

## Veterinary Vehicles: Born in Iowa Part II

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(This is the second in a series of articles spotlighting Iowa's major contribution in the area of production of on-site veterinary equipment).

The mainstay of commercially available mobile veterinary vehicles is doubtlessly the pickup truck-based veterinary "box". Two companies dominate the design, production and marketing of these units and they are both proudly based in Iowa. These two manufacturers will be separately highlighted in this and the upcoming issue of *The Iowa State Veterinarian*.

Porta-Vet Industries of Hudson, IA has its origins in a business started in 1965 by Dr. Romain Buzzetti and Jim Barber. The company moved to its current location in 1976 after spending its first eleven years in Waterloo, IA. According to Manager Gordon Moser, the business was founded to manufacture mobile veterinary equipment and still exclusively addresses this commercial focus. Originally, Porta-Vet produced compartmentalized units for van-based veterinary vehicles. However, in 1970 the emphasis of their production shifted toward units that could be readily fitted to the more widely used pickup trucks.

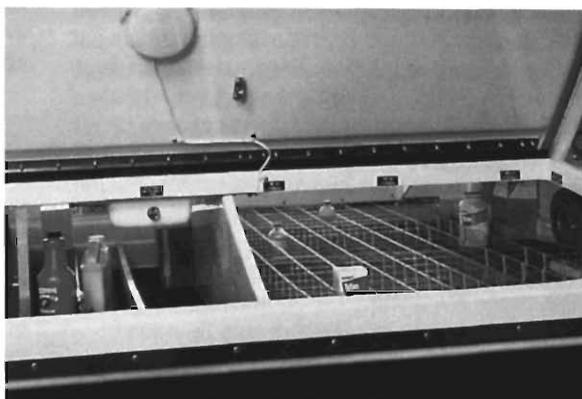
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Porta-Vet boxes are white in color and will fit Ford, Chevrolet, Dodge and GMC mini, standard size and extended cab pickup trucks. Their units are also compatible with most imports of similar description. Manufactured from fiberglass, the boxes feature hot water, heater, refrigeration, lighting and electrical capabilities which run off the vehicle battery during use and are likewise boosted via standard 110 volt house current during down time. The company markets units specifically designed for the special needs of the mixed, dairy and equine practitioner. The design of these mobile clinics is consistently under review and changes often reflect upon feedback from its veterinary customers that the company actively solicits. Porta-Vet boxes currently come in a price range of approximately \$4,000 to \$8,000.

Porta-Vet Industries employs 18 people and their units may be found in all 50 states and several foreign countries. Approximately 20 of America's Veterinary Colleges have their products available for use by staff Field Service veterinarians. The company markets chiefly via major veterinary journals, direct mail and the larger veterinary trade shows. Reconditioned units received via trade-in are occasionally available and the company also offers a leasing program which has grown to dominate delivery arrangements in recent years.



Important Equipment and drug storage are located on the driver's side.



Rear compartment contents can be viewed from either side of the unit.