

**Strays** from page A1

Gary, who is Farmington's public safety director. Members of the department have been bringing in strays for more than 20 years, she said.

"She was here for about two weeks and I just decided to take him home," Diana Goss said.

Not every animal found by an officer stays at the animal hospital for long. According to Black, Farmington Officer Chip Hennessy fell in love with Boots, a beagle mix he discovered "shivering under a tree" during the holidays. Hennessy adopted Boots himself.

"He (Hennessy) brought her in and visited her several times," said Black, who continued the house-the-strays tradition established by previous owners of the clinic, located at 30470 Grand River. "He said if no one wanted her he'd take her in."

Because space for strays was a problem during the holiday season, Buster spends most of his time at the home of the clinic's veterinary technician, Stephanie King. But sometimes the dog is back in the office, terrorizing Chester and Fred. Efforts are continuing to find the right family, but if those attempts are not successful,

Buster will stick around indefinitely.

"We'll just keep trying with him," King said.

**Flanders area**

The neighborhood around Flanders Elementary School is another hot spot for strays. One of the dogs found there, Gina, was eventually placed into a foster home. But, said Black, that family is still trying to find a permanent home for her. A Polaroid of Gina is affixed to the lobby bulletin board, along with notices from anxious pet owners trying to find their beloved animal friends.

"We have a few repeat customers that the officers know by name," joked Black. "They (the animals) get out several times a year."

Black wants such people to find their pets, or for animal lovers to come in and adopt one. That is why he requested that the Farmington Observer begin running photographs and information about the strays that are brought in.

Adopting a stray from Black runs \$20 "to cover costs of vaccines" as well as a \$25 deposit for spaying or neutering - unless

the animal is already "fixed."

So far, at least since Black took over the animal hospital, the efforts have been successful. Only three strays have had to be euthanized during that span. And all of those had temperamental personalities.

Before an animal is made available for adoption, he or she is thoroughly evaluated and checked over medically. That's to ensure a family does not adopt serious behavioral problems along with the dog or cat.

"Once we determine the animal is healthy and can be adopted," Black said, "we put the cats in a cat cage out in the lobby. The dogs stay in the back."

King said she loves the strays. "The kennel girls and myself get attached to them." But she wished strays weren't so com-

mon. It all comes down to educating people about the need to spay and neuter their pets, to keep the animal population down, as well as "responsible pet ownership," King explained.

"Then we wouldn't have this problem," she said. "We've been through this so many times that it's depressing."

*Editor's note: The Farmington Observer will regularly publish photos and details on strays at A.G. Black Veterinary Hospital. Contact the vet at 478-5400.*



STAFF PHOTO BY DEYAN MITCHELL

**Treat time: Buster always responds to his snacks. Staffers at A.G. Black Veterinary are still looking for his owners or a good home for him.**

**Compuware** from page A1

Hobbs said. "This is a \$6 billion dollar a year company and I have been personally been out with the staff to the site and I've seen the steps the company has taken to be a good neighbor."

"I think it is time for us to get off the dime and work with this company."

Compuware officials told the city manager that the experience sends a message on whether they're welcomed in Farmington Hills or "are they going to be nipped to death," Hobbs said.

Other factors may weigh in the city's favor.

At least 10-15 percent of Compuware employees live in Farmington Hills and 50 percent live within a 10-mile radius.

"We like it here," Knoblock said.

However, whether that is enough to keep the computer software giant remains to be seen. The company needs space - at least 800,000 to 1 million square feet.

Compuware provides day care, fitness center and cafeteria for its employees and is considering a campus-like setting to accommodate those needs as well as for future expansion. The company is also reportedly looking to acquire two firms.



**'It's a full-court press.'**  
Aldo Vagnozzi  
Mayor,  
Farmington Hills

Company and Farmington Hills officials met Friday to discuss plans. Economic Development Corporation chairman John Anhut and the city's economic development projects coordinator, Teri Arbonowski, are also working with the burgeoning corporation to find a suitable site.

"It's a full court press," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, who made a pitch to Compuware officials during Friday's meeting.

Compuware is already renting space across from its Northwestern Highway facility to handle immediate growth.

Published reports suggest the company is being wooed to a downtown Detroit site. Compuware Chairman Peter Karmanos met with Mayor Dennis Archer in December, reportedly

City officials don't believe Compuware officials are fishing for a tax abatement, though.

"From the statement Mr. Karmanos made ... I don't believe they are looking for that," Hobbs said.

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**YOU AND THE LAW**

by Stuart M. Feldheim  
*Attorney at Law*

**AVOIDABLE ULCERS AND THE LAW**

This coming year it is estimated that over two (2) million people will suffer pressure ulcers or bed sores (typically of the heels) in American hospitals and nursing homes. The vast majority of pressure ulcers are preventable if doctors and nursing staff properly identify those patients at risk for development of the ulcers and then take proper precautions to avoid them.

A patient's sensory perception, activity level, mobility and nutrition status are some of the important factors that should be assessed on a "Briden Scale" for predicting pressure sore risk. Patients who sustain pressure ulcers can be helped to achieve fully healed, intact skin with proper diagnosis and prompt optimal wound care.

The law requires hospitals and nursing homes to take reasonable care to try and avoid the development of pressure ulcers in their patients. The law further requires that pressure ulcers be properly treated when they occur. A failure to do so is negligence for which an injury claim can be filed.

If you have a relative or close friend who has developed a pressure ulcer, you may wish to consult with the **LAW OFFICES OF STUART M. FELDHEIM** at 30300 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 108, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. For a free consultation call toll free 1-888-503-1900 or 248-932-3505. There is no fee if we don't win your case.

HINT: The nursing staff follows a doctor's orders but nurses are supposed to make the doctor aware of any unusual change in a patient's condition.