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“pawsitively” from the heart



Veterinarian Beverly Cannady’s business card reads, “The little clinic with the big heart.” And upon entering Little Mountain Veterinarian Clinic, there’s little doubt that it’s true. Dr. Cannady’s (she prefers Beverly) personality and enthusiasm shine throughout the facility—from the collages filled with children and families embracing their beloved pets to the beautiful conditions for the creatures themselves. It’s obvious that Beverly takes her role as caregiver to the animals seriously—almost as if they were her own. And in many ways, that’s just how she views them.

Beverly opened the clinic from the ground up, literally. She purchased the property herself, then designed and built the clinic in 1998. “I have always loved animals, but my parents didn’t want me to be a vet; they thought it was too dirty of a job,” she humorously recalled.

Beverly is a native North Carolinian, growing up in Gastonia and graduating in 1989 from North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine. After a short stint with a clinic in Lenoir, she came back to the Lake Norman area and worked at East Lincoln Animal Hospital in Denver before opening her own clinic. Beverly is the only doctor at Little Mountain Vet and is happy to keep the clinic rather small: “I don’t want to be the biggest fish, but I want to know I’ve helped, and that helps me sleep at night,” she explained. And Beverly’s content with the path her career has taken. “I once was the perky young veterinarian, but now I can offer 20 years of experience with some gray hair and wrinkles,” she said as she laughed.

Little Mountain Vet is a full-service clinic that offers preventative care, spay and neutering, grooming, dental care, and boarding. But what

really stands out about the clinic is its focus on personal service. For instance, the clinic treats its patients that are recovering from surgery with many personal touches that a human would receive—having a staff member sit with the animal following the procedure to ensure it is comfortable, for example. In addition, unlike many traditional veterinarian clinics, Beverly uses a healing laser machine to treat dogs and cats post-surgery and for ailments such as arthritis simply because it makes them feel better. She explained, “We strive to make the animals and the owners feel better. If the animal is happy, the owner is happy.”

Beverly’s desire to make both patient and owner feel better has been adopted wholeheartedly by her staff, which Beverly is quick to acknowledge plays a crucial role in the success of the clinic: “I’m just the icing on the cake; we are a team effort and I have a wonderful team.” In fact, it was her staff that came up with the idea to personalize sympathy cards for their clients’ families by using the actual paw print of the animal. Beverly also credits much of her success to her faith. “I know this is what God intended for me to do.”

Not surprisingly, Beverly is a pet owner and spends much of her down time with her two dogs, Vixen and Rocky, her cat, Polly, and her Quaker bird, Crackers. Crackers, who goes to work with Beverly each day, has been Beverly’s companion for 15 years.

Though the satisfaction Beverly receives from helping animals live healthy lives with their beloved human families is reward enough, she admits that she enjoys the cards and phone calls of thanks she receives. “It warms my heart when people send cards and call—there is just nothing better.” And she humorously added: “Except for maybe the flowers! The last flowers I received were from a dog patient of mine that bit me!” 🐾