

20th SFS houses stray pets that wander

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Staff writer

Are you looking for a pet? The 20th Security Forces Squadron Stray Animal Facility may have the cat or dog you are searching for.

The Stray Animal Facility is located adjacent to the Auto Hobby Shop outside the Hospital Gate. The facility houses both felines and canines. Senior Airman Thisha Anderson, 20th SFS Stray Animal Facility assistant, said the building does not accommodate birds or other pets.

"We don't accept exotic animals," she said.

She said they keep pets for 72 hours. During that time frame, the owner may pick up his pet for a fee.

"He must pay a minimum fine of \$10, with an additional \$2 charge for each day the animal was kept in the facility," said Airman Anderson. She also promotes all owners to account for their pets.

According to Shaw Air Force Instruction 48-102: *Control of Animals on Shaw*, pet registration is encouraged.

The owner is not the only person who can take a pet home. Adoption is an option, as well.

Once the 72-hour time period has passed, the dog or cat is eligible for adoption.

"Adoption is free," said Airman Anderson.

There is no charge for someone to take an adopted pet home.

If no one claims or adopts the animal, it is taken to Fort Jackson Stray Facility and held there for three working days, said Army Capt. Lisa Read, Savannah Rapids District Veterinary Command chief, Fort Jackson Branch.

The animals are given rabies shots while at Fort Jackson, said Capt. Read. She also said she knows about the added task this is on SF members.

"We try our best to help out," she



Photo courtesy of the 20th Security Forces Squadron

This little puppy was found on base recently. The 20th Security Forces Squadron members ensure stray pets have food and water while in their care.

said. "They have a lot of responsibilities other than taking care of stray pets."

Team Shaw can help out, too. Stray animals are advertised on the

bulletin board in front of the Main Exchange and at the 5000-housing area shoppette. To find out if the 20th SFS Animal Facility has your pet or a pet for you, call **895-3669**.

Peds Clinic gets creative for children

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Staff writer

The following is the second article in the "Self-help/quality improvement" series.

Well-baby visits may have children feeling even better on base, thanks to the décor and redesigning of patient rooms at the Pediatric Clinic. Capt. (Dr.) Christopher Bassett, 20th Medical Operations Squadron pediatrician, along with Pediatric Clinic staff members, recently redecorated patient rooms and the hallway. They created hand-painted, cartoon-inspired rooms without the help of contractors or professional artists. They also painted the once dark-green hallways a pale yellow and added multi-colored

alphabet letters. According to pediatric staff members, Dr. Bassett was the driving force behind the redesigning of the child-friendly rooms.

"We always put ourselves into the clinic," said Maj. (Dr.) Evan Meeks, 20th MDOS pediatrician. "But, most of the spirit comes from Dr. Bassett."

"I wanted something very bright and colorful," said Dr. Bassett.

He said he always hated going to the doctor when he was a child, so he wanted to make things brighter and more inviting for the children here. The sea-themed room was inspired by Dr. Bassett's vision of varying fish, animals and colors underwater. In the design, he was able to incorporate a few staff members as caricatures in a submarine. Another room captures an out-of-

this-world experience with spaceships and sand-filled paints. The inspiration for this room was a rocket-shaped patient table. Staff members used vivid colors, glow-in-the-dark stars and three-dimensional paint to create a galactic atmosphere. Dr. Bassett was pleased with the outcome.

"It's pretty wild," he said.

The Pediatric Clinic used their personal funds along with donations from the Officer's Civilian Spouses' Club to create the rooms. Prior to the painted artwork, a couple of things had to go: wall cabinets and wallpaper. Storage cabinets on the walls were rarely used and were a distraction to the children, according to Dr. Meeks.

"I would bump my head on them," said Maj. (Dr.) Karen Smith, 20th MDOS pediatrician. She said the cabinets were in the way in the patient rooms.

Peeling wallpaper designs were another problem prior to redecorating.

Dr. Bassett said the old designs were done with pasted-on pictures, which over the years, the children tore off, little by little. He also said the rooms were dark.

Senior Airman Sara McCoskey, 20th MDOS medical technician, was involved in painting the Mars-themed room, but still favors the sea-themed one.

"Dr. Bassett's room is awesome," she said.

The improvements benefit the people working in the office, and they benefit the customers.

"The parents love it, and the kids request certain rooms," said Dr. Smith.

"We were lucky enough to get really creative," said Senior Airman Rebecca Gibbs, 20th MDOS medical technician and artist for one of the rooms.

Though it is not always an option for offices to get funding for elaborate makeovers, small changes, like a fresh coat of paint, can do a lot to spruce up work spaces.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

Dr. Bassett checks out Tahj, son of Staff Sgts. Caridad, 20th Medical Operations Squadron, and Al Medlock, 9th Air Force, Monday. An artist of this room and the hallways in the Pediatric Clinic here, Dr. Bassett said the room was fairly dark prior to redecorating.



Spirit Spotlight



Senior Airman Chucky Thomas



Organization: 20th Security Forces Squadron

Duty title: Reports and analysis clerk

Job duties: Process incident reports, traffic tickets and blotters

Hometown: Chicago

Time in service: Two and a half years

Family: Wife, Toni

Off-duty interests: Spending time with family, running automobile detailing business and playing golf

Words I live by: "Put it in God's hands."

Senior Airman Nicholas Connell



Organization: 20th Comptroller Squadron

Duty title: Accounting liaison technician

Job duties: Updating accounting records for all TDY travel, receipt of contract goods and all funding documents

Hometown: Milan, Ill.

Time in service: Four years

Off-duty interests: Bowling, coaching the Shaw Air Force Base Young American Bowling Alliance and playing golf

Words I live by: "God will never give you anything you cannot handle."

Shaw overrun with 'bugs'

Members urged to clean up act, base

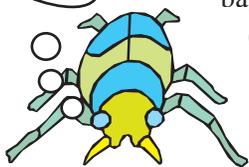
By Airman 1st Class Susan Penning
Editor

Most children, at one time or another, collect bugs and put them in jars. They study their tiny captives until a parent reminds them wildlife belongs in the wild. Well, Shaw has bugs of the two-legged variety, and collectors are tired of picking up after them.

"Recently, a lot of litter has been accumulating on base," said Senior Master Sgt. Russell Thornbury, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron operations flight superintendent.

According to Sgt. Thornbury, the problem came to his attention when CES was tasked to ensure the base looked pristine in preparation for the arrival of distinguished guests. "Two teams of CES craftsmen picked up bag after bag of litter," he said. "It was obvious base residents weren't remaining sensitive to Shaw's appearance."

Keep Shaw beautiful!



It is every person's job to keep the base looking great, Sgt. Thornbury added. "When CES members have to be taken away from the mission in order to take on the role of garbage collectors, it's a sign people aren't taking personal responsibility."

According to Maj. James King, 20th CES operations flight commander, although there are contracted grounds crews working hard to maintain Shaw's landscaping, they can't do it all.

"Recently, a CES crew cleaned up around a dorm on base and, when the crew drove back through a few moments later, they found a plastic juice bottle stuck in a neatly-groomed shrub," said Maj. King. "When people see litter around base it sends the message that, 'I'm not concerned about the appearance of where I work or live.' We show pride in our job. Why don't we do the same for our base?"

Although crews make a special effort to help Shaw look pristine when DVs arrive, Maj. King said it's also important to maintain that level of perfection on a daily basis. "The base should always look fantastic."

