Vet on wheels makes (dog) house calls

R. BILL SMALLER is a man driven to provide convenient veterinary care. Smaller is so driven be spent \$45,000 for a fully-equipped medical van to make house calls on area

ical van to make house calls on area pets.

"When I was in private practice I categorised client complaints," the Southfield resident said. "And the one thing that kept coming up was house calls. A great percentage of cases involve geriatric pets, older people or people with a lot of pets."

So Smaller started Oakland Veterinary Services, the Housecall Practice. The Southfield-based service started in May when Smaller received his hospital on wheels.

tal on wheels.

Everything I can do in a hospital I can do here. Smaller said. I used to have a wagon but there were too many times I had to refer cases back to the

times I had to refer cases back to the hospital."

Smaller solved that problem by equipping his van with an operating table, X-ray equipment, pharmacy, cage space, refrigeration and lab facilities.

The veterinarian hooked up with Dr.

Softball teams set to register

men's over 30 softball teams at the parks and recreation office, 31555 11 Mile, until Monday, Aug. 6.
A \$205 team registration fee is due at the time of registration. Teams will play a 15 game schedule beginning in mid August and swil culminate will a double climination playoff for the top five teams. Games will be played twice a week. There is no residency requirements.
Teams interested in participating in the above leagues can contact the parks and recreation office for further information.

Robert Stone at the Stone Veterinary clinic, 19160 10 Mile, Southfield, and uses that location as his base. "I do some surgery at the hospital and handle all of the road work,"

Smaller said.

THE ROAD work involves being on duty from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. everyday, handling around 40 to 50 calls a week and responding to emergency situa-

tions in the Southfield, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Birmingham areas along with neighboring communities.

This keeps me busy working 60 to 70 hours a week, he said. But I got thred working in an office 9 to 5.1 found it very confining. I He being outside. The only drawback is the way people drive.



Dr. Bill Smaller, using a microscope in his mobile office, checks out a speciman for eigns of parasites. "Everything I can do in a hospital I can do horo," Smaller says.

Driving to treat animals in their homes has its advantages, Smaller said. By examing the home situation, Smaller said it is easier to spot problems such as it is easier to spot problems such as it is easier to spot problems such an advantage of the such as the said of the such as t

Client Linda Sherman of Southfield

Client Linda Sherman of Southfield agreed. Is caster than going to the vet five of six times, and the owner of three cats, two birds and the owner of three cats, two birds are great dance named Baron, "I could get great dance well, but not in to see the vet. Smaller treated Baron in the van and then went inside to examine the two birds. The charge for this kind of house call is \$20, but Smaller said the increased convenience often offsets the \$5 difference in price compared to a regular office visit.

About 75 percent of my patients are dogs and cats but I also treat birds, borses and other excite pets," Smaller said.

when Smaller started his work, he said other vets were wary of a new doctor on wheels taking away clients.

suc smaller said his practice has ex-panded the number of treated animals without hurting other veterinarians. "A lot of my clients are not veteri-

mals would not see a vet unless the vet came to them. I'm getting to treat ani-mals vets normally would not see."







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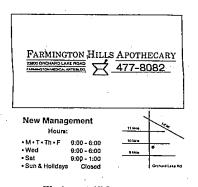


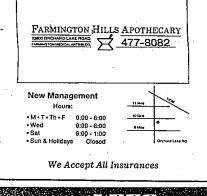
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