



FEATURE STORY

THE DAY FROSTY'S NUMBER CAME UP

When his newest feedlot employee stood dangerously close to bleeding out in the middle of a gravel road, Kenny Van Dyke rapidly did two things that saved his horse's life. "I stuck one gloved hand in the hole in Frosty's chest and used the other to call that number—5252! 'Better hurry up,' I told them at the Vet Clinic."

In fewer than 20 minutes, Dr. Larry Goelz stood in the road beside the South Dakota rancher and cattle feeder who was still maintaining pressure on his horse's five-inch puncture wound. Kenny speculates Dr. Goelz somewhat exceeded the speed limit while answering his call for help.

"You said, 'hurry,'" Dr. Goelz grinned in reply. "When I arrived, Kenny looked like the little boy holding back the flood with his finger." Beneath Kenny's gloved hand, the vet could feel Frosty's essential carotid artery pulsing dangerously close to the open wound. On a late-winter day, right there in the road, he started stitching.

Seven months later, Kenny re-tells his tale of a simple getting-to-know-you ride gone wrong. "The new horse came from the trainer that day and, well... the sun was shining. I thought I'd test her out along the snowmobile track in the neighbor's field. But that path runs parallel to a fence with a not-so-good gate."

Eventually Frosty tried to return to the road by what must have looked like a convenient exit. As Kenny reined her away "she veered into a snow bank and landed right on a fence post." The horse kept moving forward until she reached the road; then she stopped. Kenny knew immediately something bad had happened.

Dr. Goelz addressed the most dramatic need first—he did what he had to do so Frosty could be moved. Then the vet and the custom feedlot owner walked her back home, one on each side. Next, Dr. Goelz drew blood for testing back at the Pipestone Vet Clinic. He needed to understand how much blood the horse had lost to determine what else she'd require to heal.

Dr. Nicole Weber ran the tests and in 10 minutes could report Frosty showed signs of slight anemia. Kenny's quick thinking had limited her blood loss. Now it all depended on her ability to respond to Dr. Goelz's roadside triage.

For several days, the injured horse stood motionless in her shed clearly too pained to stir. Luckily, Dr. Goelz explains, Frosty's formidable spleen provided an extra store of red blood cells for this emergency—a hyper-efficient spleen is what enables a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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.

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. Emme, D.V.M.

THE DAY FROSTY'S NUMBER CAME UP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

race horse to surge forward from the pack in the Kentucky Derby. Frosty was racing for her life.

Kenny could do nothing more but tend to his custom-feeding business. He can't remember a better year for raising cattle; the right weather conditions contributed to weight gain on less feed. He knows the owners whose cattle he oversees needed that good season in light of recent hard times in their industry.

Even when he didn't have his horse to work cattle, it wasn't as if Kenny labored alone. There are part-time employees and his dedicated

family. "Our three children—teenagers Lyndsay, Dexter, and Whitney—do all the processing (implanting and vaccinating). Back when they were little, my wife, Cindy, did the processing and so did my four step-children, when they were in high school."

Still, there are jobs best done from horseback. "These calves mostly come from out west and they're comfortable around a horse," he explains.

Happily, Frosty healed and came back to work. "She survived," says her doctor. "That's

what makes this a good story."

Kenny likes to tell his horse tale for a different reason: he's still impressed with Dr. Goelz's rapid response. "He had to break every rule to get here that fast. For 15 years I've known all you have to do in an emergency is call that number—825-5252!" ■

WE CAN TEST BLOOD FOR ALL SPECIES—COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK AND COMMON PETS BUT ALSO BIRDS, MONKEYS, LLAMAS, FERRETS, YOU NAME IT—RIGHT IN OUR CLINIC. NO NEED TO SEND AWAY FOR TIME-CONSUMING RESULTS. DR. WEBER TESTED FROSTY'S BLOOD TO DETERMINE WHAT WOULD BE NEEDED POST-SURGERY.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

KIM WESTERBUR, BY THE NUMBERS

Accounting clerk, Kim Westerbur, doesn't fit the shy, green-eye-shade, numbers-cruncher mold. After work you might hear her cheering at daughter Shelby's volleyball game or singing karaoke in competitions to which she brings her own cheering section.

Kim also rides motorcycles with Aaron, her fiancé, and hikes three miles a day with Max, a five-year-old Labrador-mix. Max and Kim enrolled in the Pipestone Vet Clinic Pet-Fit Challenge and seem to be taking their goals very seriously. They walk near Jasper, MN where Kim has lived all her life.

On the job at the Clinic since May 10, Kim already knows, "I love it here—the people are awesome! From the first day they treat you like you've been here forever. It's nice

to be part of this family in which our own families always come first."

The family-centric emphasis explains why Kim can make it to those middle school athletic events or take a quick call from 13-year-old Shelby to confirm a change in after-school plans. She sighs. Teens and cell phones... more numbers in Kim's busy day! ■



UNUSUAL TOOLS OF AN UNCOMMON TRADE

If it wasn't the truth it could be an amusing child's riddle: "Why does an elk rancher need a garden rake?" Believe it or not, if you hoist a hefty garden rake over your head you can move safely among bull elk during rutting season.

"They respect height," says Clifford Mulder, the Pipestone elk rancher who should know. "When we're with the bulls one of us carries a rake or a scoop-shovel while the other works."

Cliff knows all this stuff. For the past 20 years the retired highway patrolman has been educating himself, and others, in elk mannerisms and commercial value.

"Cliff is meticulous so, from the beginning, everything about this operation has been done right," explains Dr. Jay Bobb of the Pipestone Vet Clinic.

See the Mulder elk-handling facility and you'll agree. This is no everyday livestock shed: it's tidier than some living rooms and better organized than many kitchens. Cliff deals with wild animals—hence the rake—so he set out to neutralize their natural urge to react violently when touched. (Males employ their massive antlers; females can rear back on their hind legs and strike with their front hooves.)

In the handling facility, an animal enters a system of wood gates that open and close on each other like a continuous rodeo chute. An elk moves forward through one unfolding box at a time while handlers stay safe and invisible behind blue tarps. (That's another of Cliff's self-protection tricks; the elk aren't unduly alarmed by faces peering over each gate.)

At the end of the u-shaped gate series, the elk enters a stall with a padded floor. That floor conceals another safety device—an elk-sized hydraulic lift. The huge creature leaves the ground and now—and only now—Dr. Bobb steps up to the exposed underbelly to perform a yearly TB test or some other procedure. He's in no danger because the elk can't see him down below. The elk, meanwhile, is protected from striking out with sufficient force to break its own leg.

Still, the wild creature in the chute isn't exactly happy with hands-on procedures. "They grind their teeth the whole time you're working on them. It's a heck of a sound...and unnerving!" Dr. Bobb explains.

These elk aren't pets and they aren't cattle. Even in pens they run from strangers. And they don't make friends with dogs! Cliff and Helene's new puppy has been thoroughly kicked and shown the door a couple of times.

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING MARKETPLACE

In the early 1980s, Cliff, an avid hunter, first saw Montana elk in captivity. The law enforcement veteran was already thinking ahead to a project for his well-earned retirement. He found breeding stock right here in Minnesota, at Brainerd, and a new enterprise began.

Cliff and Helene built a log home east of town and he set up pens. In the beginning, harvesting antler velvet was the primary objective; more recently that market has fallen off. As Cliff writes in a booklet for the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, "As with most farm products, prices have varied. However, even at the low, elk have still been profitable."

Initially, he sold antlers for \$100 a pound. Fears of CWD scared the export market. (Chronic wasting disease is a neurological disorder that attacks deer, moose, and elk in the wild but thus far has shown no ability to transfer to humans.) Lucrative sales outlets in China and Korea were embargoed and the price fell to \$15 a pound.

Good price or not, Cliff must remove horns to prevent bulls from injuring each other. "Hormonally they gear up for the rut and their antlers turn hard as bone," he explains.

So what happens to antlers these days? "We keep them in a freezer until they're ready to sell," Helene answers. Cured antlers have decorative value in the marketplace and the new pup is happy to prove dogs love to chew on a hunk.

What's for dinner if the freezer is filled with antlers, Helene? Cliff offers up another brochure, this one touting the virtues of elk meat as low in fat, cholesterol, and calories—vastly less fat and cholesterol than chicken. These days the principal financial return comes from selling meat by the quarter.

Cliff and his son-in-law, Ron Hulstein, have reduced their herd both to accommodate market realities and to allow Cliff and Helene time to be snowbirds. Yet Cliff still clearly loves working with elk and snow-shovels and rakes. ■



PIPESTONE

Veterinary Clinic

1300 S Hwy 75
PO Box 188
Pipestone, MN 56164

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VISTACOMM

*When Out on the Lawn
There Arose Such a Clatter...*

We realized it must be kids and pets arriving for their photos with Santa Paws!

Bring your cute pets and cuter kids to the Pipestone Vet Clinic December 5, 2009 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. for our annual photo-op. We'll also have a little treat for all the little sugarplums!

A CAT STORY WITH SOME TEETH IN IT

Actually, the lack of teeth is the real wonder in this case. Dr. Nicole Weber wants all cat owners to realize a feline can function well without teeth if need be. In fact, now that she's recovered from oral surgery, Sandy is back on mouse patrol beneath John McCallum's classic car collection.

Tooth defects called feline oral resorptive lesions aren't uncommon in cats older than four years. You'll find them where the gum meets the tooth on the outside. Since the lesions on lower premolars are painful, your cat shouldn't care that the cause is unknown—and neither should you.

Do what John and Jean McCallum did. Bring your cat to the Vet Clinic for evaluation and treatment. That might mean nothing more than thorough cleaning and polishing or the story could include a sub-plot about root surgery, a procedure Dr. Weber can complete onsite.

It's likely Sandy's situation became so severe because from the first it was clear her mouth had seen more trouble than a '57 Chevy's seen potholes. A year ago the McCallums noticed their Pomeranian, China, was sharing her food with an emaciated orange cat.

John reports, "She was obviously a stray and had more things wrong with her than just being nobody's pet. She had a hernia on her side. One fang and several teeth were broken off.

"Eventually she came to trust us. We took her to the Pipestone Vet Clinic where she got vaccinations, was spayed, had the hernia repaired...plus the broken teeth were pulled."

Then Sandy set up mouse-keeping in the shop, though she's always ready to visit the couple's two indoor cats, whom John says have agreed to tolerate her.

Sandy is now down to two teeth which Dr. Weber assures are perfectly sufficient for her to crunch hard cat food and catch mice. It's important to relieve a pet's dental pain, Dr. Weber notes, after which it will quickly adapt! ■

