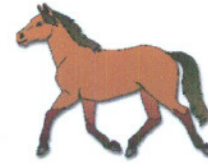
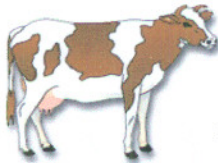


The Aardsma Weekly

April 8, 2007

Writer: Rachel Aardsma



The U Of I Vet Day

Every year, the University of Illinois hosts a veterinarian day for the general public as well as prospective students and their families. Since Matthew is planning on taking his vet courses at the U of I, we decided to go this year.

The day is from 9:00 to 4:00, and is put on entirely by the vet students. There are a few scheduled activities, and lots of different displays.

Since Dad's medicine requires him to be under quarantine because of the colds going around this time of year, Mom took the rest of us. On Saturday, Beka and I got up early to pack our picnic lunch, get everything ready, and get Timmy and Caleb dressed.

Miraculously, we were packed and ready to go by 8:00, when we had to leave. During the hour drive to the campus, Mom told us about the different displays and activities.

The parking lots were almost empty when we arrived. We went into one of the big buildings, and began looking around. We went through a petting zoo, which had two real live zebras, a horse, a porcupine, and other interesting things to look at. There was a bake sale going on, and a blacksmith making horseshoes. One of the main attractions, a cow you could actually stick your hand inside, had a long line, so we passed that up until later.

Next we went into a large auditorium to watch a police dog demonstration. There were three policemen, and two dogs. The policemen talked about their dogs, and showed them off a little. One dog was a narcotics detector, and the other was a bomb detector. We had fun watching that, and learned a lot.

Throughout the rest of the day we saw and did lots of interesting thing. There was a hawk, an owl, and several parrots to look at. We got to pet a retired racing greyhound, and see some snakes. There were hamsters, mice, and rabbits to look at.

In one room there were some very neat things to see, including an elephant's foot and a piece of it's hide. I actually got to feel lion skin, and touch reindeer horns. There was an Ibex horn and some other interesting things to see.

After a few hours there were people everywhere. Some places were so packed that the only way we could get anywhere was by grabbing onto the person in front of us and pushing!

By the time 3:00 rolled around, we had seen everything, done everything, and seen several things twice. Matthew got to stick his arm inside a cow, Timmy got to play vet and take a nail out of a pretend cat's stomach, we saw X-rays, and even looked at a

two-headed cow. We were all tired, but we'd had a good time, learned a few things, and enjoyed a nice day off.

The Weekly Bible Verse

John 11:25-26: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die."



Bits and Pieces



We've been working in the garden like crazy all week. We've planted lettuce, beets, Swiss chard, onions, and asparagus. Asparagus planting is very hard, since for asparagus we have to dig ditches. We dug the ditches this week, and planted the little brown plants yesterday.

We also took the straw off of the strawberries this week. The straw goes on in late fall to protect the strawberries from the winter cold, and then comes off in the early spring so that the plants can grow. The job took all day, and was physically exhausting. When we started, Caleb starting chanting in a sing-song voice, "This is the life of a farmer, this is the life of a queen. This is a life of a king on his throne, and this is the life for me." Two hours later: "This is the life of a farmer, this is the life of a slave. This is the life of a hard-working rat..." His song ended there because he couldn't think of anything to rhyme with slave that made sense.



A Word About The Weather



It's been a little cold this week. It's been slightly miserable to work outside in that weather, but we've survived! I am hoping it will warm up soon so we can start swimming in our big pool, which is, at the moment, frozen!



An Easter Joke



Q: What's the difference between a bunny and a lumberjack? **A:** One chews and hops, the other hews and chops.