Garnet Valley LIVING

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Dr. Rose DiLeva:
Holistically Healing Garnet Valley's Neighborhood Pets

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Cover Photo by Claire Bunn Photography

About five years ago, a distraught family brought their family dog to see Dr. Rose DiLeva. Another vet had just advised the family to put their dog to sleep that very day due to liver failure. Indeed, the dog's liver failure was evident—his ears, eyes and gums were yellow. After a thorough exam, Dr. DiLeva treated the dog with acupuncture and a prescription of herbal remedies from her own laboratory. After about six months of treatment, the dog's liver counts were normal. The dog is still alive today, an active member of the family! Dr. DiLeva has more stories like this to share. Her veterinary motto is "Be informed; Ask questions; Know your options; If you don't get options or explanations, go see another vet."

Garnet Valley is lucky to have Dr. Rose DiLeva, founder and owner of Animal Wellness Center, practicing a unique combination of traditional veterinary medicine combined with her skills as a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist, Certified Reiki Master and Certified Veterinary Chiropractitioner in addition to other holistic practices, right here in Chadds Ford. She also formulated her own line of holistic pet products named Dr. Rose's Remedies. For the past 16 years, Dr. DiLeva has been proven to be a successful last hope for many pets and their owners, and for even the most severe cases.

Dr. Rose with one of her patients, a golden retriever

Dr. Rose DiLeva:

Holistically Healing Garnet Valley's Neighborhood Pets

By Amelia Harper **Photos by Claire Bunn Photography**

We would like to thank Garnet Valley Sport & Spine for bringing you this month's cover story.

Dr. Rose knew from a very early age that she wanted to practice medicine. Her first grade nun, Sister Maria Conchetti, who was also her first grade science teacher, gave her a dissection kit because she was so curious about medicine and science. By the time she was 13 years old, she made up her mind that she would become a veterinarian and she focused on this goal until she accomplished it. Dr. Rose recalls her mother being the one who provided the utmost support. Her mother told her to keep trying even when people around her said she should give up. When she first applied to veterinary school in 1979, it was a very male-dominated profession. Less than 10% of the veterinary students were female. Dr. DiLeva applied four times before she was accepted into the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Program. Several degrees and medically-related jobs later, she was accepted into the program in 1983. Her mother's encouragement helped her stay the course. For new veterinary graduates today, Dr. Rose advises students to "have an open mind and learn everything you possibly can."

As Dr. Rose began her veterinary career, she read journals and articles and began to notice that the options for treatment were limited to conventional medicine. She had read about Native American and Chinese medicine and applying it to

veterinary science made sense to her. After the very first day that she sat in an acupuncture course, she immediately called her husband, Tony, to tell him, "This is where I am supposed to be. This is the type of medicine I'm supposed to be practicing." She said she took to it immediately. Even when she had to remember the names of the Chinese herbs, she didn't miss a beat. It came naturally to her. Another epiphany she had was when she got tired of seeing the only ointments available for animals containing steroids. She decided to create her own and thus Dr. Rose's Remedies were created. They're all natural, anti-fungal, antibacterial, and antiviral. They come in both cream and spray forms. They're also an antiseptic. They heal wounds, lacerations, and abscesses, and are not harmful if your pet licks them off. She first created it in 2007 for skin conditions. She had tested it for "rain rot" on horses, a condition horses get in moist conditions where something, such as their saddle, rubs on them repeatedly. Horse experts say it takes months or years to get rid of it, but Dr. Rose treated five horses and in 14 days, every horse was completely healed. She made it into a spray for cases in which delicate areas of skin are affected. Dr. Rose's ointments can also be used to treat hot spots on dogs and much more. Pet owners can purchase Dr. Rose's Remedies Salve and Spray online, at pet stores and in the office on Route 202.

When you bring your pet to Dr. Rose, you are bringing them to an expert with many letters behind her name. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry at Cabrini College in 1979, her Masters of Science at St. Joseph's University in 1982, and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1987. Her list of post-graduate studies is impressive as well. She was the co-founder and Treasurer of The International Society of Veterinary Echography at St. Raphael, France in 1990. She became a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist (CVA) at the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society in 1999. In 2003 she became a Certified Reiki Master. In 2005, she became a Certified Veterinary Chiropractitioner at the International Association of Veterinary Chiropractitioners. Dr. Rose was even featured on CBS 3 news on Sunday mornings on a segment called "Ask the Vet" with Carol Erickson, particularly about holistic medicine, and she did that for about four years. For a complete list of certifications, post-graduate studies, and professional affiliations, visit her website at www.altpetdoc.com.

Dr. Rose's Animal Wellness Center features its own lab and herb room. Her lab room allows her to run a variety of blood tests, including heartworm and blood titer tests. Blood titer tests allow her to see if animals have built up enough antibodies before giving vaccinations, which can sometimes lower an animal's immune system. Having her own lab provides this information on the spot. Dr. Rose's herb room is fascinating. This is where she houses her herbs to create her medicines. Some herbs are Chinese herbs, some are Western, and some are from India or the Amazon. The way she figures out which medicine is needed for her patients is by conducting a Chinese medical exam, which includes a pulse exam and a tongue diagnosis including the color, shape, coating, and location of color differences. That

Dr. Rose and her assistant with two kitty patients

information forms a pattern which informs how to diagnose in traditional Chinese veterinary medicine, which she then uses to determine which herbs to utilize.

Some of her most memorable cases have been where she has seen her patients reap the benefits of her treatments. She treats them with acupuncture which is not only good for musculoskeletal issues, but also anxiety, allergies, lungs, and even gastro-intestinal issues. Some of the most common cases she sees are dachshunds or any other short-legged, long-bodied breeds. These types of dogs often end up with herniated discs, become paralyzed in the back end, lose control of all bowel and bladder movements, and feel no sensitivity to pain. Typically, a veterinarian will send the owner to an orthopedic specialist or neurologist to have surgery right away which can cost thousands with a 50/50 shot of having success, either long-term or short-term. With Dr. Rose's treatment of acupuncture and herbs, every single one of her patients were up and walking inside of three months! She only sees them about three or four times a year for what she calls a "tune up" if they look achy due to seasonal changes.

Another memorable moment was when someone found a 17-year old dog on the side of the road and brought it into a local shelter where they said it needed to be vaccinated. Dr. Rose immediately denied the dog a vaccination because it would have died. According to Dr. Rose, "It was not a tumor on a dog; it was a dog on a tumor. It had lumps and masses all over its body and face. It was bleeding from the tumors. If I would have vaccinated it, the dog could have would have died because the vaccine suppresses their immune system and can result in seizures, autoimmune disease, and allergies." She managed to get the tumors to heal without sacrificing its immune system with the vaccinations.

Perhaps the most interesting story is that of the turtle she saved. About 15 years ago, a giant snapping turtle of about 50 pounds decided to cross Smithbridge Road. Dr.

Rose stopped traffic and prevented a big tractor trailer from hitting the turtle. She took a blanket from the back of her car, wrapped the turtle up because it was bleeding from a crack in its shell, and took it in. She put a Chinese herb on it that stops bleeding. Then she borrowed epoxy from a neighbor and glued the shell where it had cracked. Three days later, she and her receptionist took the turtle down to the Brandywine and off he went back into the water!

Left: Some of Dr. Rose's Remedies
RIght: Dr. Rose's herb room where she creates her remedies

In addition to treating dogs and cats, Dr. Rose also treats exotic pets such as chinchillas, ferrets, and rabbits with acupuncture. She has done acupuncture on chinchillas before. She admits the strangest thing she treated with acupuncture was an opossum! Whatever breed or species your pet may be, they all deserve the same fighting chance and Dr. Rose has all of the holistic treatment options and knowledge that are perfect for you. If you want to take your pet to someone who is credentialed and qualified, go to www.ahvma.org, click on your state, and you can get a list of holistic vets within your state.

Dr. Rose DiLeva lives in the Garnet Valley area with her husband Tony, her daughter Marie, an illustrator, and their four cats, all between the ages of 13-15—Shirley, Mindy, Vernon and Cuddles.

Schedule an appointment with Dr. Rose by calling (610) 558-1616. Her Animal Wellness Center is located on the south side of Route 202, one mile from the Delaware border.

Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at aharper@bestversionmedia.com.