

The Doctor Has Arrived

VETERINARY SERVICES DELIVERED

BY CATHERINE ANDERSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANTHONY SCARLATI

After Minnesotans Jeff and Susan Abelt and their four children visited friends in Brentwood, the couple decided a look around the county. Veterinarians with a successful practice, the search led them to a home on Parham Road, about five miles south of Leiper's Fork. Septic and water being what they are in the country, there was no practical way to build a clinic on the property, but that didn't deter the forward-thinking doctors who had an itch to move. Over the course of two years, Susan moved here to set up

their home and Jeff stayed in the north to maintain and sell their 20 year-old business.

In 2007, the Abelts opened Leiper's Fork Veterinary Service, a mobile clinic that serves in Williamson and Maury Counties. In addition, they homeschool the three youngest children, their oldest commutes to MTSU and Susan works part time as an Associate Veterinarian at the Nashville

Zoo. It's truly a family business, Jeff reveals. "The kids all help out," he says, "and our two oldest are veterinarian assistants."

It's usually Jeff, however, who drives the clinic-on-wheels, a full service small animal practice that offers routine services for dogs and cats such as vaccinations, tests, spaying and neutering. It's ideal for rural owners with many or large pets.

The Abelts predict their mobile unit, which is equipped with X-ray, anesthesia, blood work and laser surgery capabilities, will fill the needs of the hobby farm niche—rural properties with goats, sheep, miniature donkeys, alpaca and/or lamas. In addition, the doctors are able to meet certain needs for horses, but Jeff is quick to explain, "The services we offer would never replace the dedicated equine practices." They can, as well, fill

a limited amount of needs for other large animals or livestock.

LFVS has collegial relationships with two emergency clinics, Maury County's Animal Emergency Clinic in Columbia and Pet Emergency Treatment Service (P.E.T.S.) in Williamson County, as well as with Dr. Mark Smith of the Natchez Trace Pet Clinic. A certain amount of emergency calls are expected to come to the movable practice and it can transfer animals to long term hospitalization if necessary. At this time, 24 hour service is not guaranteed. "If we're not available," Jeff emphasizes, "they need to call P.E.T.S. or the Animal Emergency Clinic."

Fees for Leiper's Fork Veterinary Service are comparable to any stationary vet clinic with a nominal trip charge for a scheduled visit within the Leiper's Fork area. Longer distances and emergency visits have higher trip charges.

Call 615.595.8545 visit the website www.LeipersForkVets.com to learn more or make an appointment at your location. 🌿



Celebrate Valentine's Day with Puckett's! Two great shows on Thursday, February 14



An evening with Alex Harvey

Back for another wonderful Valentine's show, Alex Harvey, was actually our first-ever Leiper's Fork artist! If you want to give your Valentine a sweet night of tempting, luscious food and fantastic entertainment, this one is it! Alex, backed up by his band, will sing some of his favorite love songs as well as hit songs like Delta Dawn, Ballad of Ruben James and many, many more.

4142 Old Hillsboro Road, Leiper's Fork 7pm Dinner & Show 615.794.1308



An evening with Leslie Satcher Jim Lauderdale and Ashley Cleveland

Franklin will host a night of Nashville's finest! Critically acclaimed singer/songwriter, Leslie Satcher has written hit songs for everyone from Willie Nelson to Gretchen Wilson- and dozens more in between. Jim Lauderdale is a multi-talented, Grammy Award winning performer and songwriter, with hits cut by George Strait, Vince Gill, himself and countless others! Blending rock, blues, gospel and folk with her distinct open-tuned guitar playing, Ashley Cleveland has forged an unmistakable sound that has won her Grammy and Dove Awards, a place on countless year-end Top Ten lists and a legion of devoted fans.

120 Fourth Avenue South, Franklin 7pm Dinner & Show 615.794.5527

Live music weekly! See our calendar at: www.puckettsgrocery.com



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