

Letter from the Napanee Guide about LVS

Large or small, rural vet does it all

Tucked away in the countryside just north of Yarker is an animal-lover's dream: a true old-fashioned rural veterinary practice.

Dr. Calvin Lane and his wife Patsy own and operate Lane Veterinary Services beside their home and sheep farm, an ideal situation for them both. "Patsy and I were both raised on a farm," said Lane. "We like the country atmosphere." Calvin is the veterinarian and Patsy the office manager and sheep farmer. "It's a husband and wife practice which we've run successfully for 22 years."

Over those years, the practice has changed. Initially treating primarily large animals, the focus has now shifted more to smaller ones, to mostly cats and dogs and "the occasional rabbit." Of the larger animals, cattle, horses, sheep and goats are routinely seen, but he's even had experience with alpaca and reindeer. "If it's something new, I just learn about it," said Lane, adding, "I like the variety of the work. It never gets routine!"

When you view the clinic's extensive list of service, you can see why. From basic health care and vaccinations to surgery (such as spays, neuters, wound repair, even orthopedic), on-site blood testing and X-rays to 24-hour emergency services, they do it all. "All the services to keep animals healthy and happy," said Lane. Especially appreciated by clients are the on-site services. If an X-ray is required, pet owners can have immediate results. If surgery is needed, pre-anesthetic blood testing is done minutes rather than days beforehand.

Herd and flock health visits are one of the regular services provided for farm animals: cattle, sheep, goats, horses, etc.. We do a lot of preventative medicine / disease control with large animals," said Patsy.

The Lanes are proud of what Patsy terms their “small, rural, friendly practice,” adding, “we have lots of loyal clients.” Part of what makes Lane Veterinary Services a success is the warmth and teamwork that family creates. Patsy reports that although she and Calvin work together, they don’t see each other that often. The only problem they have as a husband-and-wife team is switching from professional to personal names in and out of the office.

That friendly feeling of family is an extended one. Of their treasured veterinary technician, Maggie Maloney, the Lanes say, “She has a good knowledge of and a gift with both people and pets.” In addition, Glenn, the eldest of the Lane’s three sons, works in the business on Saturdays, and two other part-time staff, Chris English and Kate Zimmerman, complete the “family.”

Although the practice is rural, it serves clients from both town and country and from as far away as Ottawa and Toronto.

The Lanes love the rural Ontario area in which they’ve settled and built their business. “There’s good community atmosphere here,” said Lane. And they’ve been an active part of that community. Both Calvin and Patsy play hockey and have been 4-H Veterinary Club leaders over the years. They have also supported a KCVI Vet Week Program offering students hands-on experience. For example, after taking classes on calving, students would attend actual births with Dr. Lane.

Lane Veterinary Services is a rural gem. Whether large animals are part of your livelihood or you have pets you love, they have what you need. The clinic is located on 211 McQuay Street, off County road #6 between Colebrook and Moscow, just a few miles north of Yarker.

It is an enjoyable scenic drive to the clinic and they are great country people who both know and love animals, and who will make the care of yours their prime concern.