

Parson's Mounted Cavalry Tour

Part of the Region 9 Summer Meeting hosted by BACH was a trip to the Parsons Mounted Cavalry. A very interesting visit with James George, the manager on how they maintain 60 + horses and ~200 mounted cadets capably. It reminded me of how most of our riding and horse management come from the military. Horses were the strength of the army, the country. They were valuable assets. Care of horses was a science.

It was riveting to listen to James describe how he tries to match riders (some of whom have not been around horses before) with horses and how they are trained to ride in formation in parades, with distractions. Since we were a small group, we got to ask all sorts of questions. Where do the horses come from? Where do they go? If you get a chance to go on a tour with him, you definitely should do it.



TAMU Large Animal Hospital Tour



Thirteen Region 9 Summer Meeting attendees braved the paid parking in Lot 24 to tour the Large Animal Veterinary Hospital at Texas A&M Friday afternoon. Our guide was Nikki, one of the “VMBS Ambassadors”. Nikki is part of the veterinary class of 2026 originally from Mississippi. She would like focus on zoo medicine and care.

Unfortunately, on top of it being a Friday afternoon in the summer, Friday was the day that CrowdStrike brought down Microsoft and the University was closed so there was no sign of any horses. I guess we were lucky to have our tour now that I think about it.

Nikki showed us where our theoretical horse would be taken in the event of an emergency or for a lameness exam. We peered into the padded rooms where horses are put to “wake up” from a colic or other surgery. We looked at the equipment for all kinds of radiography and the MRI suite. My favorite is the dental suite since I use it the most (fortunately). It is equipped with cameras that can fit in your horse’s mouth so you can remain comfortably seated while you look at your horses’ molars on a monitor instead of bending over and looking into his mouth with a flashlight.

Nikki also told us a little bit about her journey to vet school and we looked at one of the classrooms.

Winnie Carter Wildlife Center Tour

At 9:30 AM Sunday morning, 5 of us met Dr. Blue at the Winnie Carter Wildlife Center. Dr. Blue showed up with an unexpected 4 month old Spider Monkey clinging adorably to her neck. Right away, Dr. Blue started to educate us. Young Spider Monkeys are being seen more and more as contraband crossing the US/Mexican border along with people and drugs.

A picture would be worth a lot of words but unfortunately there are groups that search the internet for perceived animal cruelty and even though you are rescuing a Spider Monkey whose mother has been shot out of a tree and the babies treated none too gently, the pictures will be targeted and nastiness will ensue. Hence, not too many pictures here.

Most of the animals at the Wildlife Center are rescues or the result of a cloning experiment. Students can take a course on the care of these animals and their general welfare. Zebras, camels, Przewalski horses to name a few. I loved the camels because they acted a lot like horses but I think the Kangaroos were my favorites. They were similar to dogs, very friendly and loved a good scratch. I have not had the opportunity to see them up this close. One of them was blind so they put a collar and a bell on another of them so the blind one would know where they went. He was the "seeing-eye-Roo".



The Center is always in need of contributions of a monetary sort. They also take freezer burned meat as long as it is not unsafe. When Larry decided enough was enough with the large number of oversized catfish in the pond, he took them to the cats there who were very appreciative.

For more information, go to
<https://vetmed.tamu.edu/wildlife/>

