
ROOSTER CALL



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

Currently Meeting 7:00 AM Fridays at Country Kitchen, Hwy 151, Platteville, WI

Platteville Optimist Weekly Bulletin – Friday, January 20, 2017

Attendance: 14 members attended – Duane Borgen, Charlie Clark, Howard Crowfoot, Hap Daus, Dan Engelke, Gary Engelke, Kevin Haertzen, Steve Lane, Doug Martin, Leon Neuheisel, Becky Schambow, Bob Weier, Ron Weier, and Wayne Wodarz.

(8 members wore Optimist clothing)

Guests: Meeting was hosted by Dr. Terry Beebe at the Family Pet Hospital

Mystery Greeter: Wayne Wodarz was the greeter. Wayne Wodarz was the greeter. Lucky recipient was Duane Borgen.

Joker Draw: Ron Weier's number was drawn, but he drew the 10 of Clubs, winning \$2.00.

Announcements: None

Program: Becky Schambow opened by thanking Dr. Beebe and his staff for hosting the group at their new clinic building and providing a delicious breakfast. Dr. Beebe then introduced Dr. Hellert, and his staff members.

Before Dr. Beebe and Dr. Hellert took the group for a tour of their new facility, which opened in July 2016, Dr. Beebe asked the group if they had any questions. What we learned:

- They have three veterinarians including Dr. Hellert who works primarily at the Platteville Office, Dr. Naomi Sprank, who works at their Galena Clinic and Dr. Beebe, and twelve support staff members between their Platteville and Galena clinics.
- They are open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Saturday's from 8:00 to noon. They also offer 24 hour emergency service.
- They don't have to transfer animals out very often, as most care can be provided at their clinics. Having a new ultrasound machine will minimize the need to transfer pets out even more. Dr. Beebe noted that the types of cases that they might need to transfer include: severe abdominal bleeds with suspect of cancer; pets having extremely difficult breathing who would need all night services; advanced orthopedic surgery such as hip-replacements; severe cornea abrasions; and pets needing cataract surgery.
- Some customers have health insurance for their pets. Typically the cost of health insurance is about \$30 per month, and insurance doesn't cover pre-existing conditions. They do have some literature available regarding different carriers. Insurances don't require a lot of work for



them, as typically the pet owners pay the Clinic, and then send bills / receipts in for reimbursement.

- They mostly care for dogs and cats (*approx. 60% dogs, and 35% cats*), but also have seen rabbits, rats, Guinea pigs, Hamsters, Pot Belly Pigs, and trim toe nails on birds. The largest dog they've cared for weighed about 276#!
- They use "low stress" handling and bribes for those animals who don't want to be touched. They also have the more experienced staff work with these animals, with the newer staff observing.
- It takes four years of undergrad, plus an additional four years at a veterinary school to become a veterinarian. There are only about 28 veterinarian schools in the US. Dr. Beebe received his degree from Oklahoma State, and Dr. Hellert received hers from Iowa State. Costs of veterinary school range around \$200,000 to \$250,000. A new grad's initial wages are about \$50,000. to \$60,000./year.
- Dr. Beebe always loved animals and grew up wanting to be a vet. While in his undergrad program he found Chemistry was originally a challenge so he decided to farm. After farming for 14 years, and having a wife and children, he decided to return to school to get that veterinary degree.

Dr. Hellert and Dr. Beebe provide tours of their beautiful facility. The clinic has: four exam rooms; a Lab and Pharmacy area; dog boarding room that has an outdoor run with canine grass where dog's urine filters underneath and the grass area can be snow blown so it's always grassy. The clinic also has: an isolation room with special ventilation; hospital cat ward; hospital dog ward; cat boarding room; dental procedure area; x-ray room with digital equipment; surgical suite with monitoring systems, which include projection capabilities so vets and staff can view procedures on TV monitors. The doctors have their own private offices, and a staff bathroom with a shower.



Dr. Beebe noted his surgical passion orthopedic cases.



Dr. Hellert's is soft tissue



Adjourn: The meeting adjourned following the tour.

UPCOMING SPEAKER: On January 27th we will have a return visit from Ryan Weigel, VP of Dairy Procurement for Accelerated Genetics and Assistant Coach of UW-Platteville's Dairy Judging Team. A sequel to his earlier presentation, Ryan will provide us with some very interesting fact of "genetics" and the dairy industry.

~~~~Minutes taken and drafted for Rooster Call by Becky Schambow