

North Forty – 08/11/10 edition
by Tony S. Valls – tonysv@tds.net

My home now has more animals than humans. The animal count is three canines, three felines and one goat. Yes, the goat is new. My wife grew up on a farm and I think she is trying to relive her childhood. Being a city boy, my only experience with farm animals is petting zoos and county fairs.

I have no problems with Levi the goat. In fact, he is my little friend. He's almost like a dog. He trots up to greet me when I go outside, he takes treats from my hand and he enjoys being scratched between his horns.

Levi is also a curious goat. We have a doggie door through which the dogs go freely in and out of the house. Levi has taken note of this and has been watching, with interest, dogs appearing and disappearing through that doggie door. He has tried pushing the door with his head, but to the side of the doggie door itself so he was lightly butting the door. I figured it was his poor depth perception had no worries of him getting into the house.

Gidget is our golden retriever and adopted Levi has her little brother. Gidget thought Levi should be allowed in the house, so she gave him a little help. She was standing halfway through the doggie and trying to get Levi to come through. It was as though Gidget was holding the doggie door open for Levi to go through. After some trial and error, it worked. Gidget was so happy, so proud that Levi made it into the house. Levi was also happy to be in the house. He greeted everyone, checked the place out and was put back outside through the front door. Levi then trotted around the front porch to the side of the house, went through the doggie door and happily greeted everyone again.

Now I need to come up with a solution to keep the goat out and still let the dogs use the doggie door.

The Country Store in Coffee Creek is serving New Mexico green chile cheeseburgers Saturday, Aug 14, 21 and 28. Stop by the Country Store for more information and reservations. The store will also be having a Hawaiian dinner 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21. The dinner costs \$17.95 plus tax, and reservations are required.

Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary is hosting an all you can eat pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 4. More details are to come.