



Merry Christmas and Welcome to 2016!

December 2015

It has been a busy 2015 and so our Christmas letter is coming to you late. As our staff at work says "sometimes there are too many windows open on our browser"!

Milo has been busy with the Parker Chorale, a community singing ensemble. They have a wonderful conductor and he really enjoys the group. He also sings in an acapella group from the church who performs for numerous community activities. Two years ago he got a Tesla Model S, an all-electric car and has taken several trips this year including one to the Black Hills. There is an active group of Tesla owners here and they have made the trip to South Dakota a yearly event with drivers coming from all over the U.S. The car is a wonder to drive and the best part is that we never have to buy gas!

Sandy stays busy working at our veterinary clinic and continues to enjoy the clients and patients. Wearing the multiple hats of veterinarian, practice manager, personnel department and bill payer makes the days go by quickly. Riding and showing dressage horses is still a passion and we are lucky to have several lovely horses to show. Recently we bought a 20-year old "schoolmaster" mare who is patiently teaching Sandy how to ride the upper levels. It's obvious that the horse is smarter than Sandy! One of our Dutch horses injured the tendons in his front legs requiring surgery and now is 4 months into his physical therapy rehab. Thanks to Milo who has taken over much of the rehab work he is doing well but it has become a full time job for Milo.

This summer we enjoyed a trip to Iowa for Sandy's high school class reunion and a chance to catch up with old friends and realize how lucky we were to grow up in small town Iowa. It was great to see how the years have shaped everyone's lives and to see how "young" we all still are.

In July we took 10 days to check off one of the trips on our bucket list. We went with National Geographic on a small ship to the inland passage of Alaska. With only 45 people on the ship it was a chance to see the area up close and personal. We were lucky to see lots of whales, eagles, bears, sea otters and sea lions as well as numerous other wildlife. Although the food was great it's fun to see how fast the dining area can empty when the captain calls out "whales sighted off the port bow"! We were in awe of the beauty of the area and the power of the glaciers that formed the passage. We would recommend the trip to anyone.

Our oldest daughter, Jenn, will finish her accelerated program in nursing school and graduate in May. With all her science background and previous Bachelor's degree she has been able to enjoy the program and was just invited to join the nursing honors society. She would like to be out of the hustle and bustle of Denver but will probably need to spend some time in a major hospital to get experience after graduation. We will see what the summer brings but would love to see her stay in Colorado.

Our youngest daughter, Laura, continues to combine school at CSU with work at the Learning Center in Fort Collins. She has developed a particular interest in working with autistic children and children with learning disabilities. She has the patience and a wonderful instinctual ability to reach these kids. It is a gift that we hope she continues to pursue. She bought a house in Fort Collins this summer and so it seems Colorado will be home for a while.

We hope to check off a few more things on our bucket list this year but are focused on enjoying life and our family in the moment. We hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday season and that 2016 holds joy and good health!

Milo and Sandy Eckles