The Incredible Dr. Pol

Made By: Nic
Meet Dr. Pol

Dr. Jan Pol was born in the Netherlands on September 4, 1942, and raised on a family dairy farm. He graduated from Utrecht University in 1970 and has been studying animal for more than 35 years. After marrying his wife in 1967, they moved to Harbor Beach, Michigan, where he worked for another veterinarian. Wanting to work for himself, Dr. Pol and his wife started their own practice outside of their house in 1981. The business kept growing and growing, and they and their ten employees, have helped over 19,000 clients since the doors opened. Dr. Pol treats all sorts of animals such as horses, pigs, cows, sheep, alpacas, goats, chickens and sometimes even reindeer. Dr. Pol works nonstop to ensure the diminishing population of family farmers remains in business. Many farmers consider Dr. Pol as a part of their family because he plays a role in keeping their livestock healthy and their business profitable.
Charles Pol was born and raised in Central Michigan's farm country. Charles Pol was his father's sidekick as a child. Starting at the age of 5 he started helping his father in the clinic, farm calls, and with animals. Though Charles enjoyed working with animals, from a young age he knew he didn't want to follow in his father's footsteps, and his parents encourage him to follow his dreams that he loved. In 2003 Charles graduated from The University of Miami. He now lives in Los Angeles, where he works for an entertainment industry.
Diane Pol was born in Mayville, Michigan, and met Jan Pol when he was a foreign exchange student at Mayville High School in 1961 during her senior year. When they were friends they were writing to each other after \textit{Dr. Pol} returned to the Netherlands. Dr. Pol invited Diane to visit him and meet his family, and the couple’s relationship became more serious. Though Diane had to return to Michigan to let Dr. Pol finish his studies, they eventually married in 1967. After living in Dr. Pol’s native country for a few years, the two moved back to United States and moved to Harbor Beach, Michigan. Diane received her master’s degree in Special Reading and taught in Lapeer and Harbor Beach Elementary Schools. In 1981, Diane and Jan moved from Weidman, Michigan, and started Pol Veterinary Services in their garage. Diane gave up teaching to help run the veterinary office and take care of their son and two daughters. Today, Diane works at Pol Veterinary Services as the office manager and bookkeeper, and she also enjoys teaching Sunday School at her church.
Meet Brenda Grettenberger

Dr. Brenda Grettenberger was born in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, in 1967. She grew up on a dairy farm and always had an affection for large animals. After graduating from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1992, Dr. Brenda began working at Pol Veterinary Services. At the time, most of the business at Pol Veterinary Services was large animal medicine, and Dr. Brenda says it took time for some of the older farmers to adjust to having a female veterinarian. Though she did win the farmers over, the number of the dairy farms in the area began to get smaller, and Dr. Brenda began to treat more small animals. Like Dr. Pol, Dr. Brenda enjoys the mixed practice and plans to continue working at Pol Veterinarian Services for the future. When Dr. Brenda is not working, she enjoys dancing, reading and training her oxen to pull wagons.
**Informational Facts**

- Dr. Pol speaks 4 fluent languages – English, Dutch, French, and German.
- When Dr. Pol was in veterinary school in the Netherlands, his textbooks were printed in German because Dutch translations of the material did not exist.
- Dr. Pol is a big car collector. Among the cars in his collection are a 1937 Rolls Royce, a 1999 Plymouth Prowler, and a 1981 “Back to the Future” DeLorean.
- Charles was an intern for Hollywood legend, the late Sidney Pollack.
- Charles Pol has a Black Belt in Karate.
- Dr. Pol is color-blind, he has trouble with the colors green and brown.
- Dr. Pol has 3 sisters and 2 brothers.
- Dr. Pol has been married for more than 44 years.
- Dr. and Mrs. Pol helped design their log home themselves.
- All of Dr. Pol's children are adopted except their daughter Kathy and their son Charles from birth, and their daughter Diane at the age of 18.
- Three of the four boys in Dr. Pol's family are named Jan.
This is one of the kids Dr.Pol helped.

Dr.Pol and Charles sitting in the lunchroom.