

# News from the Sanctuary

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## **Best Friends Clinic**

*"The queen of my double wide trailer . . ."*

It's 8:30 on a sunny morning at the clinic at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, and the country music has just come on. That means we're ready for surgery!

"I think I'll just warm up with a neuter or two," says Dr. Rich Allen to David Maloney who manages the clinic and has been preparing for the day's surgeries since 7:00 a.m.

"Nobody's ready," says David, "till the coffee's brewed and Dr. Allen's favorite country music is playing."

*"...with the polyester curtains and the redwood deck."*

Carrie has brought in group of "look-ats" – dogs and cats who need to be looked at.

Tweedy, a grey tabby cat, has a limp. Pippy, an old spaniel/Lab, has a lump. Daisy Mae, a hound/Lab, needs her teeth cleaned.

Dr. Allen takes a closer look at the lump. "I think we'll take some blood there." His calm, drawling Alabama accent seems to be soothing away that lump already.

Carragh is prepping Abby, a shepherd mix, for surgery, while David is drawing the blood and running it through the blood machine. By the time Dr. Allen has finished the second "warm-up" neuter, David will have a complete print-out of the blood results, and the X-ray will be hanging on the light-screen.

Carragh brings Abby back into the recovery room after surgery. Dusty Anna is waiting to start her day as Head Nurse in the recovery room. Dusty Anna was rescued as a puppy herself, and the first time she went into the clinic she went straight to work!

At 10:00 there's an emergency call from cats. "Rainbow has just spiked a huge temp!" says Kathi.

*(Okay, you E.R. fans, you know what that means, but for the rest of us, it's medical jargon for a high temperature!)*

She's referring to the first orphan kitty of the season who



came in from town last May.

"Give her fluids and antibiotics," says Dr. Allen. "That should keep her stable until I come over this afternoon."

Back in the lab, Dr. Allen checks out the blood results and the X-ray on Pippy. His diagnosis: a cancerous tumor which should be removed immediately.

By 11:00, the first patients are waking up in the recovery room. Carragh and Dusty Anna are busy checking them out and making sure they're comfortable.

Meanwhile, Dr. Allen has finished removing Pippy's tumor and says he'll do a couple of spay/neuters before lunch.

After lunch, Sharon St. Joan brings a pigeon up to the clinic from Feathered Friends. "This is Charlemagne," she says. "He came in yesterday with a badly broken wing."

Dr. Allen feels carefully around the injured area, and concludes that this wing is going to have to come off. It's a delicate surgery, requiring great care not to open any blood vessels. Since the operation, Charlemagne is recovering just ducky at Feathered Friends.

By 2:00, Dr. Allen and Carragh are off to Catland – a mile or so down one of the sandy roads of Angel Canyon. They'll check out the latest arrivals, take blood samples, and prescribe medicines.

By 4:30, Clinic Day is over. A couple of the patients will be staying at the clinic overnight. The rest have all gone back to their homes throughout the sanctuary, and Dr. Allen is heading down to the horse pastures to ride his favorite horse. 🐾