

Your Generosity Is At Work Saving Lives

Introducing the Max Memorial Clinic

Our In-House Medical Suite -

To Ensure Medical Care For Our Sanctuary Animals Into The Future



Treatment Room looking towards door to Surgery Room on left and door to Dental Room on right.



Treatment Room - including blood work machines, microscope, and recovery cages.

Your gifts have been hard at work over the winter. Last year we wrote to you about the pressing need to be sure that veterinary care is always available for our animals. Challenges to the veterinary community have become great. Staffing, supply shortages, restrictive corporate takeovers, on top of residual damage from COVID shutdowns, are seriously affecting their ability to provide expeditious service to clients, or often to new clients -- while emergency services are a virtual thing of the past. We thus appealed to you to help us create an on-site clinic for our full-time staff veterinarian Dr. Christine Schneider.

Take a look at what you have accomplished. We now have a four-room medical suite that includes a treatment room, a surgical room, a dental room, and Dr. Christine's office. To date, thanks to your gifts, we have equipped it with blood-work machines, an anesthesia machine, a surgical table and lighting, a dental table and dental tools, surgical tools, a centrifuge, and a multitude of supplies to begin treating our animals right here at home.

This is a great start. Due to supply-chain delays, we are still waiting for many of our purchases to arrive, but with each passing day, the small private clinic that your donations helped us create becomes more and more functional.

This newsletter is devoted to what this clinic means to our future. A future that will not come to pass without you.

Thank you!

What is the Max Memorial Clinic?



The Evolution of Kigercat Hall's Porch

When Kigercat Hall was built back in 1995-96, the entire front of the hall, an area 20' x 90', became an open, covered porch. It looked out on the large horse barn and green pastures, and was a wonderful place in which to relax, especially amid serenading crickets after a hard day's work. Parties, garage sales, art shows, musical entertainments, and animal communication workshops were held there in the early years. On balmy summer nights, some of the attendees at the animal communication workshops chose to sleep there. On two nights in a row one of those porch bunkers awoke to find himself being observed by grapefruit-sized lights hovering at the porch railing ... some of many woo-woo, UFO, appearances that entertained us here at Spring Farm CARES and its surrounding area during the years 1986-1999.

Along about 2005, with extra business space needed, we enclosed the eastern half of the porch into two beautiful rooms, with nice woodwork and floor-to-ceiling windows. The smaller room was at first the bookkeeper's, then, more recently, Dr. Christine's office. The larger room became our library, where meetings and Dawn's workshops were held. It was a bit small for the workshops, but it was a lovely space and we made it work. At the same time, the west side was enclosed with windows and became storage space for the ever-growing supplies and equipment needed for our average of 250 animals and our various activities.

It was in 2021 that we decided that we just had to have a larger space in which Dawn could give her workshops. We thus found other places for all of those supplies and the equipment and turned that western side of the porch into our beautiful new Learning Center. And it was in 2021 that Dr. Christine joined our staff. We realized immediately that, to fully utilize her talents and allow her to properly care for our resident animal friends, we were going to have to provide a small but professional "clinic" space, equipped with all of the medical furnishings and equipment that she would need. But where to create such a space?

The bookkeeper's office and our lovely library are no more. In their place is the spic and span "Max Memorial Clinic" – a treatment room, a surgery room, a dental room, a myriad of fascinating vet equipment, and an office for a very happy -- and busy -- Dr. Christine.



Who Is Max?

Max was a one-of-a-kind cat who lived with us for several years and taught us a lot. Due to an injury, he was unable to empty his bladder or bowels without assistance. It was because of Max that Dr. Christine was even more drawn to come and work at Spring Farm CARES. We thought it only appropriate to name the clinic in his honor and memory, especially since he shared that same space with her when it was her office. He'd be so happy for her!

From Our Director of Animal Welfare - Dr. Christine Schneider, DVM, cVMA, CHPV



I started routinely visiting Spring Farm in 2019 when I got certified in acupuncture. I visited each Thursday, treating horses in the barn as well as Dawn and Margot's personal dogs. My hours at Spring Farm were a refreshing respite from the hectic atmosphere of a clinic setting. With each visit, my interaction with the animals and people of Spring Farm became more heartening and looked forward to.

Working as a veterinarian in a clinic setting can be very emotionally draining. Beyond the expected sadness that comes with euthanasia, there are other distressing factors. Often, I could not provide medically necessary treatments due to the financial constraints of clients. Others sometimes refused medical treatments for their pets because they were not able to handle medications or

post-op care. And free care for stray animals was out of the question.

The COVID pandemic was the final nail in the coffin for my clinic employment. The resulting decrease in staffing had a direct effect on the number of appointments I could see in a day. We had to turn clients away purely because we could not fit them in. Some were clients and pets that I had known for years, to whom I had emotional connections. And I literally could not help them. The guilt felt when you are unable to help those who trust and rely on you – even when the situation is out of your control -- is demoralizing and depressing.

Here at my new Spring Farm “home,” I see my animal friends and patients daily, able to provide almost every level of care and comfort that they need, from the day of their arrival to the ends of their natural lives. Thank you for making this possible!

First Patient - Forest

With the Max Memorial Clinic, we were easily able to help a feral cat in dire straits. Forest was brought to Spring Farm CARES in a clothes hamper, carried by the man who noticed that this street cat who he had been feeding had a serious leg injury. He captured Forest and arrived hoping that we would help, for he had been unable to find a vet hospital that would see him.

We were able to say yes to giving that help as long as the man understood that Forest might eventually need to go back to his colony. Beside the fact that we are full, with nearly 160 cats in permanent residence, we have also seen many feral cats who refuse to adjust to life indoors.



The immediate need, however, was to mend Forest's injury. It turned out to be a severe bite wound, with tendon damage, to a front leg. Because it was a bite wound, he had to be kept in rabies quarantine as well. With the clinic, Dr. Christine was able to manage this easily, and, as it turned out, once inside a loving environment, Forest showed himself to be a sweetheart. Additionally, because the future stability of his leg is still in question, it is in the best interests of The Max Memorial Clinic's first client to join our 160 other residents. Welcome Forest.

What will the Max Memorial Clinic Do?

The Max Memorial Clinic cannot answer all of our veterinary needs. There are still many limitations to what Dr. Christine can do in the Max Memorial Clinic. When we take an animal to an outside clinic, we must therefore still depend upon the wonderful relationships that we have with the community veterinarians, surgeons, and specialists with whom Dr. Christine communicates and customizes the care of our animals. Large animal veterinarians must also still come to the farm to render their services. There are, however, many dozens of more routine treatments and services that Dr. Christine can now handle right here on premises, in so many ways providing a Godsend.

There is still so much to do. For example, we do not have x-ray capability. This equipment and physical situating will be expensive, but it is at the top of our wish list for the future. **And again, it is your compassion and generosity that we look to, that makes it all possible.** Without you, we wouldn't be here at all, and the current 250 animals in our sanctuary would not have found safety and help from the plights they were in. Our hearts fill with gratitude to know that you are beside us, supporting our mission and changing so many lives. We hope that you are able to feel a warm glow as you contemplate what you have helped to achieve for our animals here at Spring Farm, and that you will stay by our sides as we continue our journey, saving lives and opening hearts. It is a most remarkable journey.

Our Community Outreach Goals

Although the Max Memorial Clinic will not be open to the public for veterinary care, we do plan to host some community outreach programs in the future. Some of the things we hope to offer include:

- Vaccination clinics
- TNR surgeries for feral cats on a small and emergency basis
- Dr. Christine also plans to offer hospice care (as she is certified in Hospice and Palliative Care)
- She also plans to offer acupuncture and laser therapy treatments

All of these services will involve a fee to cover our costs and will be dependent on how much time Dr. Christine has available.



Our Serenity Fund

Named for a beautiful cat, the Serenity Fund was set up to help us come to the aid of animals in dire need, but with no owners to be found. A past example: a lady who feeds a colony of stray cats noticed that one of the cats was likely blind and deaf and struggling to survive. She was willing to take the cat into her own home, but couldn't afford the neutering, vaccines, general exam, and medications. The Serenity Fund enabled us to help out and to get this very needy cat into a safe and loving home. Now, with our own

in-house Max Memorial Clinic, we will be even more able to say yes to those in need of Serenity.

Your gifts earmarked for the Serenity Fund will quickly be used in making a difference for an animal who otherwise could not have found help.

**There always are animals in need of help.
And there are human hearts aching to experience
the magic and healing these animals bring.
You are their hope. You are the miracle that turns their hopes to reality.**