

On this trip, animal care trumped personal hygiene

By SARAH HITE
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Andrea Carr is dedicated to pursuing a career in veterinary medicine.

The 20-year-old from Dallas Township is so dedicated that, during a recent trip to a spay and neuter clinic at a Native American reservation in South Dakota, she focused on animal care more than hygiene.

"I think we showered twice during the week," said the Misericordia University biology major. "...Baby wipes go a long way."

Carr and her mother, Maria, attended a trip with the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association-Rural Area Veterinary Services program, a veterinary outreach service that aims to provide free veterinary care to "rural communities where poverty and geographic isolation make regular veterinary care inaccessible," according to the program's website.

The trip, held during the last week of May, included veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary medicine students, undergraduate students and support staff.

"I was looking for international trips, like mass spay and neuter clinic trips to third world countries," said Andrea. "What I realized was that stateside, there's a whole other world for veterinary services in rural communities."

Andrea was the only undergraduate student on site and Maria was the only person on the trip who did not work in an animal care-related field.

The pair worked as support staff members, aiding in the registration and check out of clients. The clinic was held in a fire hall on the reservation and the 40 participants had to sleep on the floor of a nearby elementary school.

Showers were few and far between - 10 showers were located at a community center about a quarter of a mile from the site.

"There were three males on the 40-person team," said Maria. "We would make the guys shower last so we could have 10 people shower at a time."

One day Andrea couldn't wait for the showers and started her own cleaning trend.

"We were given a lot of time to shower, so I went into the elementary school kitchen and used the high-powered dish washer hose to wash my hair," said Andrea. "Pretty soon everyone had their heads in the sinks."

Maria said the clinic was like "organized chaos" - the participants were usually there from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. or midnight and sometimes the clients were there longer.

"We opened at 7 a.m. but it wouldn't be unusual to see people lined up at the door at 5:30, 6 in the morning," she said.

Andrea said the clinic, which treated more than 300 animals during the week, was an eye-opening experience and one that helped her get a better grasp on the importance of the veterinary medicine field.

"I'm relatively used to working in small animal veterinary clinics, and the animals who come to them live in loving homes and are well taken care of," she said.

"Where this clinic was, there isn't a vet for 50 miles and many of the people on the reservation don't have the transportation or money to get there. Ninety percent of the animals we saw have never been to a vet."

The animals came to the clinic to get spayed or neutered, which helps control the animal population, and on the last day there was a vaccine clinic to help prevent the spread of disease among the animals living on the reservation.

"These people took care of animals the best way they know how," said Maria. "There's no dog food or cat food - the animals eat what the humans eat. Half a deer carcass could feed a few dogs over the winter. And many of the injuries we saw could have been old injuries. And they were infested with ticks - I've never seen so many ticks in my life."

The trip helped expand Andrea's horizons when it comes to applying for vet school next year.

"I think I learned more from this trip than I have in years of shadowing vets," she said.

Andrea is pursuing a pre-veterinary medicine track at Misericordia University, where Maria works as an adjunct biology professor and lab assistant, and Andrea's father, Leo, is a chemistry professor.



Andrea Carr, right, and her mom Maria pet their goats Joe and Sam, on their property in Dallas.

"Ever since I was little, I've always liked animals. I think it started when I was 10; I would just treat anything I thought was injured. I would do physical exams on salamanders."

Andrea Carr
Pre-veterinary student

Science may, indeed, be in Andrea's blood; however, despite the influence of her parents, she was never pressured into the field.

"I was encouraged to choose any career I wanted," she said. "I wasn't pressured even though I have biologists and chemists in my family."

She had been taking care of animals on her own since she was a young girl - it's part of her nature.

"Ever since I was little, I've always liked animals," said An-

drea. "I think it started when I was 10; I would just treat anything I thought was injured. I would do physical exams on salamanders."

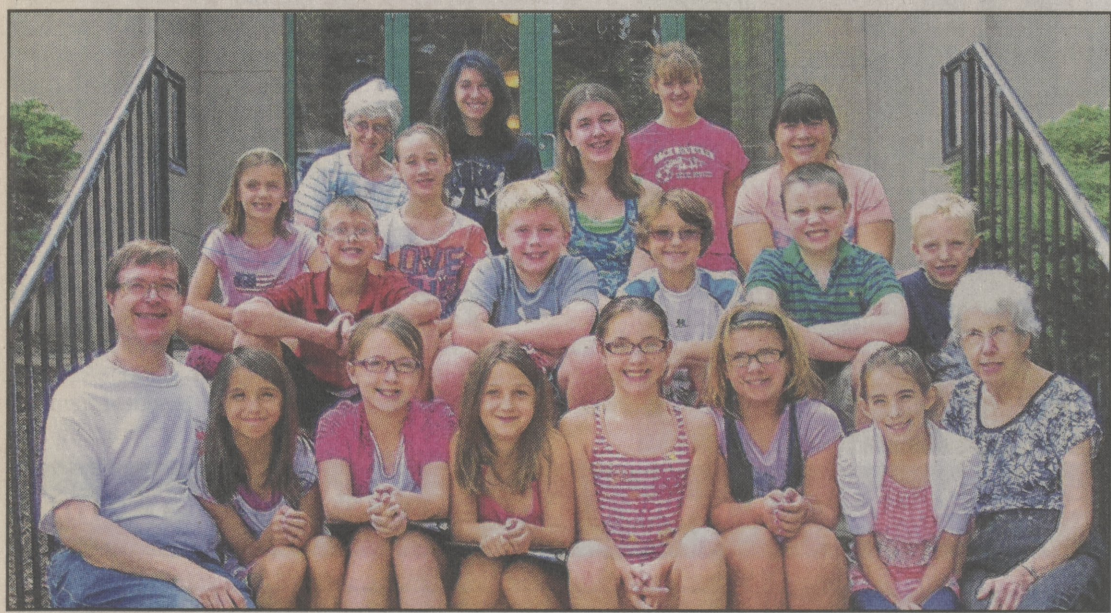
Andrea has been working with Dr. Lynn D'Alessandro, of Creekside Animal Hospital in Monroe Township, since she was 12 years old, and she recently did a stint as a veterinary assistant for Dr. John Bucha, of the Harveys Lake Veterinary Clinic.

She's also a state-certified poultry technician, which allows her to draw blood from chickens for testing, something that comes in handy for a family that owns about 50 chickens. The Carrs also have two goats, two cats and one dog.



One of the many chickens at the Dallas home of Misericordia University biology major Andrea Carr in Dallas.

SUMMER YOUTH MUSIC CAMP HELD AT GATE OF HEAVEN



Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas, recently held its annual summer youth music camp. Directed by Anthony J. Kubasek, music director and liturgy coordinator at the church, the week-long event consisted of choir rehearsals, games and daily presentations by Deacon Thomas Cesarini, who explained Catholic practices, holidays and traditions. The participants were treated to a pool party on the last day of camp and an ice cream social following the concluding Sunday liturgy, at which they sang. Shown here are camp attendees and staff. From left, first row, Anthony J. Kubasek, camp director; Morgan Patla, Jennifer Leonard, Grace Aiello, Melissa Leonard, Eryn McMonagle, Terri Calpin and Irene Meren. Second row, Jacob Davis, Jake Pizzolato, Brennan Eggleston, Scott Alexander and Jacob English. Third row, Delanie Neil, Shelby Pocono, Michelle Leonard and Rachel DeCesaris. Fourth row, Marilyn O'Connell, Jestead Adams and Courtney McMonagle. Absent at the time of the photo were Keegan Niel and Carol Carroll.

Exhibit planned at Friedman Art Gallery at MU

The powerful expressionist paintings of distinguished Russian artist Igor Khazanov are on display in the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery at Misericordia University through Sept. 22. His large, rhythmic and oil canvases illustrate subject matter such as global greed, unrest and hope.

Also in the MacDonald Gallery, the exhibit "Brother Kenneth Chapman - Celebration of Life," features an array of abstract mixed media paintings depicting

his interpretation of some of the mysteries of life.

Pauly Friedman Art Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; and Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

"We are fortunate to be presenting these two painters with two different styles and approaches to their unique subject matter," says Brian J. Benedetti, gallery director. "Local art collector Carmen Latona, of Dallas,

suggested Khazanov and Sister Marie Noel Keller R.S.M., of the Sisters of Mercy Congregation, brought Brother Chapman to our attention."

Talk Art Productions, Ltd. produced a documentary entitled "Two Artists" about Khazanov.

For more information about this and upcoming exhibits at the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery, log on to www.misericordia.edu/art or call 674-6250.

Back Mountain community rallies around its Olympian

DHS grad Paige Selenski is member of U.S. Olympic field hockey team.

The Back Mountain continues to rally around Paige Selenski, a native of Shavertown and 2008 graduate of Dallas High School who is playing on the United States Olympic field hockey team in London, showing its support in many ways.

Employees at The Lands at Hillside Farms created "The Paige" sundae, consisting of vanilla ice cream, strawberry and blueberry topping, whipped cream and a cherry on top.

Selenski played a strong game against Argentina in Olympic field hockey action, aiding the U.S. team to a 1-0 victory, avenging a defeat by Argentina at the Pan American Games earlier this year.

Selenski generated a penalty corner for the U.S. in the 41st minute when she received a free ball in the goalmouth, then spun to her left and around an Argentine defender.

Selenski fired a shot toward the goal that was deflected by goalkeeper Laura del Colle for a corner - one of four on the night for the Americans.

Shannon Taylor of Virginia was the United States' leading scorer heading into Olympic play and the only scorer Tuesday as the American recorded



Amanda Kocher holds "The Paige" sundae at The Lands at Hillside Farms ice cream shop. The red, white and blue dessert honors local Olympic field hockey star Paige Selenski.

perhaps their biggest win ever, blanking the No. 2 team in the world.

Selenski had a shot in Tuesday's game after firing two shots Sunday in the U.S. loss to Germany. She also saw an increase in playing time, playing 47 minutes against Argentina after seeing just 34 min-

utes of action in the opener against Germany.

The U.S. team suffered a 1-0 defeat to Australia on Aug. 2.

The final two matches of the preliminary rounds have the U.S. facing off against a talented New Zealand squad on Aug. 4 and South Africa on Aug. 6.