

MECA NEWS



Dr. Lichtenberger, DVM, DACVECC Gains International Notoriety Saving the Life of Beatrice

Marla Lichtenberger, DVM, DACVECC
Owner, Board-Certified in
Emergency & Critical Care

Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals
Greater Milwaukee's Choice for Prompt Animal ER Care, 24/7

is nothing short of an understatement. Even with antibiotics and the right burn care, the chances of survival were still precarious. The answer? New skin. But where does one get such skin? This is a dog... not a human. Could the same procedures that have saved so many badly burned people work with a canine? Dr. Marla Lichtenberger thought, just maybe, trauma specialist Dr. John A. Weigelt could help. It was worth a shot. "We've got to try for Beatrice" became the new mantra for Lichtenberger and the Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals medical team.

Dr. Lichtenberger gained international notoriety on April 28th, 2013 when she teamed up with a Froedtert Trauma Specialist, Dr. John Weigelt in effort to transplant pigskin on Beatrice, the badly burned dog from Milwaukee.

Beatrice, a Boston Terrier mix was stolen from her yard, dowsed with brake fluid, set on fire and wandered the streets for 10 days in freezing temperatures when she was finally found with 3rd degree burns over 90% of her body.

What takes this story from horrible to heartwarming is the fact that Beatrice's guardian angels must have been watching over her.

Those angels came in the form of Dr. Marla Lichtenberger, DVM, DACVECC, owner of the Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals and John A. Weigelt, DVM, MD; a trauma and critical

care specialist and surgeon from Froedtert Hospital.

Were it not for these two doctors, Beatrice (The Badly Burned Dog) may well



It was decided that a procedure called a heterograft (the grafting of a thin layer of pig skin) would be attempted to the worst burn areas on Beatrice. But would it work? And surely, it would take more than one operation to restore all the affected areas. Would this brave, but already devastated little dog be able to withstand the traumatic effect of such surgeries?

Thanks to the aforementioned, all the positive energy sent her way and even more caring individuals' hard work, the surgeries went well and Beatrice persevered and was celebrated internationally in various news media.

Beatrice continues to prosper in the home of her loving caregiver. As with so many animals, she has somehow recovered not only physically, but, seemingly, mentally as well. Without the intervention of Doctors Marla Lichtenberger and John A. Weigelt however, this story would probably have had a much different ending... and so would the miracle dog, Beatrice.

Marla Lichtenberger, DVM, DACVECC



have been just another member of the heart wrenching population of abused and mistreated animals.

To say that Beatrice had been lucky to just be alive after such a harrowing and traumatic experience

24 HOUR ANIMAL ER
Milwaukee Emergency
Center for Animals

And Specialty Services

Cudahy Veterinary Clinic's Robert Shampo, DVM "Doc Bob"

Dr. Shampo understood at an early age what path his life would take.

Surrounded by farm animals as a youth, he gained an early understanding of the do's and don'ts of caring for pets and livestock. Dr. Shampo later learned his trade at the University of Wisconsin.

What's his favorite part of the job? "That's hard to say," but he admits that the miraculous beginning of a new life stands out. And while he has performed C-sections on numerous animals, one birth in particular – actually two – stands out in his mind. . . assisting in the delivery of twin calves. Yet, as exhilarating as bringing a new life into this world can be, there is one feeling that wins out over all others when it comes to favorite aspects of his position. It's that one singular moment in time "when you are able to return a pet to a family member and say that [the pet] is going to be okay. The look of joy and happiness. . . is the most rewarding thing you can possibly imagine."

When asked about 'interesting' cases, this ambitious young doctor is still continually surprised by cases that begin with a pet owner having made the difficult decision to put a pet 'to sleep' when proper treatment is all that is needed. Case in point is an overactive thyroid in cats. Many cats brought in by sad, resigned owners are able to leave with a new lease on life thanks to medication for this common but treatable feline ailment.

And how about spare time? Does a veterinarian have any? Turns out – very little. But this doctor's limited amount of spare time finds him outdoors. Hunting, fishing, hiking and camping in places like Montana and Alaska bring him peace of mind, body and soul.

What inspires Dr. Shampo to help animals and the people who love and care for them? Solemnly, Dr. Shampo admits that everything he does, he does in memory of his son. And though he realizes his skills and talents are directed at the animals themselves, he feels the care he gives is beneficial to animals and pet owners alike. Each pet's family becomes part of an ever-expanding, extended family for this doctor.

Dr. Shampo has been serving and extending these families at the Cudahy Veterinary Clinic for approximately 2 1/2 years. He is both owner and veterinarian.



3rd Annual MECA Vest A K9 Fest is a Smashing Success!

In Greenfield, WI on July 26, 2014, the third annual *MECA Vest A K-9 Fest* proved to be nothing less than a smashing success! More than 1,200 people showed their support and met Milwaukee Brewers.

Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals (MECA) event organizers were thrilled to host the third annual *MECA Vest A K-9 Fest*. This year's event is being considered as "the most successful yet" and was held in honor of the late Frank Dobron and his German Shepard Bruno who passed shortly after Frank.

MECA Vest A K-9 Fest was created by the MECA Foundation and Dr. Marla Lichtenberger, DVM, DACVECC, in effort to create awareness and raise crucial funds needed to help protect Wisconsin Police K-9's with bullet resistant and stab proof vests.

Furthermore, the mission of the MECA Foundation aims at providing total wellness for all of Wisconsin police k-9's from offering early veterinary care, purchasing and training police K-9's for police departments, to outfitting the K-9's with protective vests, supplying the police K-9 unit with needed equipment and more.

Hundreds of supporters showed up before 6am to be first in line to secure autographs from Milwaukee Brewers Jonathan Lucroy, Brandon Kintzler, Khris Davis, Marco Estrada, Kyle Lohse, and Will Smith. These fine ball players spent hours meeting and greeting their fans, reinforcing MECA's mission, and bolstering support for such an important cause.

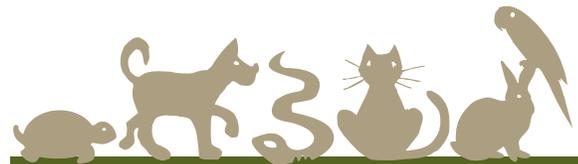
Greenfield Mayor Michael J. Neitzke officially proclaimed the last Saturday of every July "**MECA Vest A K-9 Fest Day**" for the City of Greenfield and Milwaukee County.

Special presentations were also made by Dr. Lichtenberger who donated a protective K-9 vest to the Mt. Pleasant Police Department and by the MECA Foundation who bestowed a plaque with great appreciation to one of their most generous supporters and benefactors.

Held at the Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals in Greenfield, attendees were treated to educational and entertaining outdoor events, face painting, great food, and a silent auction. Various police departments were on hand to showcase police dog demonstrations and to emphasize the important role K-9 officer's play in protecting the community.

Everyone also enjoyed music and entertainment by Wisconsin's own 2014 WAMI award winning singer/songwriter Nora Collins.

Supporters are eagerly looking forward to the 4th annual *MECA Vest A K-9 Fest* which will be held in July of 2015. You can log onto the mecafoundation.org for more information and updates!



Milwaukee Emergency Center for Animals (MECA)

24/7 ER Veterinary Service
3670 S. 108th Street • Greenfield, WI 53228
Phone (414) 543-7387 (PETS)
www.erforanimals.com
info@erforanimals.com



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