



John Reichert Chosen Friend Of The Fair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

exhibited at the Clay County Fair. The vet feels it could be a conflict of interest.

"We are there at the fair though and we do enjoy touring the exhibits as a family," said Reichert.

Dr. Reichert resides in Harwood, N.D., where he has three horses, four dogs and two cats.

He and his wife, Kathy, have two grown children, Katie and John Robert, and four grandchildren.

Kathy is a retired nurse. Both siblings, Katie and John Robert, are registered nurses as well.

Reichert gets the opportunity to work on animals at NDSU at the Research Center through the practice in Casselton. Those include dairy and beef cattle and sheep.

In his spare time Reichert enjoys hunting and sled dog medicine. Every year he goes up to the Iditarod to work with the sled dogs that run the race.

"I have been a checkpoint veterinarian for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race for the past 18 years, since 2001," said Reichert. "We fly from checkpoint to checkpoint during the race courtesy of volunteer pilots for the Iditarod.

"It is a 1,000 mile race from Anchorage to Nome. It takes the teams of 16 led dogs and a musher from nine to 14 days depending on team stamina and weather conditions.

"We examine the dogs at the checkpoints to insure their health and well being. If they are dropped for any condition it is our responsibility

"We treat and care for them at the checkpoint until we can get air transport back to their designated veterinary hospital, usually back in Anchorage."

Reichert works with two other veterinarians who also work at the checkpoints. They are basically all volunteers.

"Weather on the trail can be very unforgiving," said Reichert. "It is not unusual to be doing our exams outside in the dog yard at temps of 40 to 50 below. I still enjoy the challenge."

The contribution of the fair veterinarian is crucial to a successful county fair.

The veterinarians are paid for their work with the fair animals, but fair board members say it is well worth the cost.

"We do get billed for the work but for what John has done for us over the years, they treat us very well," said Clay County Fair Board President Jay Rehder.



Dr. John Reichert volunteers his time to work with sled dogs competing in the Iditarod as a checkpoint veterinarian. The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is an annual long-distance sled dog race run in early March from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska.

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