

ICAR Review

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF CHIROPRACTIC

FALL/WINTER 2009



Healing...

...special needs children with horses

...sick and hurt animals with chiropractic adjustments

...abused and abandoned animals with love



Healing

with

Love...

Dr. Bobby and Evelyn Braile open their hearts and home to animals at risk and help them heal



Doctors of chiropractic help the body heal with chiropractic adjustments. For Dr. Robert (Bobby) Braile and his wife Evelyn, healing the soul of an animal abused, neglected and/or abandoned with plenty of love and care is just as important, and for them it has become a way of life.

On a ranch near Atlanta, Georgia, more than 100 animals have found a home where they have healed or are in the process of healing thanks to this extraordinary couple with hearts of gold. The Brailes' have two teenage daughters, but the 100+ animals in the front yard, pasture, barns, around the ponds and inside the house are all part of their extended family.

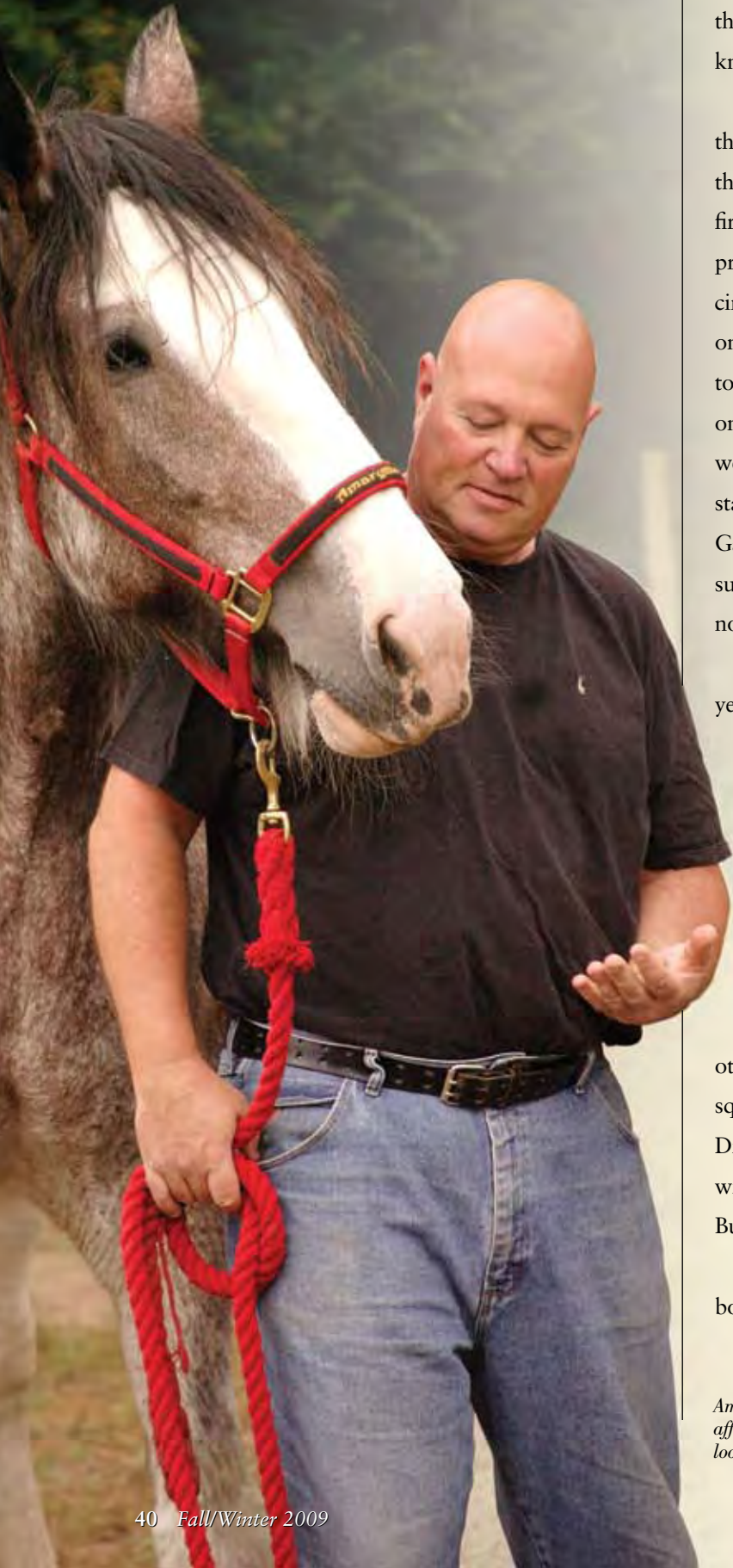
By Rachael van Beelen & Molly Rangnath



Photographs by Lori Jurewicz



Evelyn and Dr. Bobby Braille with daughters Haley and Nicole and members of their large extended family: L to R: Mary Anne, Jewel, Evelyn, Haley on Princess, Gilligan, Nicole, Lady and Dr. Braille.



The animals, once frightened, starved or sick are well-fed and content. You can see it in the way they interact with their adopted family. They know they are safe and loved.

It was a bright sunny day when we visited the Braile ranch. Nestled in a quiet street off the main highway we missed the property the first time around. As we were preparing to drive round the circle a second time we saw one of two large faux stone tortoises in the front yard of one of the houses move. What we had mistaken for garden statues were actually two live Galapagos Island tortoises sunning themselves in the noonday sun.

Robert Braile, DC was ICA's President from 1995-1999. He took a five year break from practice after moving from Florida to Georgia, but recently opened a practice in Marietta because he missed it too much. He is also the founder and CEO of *Now You Know*, an internet company that helps DCs spread the message of chiropractic using the Internet.

Galapagos Island tortoises live to be 100-150 years, weigh up to 600 pounds and grow to four feet in length. The two in the front yard of the Braile house, Mary Anne and Gilligan, are now 15 years old and weigh between 200-250 lbs. In winter they live in the basement of the house but getting them through the doors is already a struggle because of their size and weight. Also, the basement is now filling up with rabbits, chinchillas and other smaller animals which will make it a tight squeeze as these creatures get bigger and bigger. Dr. Braile knows he has to think of alternative winter housing for these large reptiles soon. Build another shelter or remodel?

New York native Bobby and Chicago born Evelyn met in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Amaryllis, one of the two rescued Clydesdales is very affectionate and is always nuzzling Dr. Braile's pockets looking for her favorite treats.

Dr. Braille started practicing in Florida after graduating from New York Chiropractic College, but after 17 years in practice decided it was time for a change. “You just know when it is time,” he said. Evelyn, who helped run his practice was supportive of the idea, so without mulling over it too much they decided they would move to Atlanta. But first they had to sell the practice, their oceanfront home and just as important, Dr. Braille’s antique car which he knew he would not need in his new location. Obviously fate approved of the move because in one day they sold all three. But the bad news was they had only one month to move out of

their house which meant finding a new residence fairly quickly. Since Dr. Braille still had patients to take care of during the week, it literally left them only one full weekend to find a suitable place.



Mary Anne

As luck would have it, a friend was able to find them a house near Marietta and the Brailes fell in love with it as soon as they saw it. It was just what they were looking for, a house with plenty of open land, peaceful and quiet.

Evelyn, an avid animal lover, started off their menagerie by purchasing the two tortoises that came in a small box by mail! In time, Mary Anne and Gilligan as they were named, were joined by smaller turtles, rescued



Mama and Papa Duck watching over their brood of ducklings

dogs, horses, rabbits, ducks and other smaller animals. She insists that Dr. Braille was the one who started bringing the animals just to keep her home!

Ducks and geese, some with broken wings, or injured by wild animals came to heal and once healed, instead of flying away, stayed. As a result there is a mix of wild ducks, domestic ducks and Canadian geese all living on the land and no

one can say how many there are at one time or where they came from. Suddenly there are ducklings or goslings to look after and keep separated and safe so predatory animals like the coyotes cannot get to them.

The birds get used to the farm routine very quickly. For instance when it is feeding time for the horses, they all fly or waddle into the center of the barn waiting their turn to be fed. They have no fear of the large horses and wander in and out between their legs as they graze in the pasture or wander down by the pond.

Walking toward the barn that day we observed a black goat watching us with suspicion



Princess, calm and gentle continues to graze while Haley does tricks on her back.

from the doorway with a “What are you doing in my barn?” expression on her face. The goat, Daisy, was given to them as a house warming gift by one of their chiropractor friends in Florida.

Daisy considers herself the keeper of the barn and the six horses her charges. We obviously passed her security test because she allowed us into her territory without butting us!

In the barn we found six horses in-

cluding two magnificent Clydesdales that had been used in a medical research project and were headed for the slaughter house when they were rescued by Dr. Braile. All the horses have their names on plaques outside their stalls and the only male, Harley, (named after Dr. Braile’s love of his Harley Davidson motorcycle) is very protective of the other horses. There are also two adorable white miniature ponies that have their own miniature barn and pasture. Evelyn brought them home one day when she found that the rescue group she volunteers for was having problems getting them adopted. She also did not want them separated. Shy of strangers these cute animals are lovingly brushed everyday and their long mane braided so it does not cover their eyes.

Another group of animals that this family seems to adopt or get adopted by are dogs (there were 12 when we visited). All of them, with one exception, were either found on the road starving and covered with fleas or given



Banks and Twinkle, two of the 12 dogs who now have a loving, safe and comfortable home.



Daisy, the guardian of the barn keeps a sharp lookout for any unwelcome visitors!

up by someone who could not afford to keep them. Evelyn actually paid \$200 for a little dog to get him out of a bad situation. They bring the dogs home, bathe them, feed them and nurse them back to health if they are sick. Most of the time they don't plan to keep them, but when they can't find another home for them, they stay.

Dr. Braille's younger daughter Haley is as much an animal lover as her parents and also responsible for bringing some of the dogs into the home. One day Evelyn was driving Haley and her friends home from the movies when they saw two dogs running along the

highway. Haley made her mother stop the car and as soon as she opened the door one of the dogs jumped in, and of course he came home with them. He was thin and full of fleas. Max as he was named, healed quickly, and today, clean and on the stout side, is full of energy and bounce, greeting strangers with loud friendly barks.

Jane the spur thigh turtle roams freely with Buddy the mallard and all the other ducks .



Velvet gallops free in the pasture near the pond.



Having that many animals means making sacrifices and adjustments, but it is obvious the Brailes would much rather share what they have with these four-legged creatures than on themselves. Feeding them is not the only thing to consider, though it is the major expense.

Dr. Braile laughingly confessed that their mortgage is nothing in comparison to what they pay for food for the animals. They also have to spend time bathing, brushing, exercising, taking them to the vet when needed, making special diets for the sick ones, keeping them safe from the wild predators, driving back and forth from the clinic to the farm during lunch to attend to a sick horse, or driving up to the orchards during weekends

to fill up the truck with watermelons and apples during picking season so the tortoises and horses have those extra “snacks” they enjoy.

Evelyn and Bobby take turns caring for the horses and dogs which can take more than two hours every morning. This has led to a little culinary dog food competition. One day Evelyn noticed that after Bobby began feeding the dogs in the morning they showed little enthusiasm in eating when she gave them their morning meal. But

when it was his turn, they would all line up in the kitchen and look at him expectantly with tails wagging. She soon found out that he was adding cheese and other tasty sides their regular



Duke

Galapagos tortoises Gilligan and Mary Anne



dog food, so now the dogs get some flavorful additions to their morning meal from both of them!

Raising two daughters, caring for over 100 animals, seeing patients and managing a clinic is a lot of work and requires a delicate balancing act. Evelyn and Bobby seem to have figured it out quite well without neglecting other areas of their lives that are important for them and their children. They feel they have been blessed and rescuing and adopting animals and helping them heal is not only their way of giving back but also a vital part of their lives and who they are. The returns for them are ones only they



Amaryllis and Harvey hang out with Nicole.

can understand and appreciate — knowledge that they are able to help at least some of God's creatures and keep them safe, and receiving unconditional love from those whose lives they have changed forever.

Rachael van Beelen worked as an intern in the programs department of the ICA during the summer of 2009 helping out with conferences and sales. A communication studies major from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Rachael speaks Spanish and Dutch. She loves traveling and seeing new places and meeting different people.

Molly Rangnath is ICA's Deputy Executive Director of Programs. She was adopted by a lovable pooch, a collie/chow/? mix found chained up and abandoned during a severe hurricane in West Virginia and rescued by the Forever Home Foundation.

Velvet is very responsive to Evelyn and loves one-on-one time with her. Here she listens carefully to Evelyn's gentle commands.

