

## A Lamb is Born at Beach Pet!

Dr. Vrooman and Chris have a small farm and vineyard in central VA where they have a little flock of sheep. One of the ewes had prolapsed her uterus in her most recent lambing, so this time, Dr. V decided he would do a Caesarean on her and deliver the lamb that way. So he transported Chris' favorite ewe, Rosie, back to the hospital in the back of his pickup.

Rosie adjusted amazingly well to life in the city, going for walks in the side yard of the animal hospital, resting in her run. She was completely cooperative. She has gotten used to humans being around. She is like one of the family pets at their farm and loves it when Dr. V and Chris bring their little grandbabies to visit her. She sniffs the babies and rubs her head on them.



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The day of delivery approached. The staff monitored her closely with physical exams and with use of our ultrasound machine that visualized the lamb



Finally, the time had come for Rosie to deliver! She was led into the prep/treatment area where she curiously studied an object at her feet that she had never encountered... a tortoise! The tortoise, Mary, belongs to Dr. Back and spends most of her time wandering around the hospital, searching for a sunny spot in which to lay.

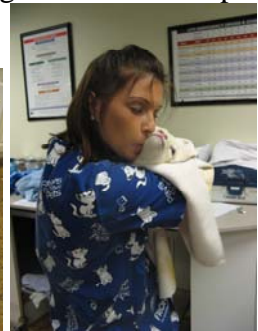


The staff prepared Rosie for surgery, shaved the area, scrubbed it and draped it. Dr. V gave Rosie copious amounts of a local anesthetic to numb the entire abdomen. The entire staff gathered around.



The surgery progressed smoothly. Dr. V opened up the abdominal wall, then the uterine wall. Rosie lay perfectly still. He reached into the uterus and held up two legs. Then he reached back in, his eyes looking up at the ceiling and felt around to feel the position of the lamb. He moved some things around in there. Then he found the hind legs, and with a slow, steady pull, and a loud sucking sound, out came the newborn baby lamb. It's a girl!!! Hooray! The staff applauded.

Dr. V immediately handed the lamb to one of our techs, Melissa, who was waiting with open arms and a towel draped over them. She rubbed the baby, aspirated out the mucous from its mouth, held its head lower than the body and swung it a few times. And then... a tiny little weak, "Baaaaa". Hooray! again from the crowd. She is perfect and beautiful. We named her Summer right there on the spot.



Mother and baby progressed nicely and were transported back to the farm days later. Both are enjoying their life down on the farm after their brief visit to the city... and they would highly recommend Beach Pet to their fellow ewes who might need a little bit of help in the future!

