

Dear Friends and Romeo Veterinary Hospital Client Family,

Many of you have learned of my recent retirement from practice ownership and daily practice of veterinary services. This decision was not made in haste but after 42 years I am looking forward to enjoying the benefits of a retirement lifestyle. You all can never appreciate the difficulty with which this communication is written.

My veterinary career began in a small animal practice on the east side of Detroit, but my veterinary life began on July 5, 1983, when I purchased the Romeo Veterinary practice from Louis Newlin DVM and I was “turned loose”

Those of you who know me know the word normal has never been an adjective of my behavior. I know too that while it seems unlikely, there were very few days where “work” seemed like “work”. To me it was an adventure trying to solve problems, educate clients and keep patients healthy.

Today’s letter will not include books, flea and weight speeches or terrible jokes. For me now is a time to reflect on my wonderful clients and patients. The infinite interactions, the watching of families grow. The sharing of both personal and professional successes and disappointments. The happy and the sad. The appropriate and the inappropriate.

I assure you all that although my memory was not always accurate, my patients and clients were never just numbers or jobs. The highest honor and compliment was your trust and continued support. To have three generations who respected and considered me to be their family’s doctor.

I have referred many difficult problem cases to the Oakland Animal Hospital for over twenty years. The reason is simple. They have my absolute and complete trust in their diagnostic, medical and surgical management of veterinary medical issues. I have used them for medical issues with my own four-legged animal family. It is with confidence and relief that they will hopefully have the privilege of helping to ensure your family’s health.

Jami, my indispensable, wonderful, talented LVT has agreed to continue and looks forward to being member of the new team. I have never been associated with a finer person or a better friend, technician, and co-worker.

Hannah, the quick learning, patient, and kind receptionist will continue to schedule. Vicki, like myself is looking forward to retirement soon.

These doctors are accomplished, caring, talented and represent some of the best in our honored veterinary profession. I speak to you, hopefully as a trusted friend when I tell you this would not have occurred if I didn’t believe that they deserve the opportunity to care for my friends and their animals. I expect to be pleased with their treatment of “my” patients. I respectfully remind you that my practices, theories, and beliefs are not universal. The practice of medicine includes many varieties of normal professional behaviors. Please allow these doctors to be true to themselves.

One more story –

Balor towing company retrieved my truck keys which I locked in my vehicle. They handed me their business card. The front described their services, the reverse side said "We've been pleasin and displeasin people for over 50 years" I truly hope that our 38 years together has had more "Pleasin" than "Displeasin".

I will not say goodbye, I will only say thank you.

Eternally Grateful,

Michael P. Schumacher, DVM

AKA "Mike"