark brown or green tartar that creates doggie breath. While your dog is anesthetized for the cleaning procedure, a damaged tooth can be detected and extracted, before it has time to abscess.

On more than one occasion, Yukon, a 7 1/2-year-old Weimaraner, has been lucky to know Dr. Weber. He’s inclined to wrap his mouth around what some might consider ill-advised chew toys. Owners Ivan, Mary, and Travis Evink remember when he munched on Christmas ornaments and TV remotes. “He’s a chewer,” Mary admits. “Yukon will sort of shuck a log and spit it out. We try not to give him sticks...but he finds his own.”

Pretending he’s a wood-chipper earned Yukon yet another visit to the vet clinic so Dr. Weber could extract two broken teeth. Before long his abscesses receded and he was back on duty as neighborhood greeter along his block in Pipestone.

Just in time, too. “Lots of kids walk past our house on the way to school,” says Mary. “They’re all Yukon’s friends.”

Yukon’s other best friends, according to Mary, work at the vet clinic. “They’ve been awesome to Yukon. He’s a good dog, but he’s had more than his share of health scares. Dr. Weber and Katie Weise are always quick to respond in a crisis and very compassionate.” ■



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SPOTLIGHT ON 4-H

FUN AND GAMES FOR SHAYNA DEGROOT

Articulate 13-year-old Shayna DeGroot isn't one of those teenagers who spent the entire summer engrossed in video games. Instead, she devoted time to other games, the sort accomplished on horseback.

She's happy to explain "games"—her 4-H event—to the uninitiated. Shayna draws barrels in several patterns and simulates a girl on a horse, weaving and taking the jumps. She competes in clover-leaf barrels, key-hole, poles, and jumping figure eight. A jumping figure eight begins when horse and rider traverse a hurdle and then circumnavigate three parallel barrels.

Shayna, who competed at the Minnesota State Horse Show in August, announces, "It's fun!"

"It's scary," responds her mom Angie, a familiar face on the clinic customer service staff. However, the Pipestone Veterinary Clinic is never afraid to sponsor local 4-H fair events. 4-H empowers youth to develop leadership and life skills through their projects. ■



SHAYNA DEGROOT, DAUGHTER OF ANGIE AND MICK, RIDES HER HORSE, RADISH, IN 4-H EVENTS. SHE ALSO EXHIBITED HER REGISTERED SHORTHORN HEIFER, STAR, AT THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIR. YOUNGER BROTHERS TUCKER AND TYLER RAISE SHORTHORNS, TOO. THE KIDS TAKE CARE OF THE ANIMALS THEMSELVES, SINCE MONEY EARNED FROM THEIR BEEF PROJECT IS EARMARKED FOR THEIR COLLEGE FUNDS.