

William Herbold, DVM

Long-time residents of West Islip can remember the Haakonson Dairy Farm on Sunrise Highway just east of Higbie Lane, as seen in this aerial photo from the 1950s. The large white house with pillars in the front was familiar to everyone in the area. With the widening of Sunrise Highway and construction of the Higbie Lane bridge, the farm was sold and the property became a veterinarian's office, first with Dr. Basciano and then with Dr. William Herbold, who opened his practice in 1978.



In 1979, West Islip resident Dianne Howell became his veterinary technician, and for the next 40 years they worked together serving the community and caring for all the creatures brought to them.



Dr. Herbold not only treated dogs, cats, hamsters, ferrets, parakeets, parrots, chickens and goats but all wildlife from ducks, turtles, deer, snakes, raccoons, seabirds, songbirds and anything else that would come through the front door. He worked tirelessly with a wildlife rehabilitator who brought in endless rescues that were treated at no charge. One such patient was Buddy, the deer in this picture. He had been separated from his mother and was



too young to survive on his own, and was eventually released in Heckscher Park after months of care from Dr. Herbold and Dianne.

Popcorn was no longer allowed to be near his owner as he worked.

Another unique patient was Popcorn, the duck shown here with Dr. Herbold, who treated him for lead poisoning many times. This puzzled everyone until they realized the duck followed his owner everywhere – and since the owner was a gunsmith,



Throughout the years Dr. Herbold mentored many West Islip High School students who went on to become Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians, and Doctors. In 2014, he and Dianne married and continued to live in West Islip as they had since 1995. They love the community and their pets who have given them a beautiful professional life and are deeply honored to have worked with wonderful employees over the past 40 years.