



# VALLEY VETERINARY CLINIC

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## Do Your Calves Breathe Easy?

**BY ERIC SWENSON, DVM**

Dr. Eric has worked with a variety of calf housing systems to provide all calves with a "breath of fresh air." The following is an example of how better ventilation can improve calf health.

On one tie-stall dairy, the young calves live in two small pens sandwiched between the cow stalls and the heifer barn. They have always struggled with pneumonia issues, especially during the winter. For this farm's challenging situation, we brought fresh air into a box that was built in the hay mow. From there we dropped the fresh air into a tube mounted above the calf pens with air streams designed to give them the clean air that they needed. They now have much healthier calves and much happier farmers.

-See more about ventilation on the back-

## Welcome Laci Kropp!

Laci Kropp is the newest addition to our VVC team as a genetic technician. She assists Dr. Steve Cove and Dr. Mark Sauder with ET and IVF work. The following is an introduction from Laci:

"Hi! I am Laci Kropp. I grew up in Pulaski, WI on a dairy heifer raising facility, where we also raised beef animals and animals for local county fairs. After high school, I continued my education at UW-Platteville where I graduated with a B.S. in animal sciences and dairy science. I have always had passion for genetics and can't wait to continue that passion with VVC. In my free time, I like spending time with my fiancé and family at our cabin in Lakewood, hunting and anything outdoors!"

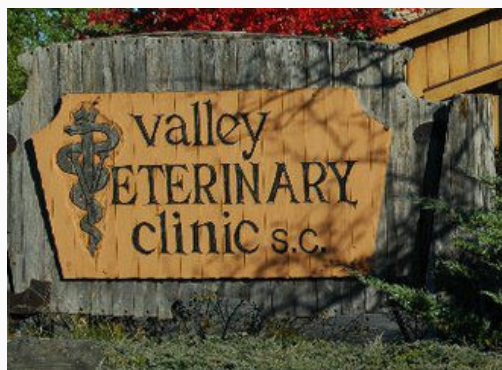
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## New Website

[WWW.VVCVETS.COM](http://WWW.VVCVETS.COM)

We launched a new website on January 1, 2021. Please visit [www.vvcvets.com](http://www.vvcvets.com) to see more about our clinic, our services & our team!

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The iconic Valley Veterinary Clinic sign found in the front of our clinic (& shown to the left) was made and put up when the clinic was built in 1978. Unfortunately, 43 years later, our sign was no match against the wind this past month and was blown over. Rumor has it that the retired Dr. Maas confiscated the old sign, and we're left wondering what the future holds!



## January 1, 2021 was Dr. Eric Swenson's 25th work anniversary at VVC! Congratulations!

WHEN DR. ERIC STARTED AT VVC THE  
AVERAGE PRICE FOR A NEW CAR WAS  
\$16,300, DVD'S WERE JUST BEING  
LAUNCHED IN JAPAN, AND THE SONG  
"MY MARIA" BY BROOKS & DUNN WAS  
NUMBER 1 ON THE CHARTS!

## A Breath of Fresh Air

### VENTILATION SERVICES

Across our dairies there are quite a large variety of calf housing options. Some are designed specifically for calves and some are areas that have been converted to calf housing. No matter where calves are housed, they still have the same environmental needs to be raised healthy: they need clean, dry bedding and they need adequate ventilation. Many times it is the ventilation that can be challenging. Calf hutches have excellent natural ventilation. However, in old stall barns and even newly built calf barns we frequently find that there isn't fresh air making it down to the level where the calves live and breathe. There can be several reasons for this lack of fresh air.

During the winter we have to close up barns to keep the cold out and the warmth in. In doing this, we limit air flow. Even during warmer months when there is decent air flow, there are panels and walls that force the air to pass above the calves and never make it down to them. Fresh air exchanges are needed at all times of year. When we don't have fresh air exchange, the bacteria in the stale air that our calves breathe can get to very high levels and can lead to pneumonia. For these reasons we recommend Positive Pressure Tubes be designed and installed in most indoor calf housing buildings. These tubes are designed to deliver four air exchanges per hour directly into the calves' environment. This air will be fresh, clean, outdoor air delivered at a slow speed so that it doesn't cause a draft to the calves during the winter. What it does do is make sure that our all-important babies get a breath of fresh air all day, every day, so that we can raise them healthy.

Please talk to your herd vet or contact our clinic if you would like us to consult on the ventilation in your calf or youngstock housing areas. We have veterinarians that are experienced in designing these ventilation systems for all types of calf housing and we'd love to help your calves too!

