

The Arnold Sentinel

"Serving the South Loup River Valley"

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Get To Know Your Hometown Businesses Arnold Animal Clinic

Tenth in a monthly series on what businesses and services the community of Arnold has to offer.

By **Pepper Werner**
Contributing Writer

Arnold Animal Clinic is just that - a medical clinic for animals large or small. Exotics aren't on Dr. Matt Vicker's list of favorites but, chances are he would do all he could for a sick parrot, snake or tarantula. In business since 1969 and started by Dr. Lyle Suhr, Matt joined the clinic in 1981, fresh out of vet school from Iowa State University. After working with Dr. Suhr for two years, Dr. Vickers purchased the clinic in 1983.

Not much has changed at the clinic location in the last 35 years. The building and corrals remain the same as when Dr. Suhr started the practice. With a few technology upgrades and the advances in vet medicine, the list of services that are offered is fairly extensive. Spay and neuter, X-rays, pregnancy checks, herd health, artificial insemination, after-hours

emergencies, all part of a full-service veterinary clinic. They sell medications and supplies, loan out equipment for customer use. The one service Dr. Vickers isn't interested in is animal boarding. Of course, he will keep a pet overnight for observation, but taking care of Fido while your family goes on vacation isn't something that is offered.

When asked what he would add/change at the clinic if money were no object, Dr. Vickers answered, "I've got all I can handle right now. I don't have a real wish list. With the loyal, repeat customers that we've had over the years, they keep this place going."

The question that comes up often these days - even from his wife Nancy - is, "what about retiring?" Does it ever cross your mind? With a vet partner and ladies that help in the office, things run smoothly. He might run yearlings on grass at his



Dr. Vickers holds the office mascot, Tiger. He is the client greeter and sleeps anywhere he pleases. (Pepper Werner photos)

ranch, but doesn't yet see the need for change.

"There's no reason to retire. As long as I enjoy it, and I'm physically able, I'll keep practicing. Most days I enjoy it. The calving seasons are shorter and there are lots of challenges, but I don't dread coming to work," he said.

Recently, Dr. Vickers changed his place of residence. That had always been in the plan, but not nearly so quickly. It was handy living next door to the clinic, and the new commute took some getting used to. At this point, there aren't any animals at all at their new home. He's taking it one day at a time. "Rudy (one of his children) and his family needed a bigger home. We had a place in the country to put a home, but didn't know it would happen so soon. Our grandsons were pressuring us to trade houses so they could have separate bedrooms. I guess it was a simple choice to make things easier for them," said Matt.

Matt and Nancy love their big family. They have three children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He credits Nancy for supporting him all these years. He couldn't have done it without her. Quite simply, she's the rock.

Dr. Vickers enjoys being a grandpa and had the typical comment: "I can spoil them and send them home."

During the interview, Rudy

came into the clinic. I asked him for a quote about his dad. He recalled a time that he had to wake Matt up in the middle of the night to help with two dogs that Rudy had just hit on the road. Two dogs at one time!

Matt responded with, "Go get your dogs (the ones he owned) and bring them to the clinic. We have to use them both for blood transfusions."

It was quite the experience for Rudy. Both dogs lived, and he got to witness his dad in full veterinary mode to save those dogs. His own dogs were part of the process and needed for their survival.

Rudy recalls his dad's absence when he was growing up. He was often gone, helping a rancher with cattle or taking weekend calls. That convinced Rudy that he didn't want to be a veterinarian since it took so many hours to help and make a difference. That doesn't change the mind of granddaughter Charli, however. She wants to be sure that Grandpa sticks around another 15 years so that when she gets out of vet school she can take over the clinic.

"I don't know if I can give you a quote on dad. There are all kinds of wonderful things to say about him. I wouldn't know where to start," Rudy said, and left the office. Two men of few words.

Visit the clinic at 1004 N Carroll St, Arnold, Nebraska, or call 308-848-3334.

Blood drive three over goal

The Arnold Community Blood Mobile on May 29 was a great success, collecting 32 units of blood - which was three over goal - and welcomed two first-time donors to the American Red Cross family.

All presenting donors were offered white T-shirts from the Red Cross as a thank you for donating blood around the Memorial Day holiday, a time when blood donations typically decline due to summer activities.

Salads were provided by Melody Jennings and Jane Tucker, and cookies were furnished by Don Dailey.

There were quite a few celebrations at this blood drive, including the awarding of his 100-unit certificate to Duane Bowers. Also celebrating milestones were Josh Bernt, 3 gallons; Margie McDowell, 3 gallons; and Cindy Halstead, 1 gallon. Two first-time donors were welcomed, Andrew Gaffney of Anselmo and Jeff Bowers of Arnold.

The next blood drive will be held Monday, July 30, at the Arnold Community Center. Donors are welcome to contact Shirley Bassett at 848-3356 or Amanda Koubek at 660-6709.



Duane Bowers received an Outstanding Donor Award for donating a total of 100 units. (Courtesy photo)



Dr. Vickers packs his supplies back into the clinic after checking a cow in the chute. There are boxes of materials in the clinic and in the pickup that he drives to ranches. Being prepared when you're miles away from the clinic.

Cattle Risk Management Workshop at Broken Bow

Nebraska Extension will be hosting a risk management workshop for cattle producers on Monday, July 2, 2018, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Tumbleweed Café meeting room in Broken Bow. Cattle producers will learn how to reduce risk exposure associated with cattle marketing and forage production to achieve a profitable outcome in uncertain times. This material is funded in partnership by USDA, Risk Management Agency, under award number RM17RMEPP522C004.

Topics covered during the workshop will include grazing systems and strategies, marketing tools to protect against price declines, and programs for protecting against weather related forage losses. Specific topics covered during the workshop will discuss new and existing marketing options, insurance options, and disaster programs available to cattle producers. There will be several presenters.

The workshop does not have a cost for attending and a meal will be provided, but registration is required to ensure an accurate meal count. For more information and to pre-register by June 29, please call Nebraska Extension in Custer County at 308-872-6831.



Raring to go on C.W.F. Trip

These eager "South Loup" students from Arnold, Callaway and Oconto, representing at least three 4-H Clubs, left June 4 from Broken Bow for the Citizen Washington Focus trip. A total of 33 delegates from Custer County, including 23 girls, 10 boys and four sponsors will be traveling to Chicago, Niagara Falls, New York City, Philadelphia, and then spend a week at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. There, they will spend a week learning and touring in Washington, D.C. The group will return on June 18. Pictured are: (back, from left) Trevor Ross, sponsor Nicole Badgley, Reagan Ross, Kalie Glendy and Brandi Coon; (front, l-r) Laney Badgley, Kinsey Pflaster, Kylee Lehmkuhler, Mikayla McFate and Jadeyn Bubak. (Courtesy photo)