

## Saving Miss Daisy

This June, Miss Daisy Duck, a feathered Ferguson resident living at January Wabash Lake, was in trouble. A fishing hook had pierced her leg and remained deeply embedded. The resulting deadly infection swelled her leg to twice its normal size.

Visitors to the lake were concerned. What could they do? Several caring folks made noble attempts to catch Miss Daisy when she came near the shore. Unfortunately, all attempts were futile. Miss Daisy was in pain and growing weaker. Time was running out for Miss Daisy.



*Dr. Toepke and helpers with Miss Daisy*

But, the tide of events was about to take a turn on the morning of Wednesday, June 12. Longtime Ferguson resident, Mr. Rickie Carr, and Mr. Nick Jones, 2005 McCluer High School graduate, were on a mission to save Miss Daisy. With permission from park director, Mr. Stan Kreitler, Mr. Carr launched his jon boat onto the waters of January Wabash Lake.

While Nick perched on the front of the jon boat holding a net, Rickie steered. Miss Daisy, not understanding their kind concern, paddled away as fast as she could, leading them on a "wild duck chase" around the lake. Whenever the jon boat grew close, Miss Daisy would dive under the water, sometimes popping up several feet away in the opposite direction! Undeterred, the rescuers followed. After many tense moments, Nick scooped up Miss Daisy in the net. Cheers for their success were heard from shore!

Miss Daisy was then taken to Howdershell Animal Clinic. At the clinic, veterinarian Dr. Nick Toepke, himself a 1991 McCluer High School graduate, gently attended to her care. Miss Daisy was placed in an anesthesia box and sedated so the hook could be removed. Dr. Toepke administered an antibiotic and instructions for a week of rest and antibiotic treatment.

Miss Daisy would like to thank all who came to her aid. She asks everyone to please **properly discard fishing line and hooks** so ALL species may safely enjoy January Wabash Lake.

Quack! Quack!

Miss Daisy