

Buck just dropped by for an entrance physical

The records for the AEDC dispensary show that the first patient to be seen April 8 was young Buck O'Deer, who reported around 7:20 for a brief tour of the facility and some TLC.

Secretary Helen Blevins, who had entered the building through the back door, was getting things straightened out on her desk when she noticed Buck waiting patiently at the entrance, peering at her through the glass doors.

She and TSgt. Glenn Scott decided to try opening the door to see if Buck would get jittery and change his mind about seeing the doctor. To their surprise, however, he waltzed right in and strolled around a bit to see if everything was in order and to his liking.

Fearing Buck might get frightened and do something rash, Helen figured she'd better show him the way out. Some time later, she and Scotty looked up to find him strolling once again down the tiled hallway; he had discovered the back door.

Thinking he might simply want some breakfast before having to depart, Scotty dug an apple out of his lunch and offered it to Buck, who ate it heartily and polished the meal off with some dandelions Helen was holding for him. In the meantime, Scotty had performed a cursory physical of Mr. O'Deer—checking to make sure the eyes were clear, the snout clean and that no signs of rabies were evident—while Helen and some callers provided the TLC treatment, scratching Buck's neck and patting him on the back.

Helen said she was unable to get Mr. O'Deer's medical history for her records, so old Max (who always knows when something unusual is up) offered to put in a call to our friends who manage AEDC's wildlife for the state.

Joe Ashby said Buck fit the description of a young male deer they had recently tagged and released on the area after picking him up in another part of the state for rehabilitation on the AEDC reservation.

The young buck was healthy, he said, but was beginning to display conduct unbecoming a member of the Wild Deer Federation—lolling around the house and preferring a human bed and sofa to those comforts of his natural home.

But Buck apparently had decided for himself that he didn't want to be 100 percent rehabilitated right off the bat, and anyway we're sure he didn't have the pink copies of Form A-68 and Form A-66d saying he'd completed his entrance physical.

Buck may show up around these parts again, but it'd be smart to go about your business and leave him to his. Chances are he'll be a little more rehabilitated the next time he appears, and he may have learned to use his powerful hind legs for the defensive purposes nature intended.

So if you see him, just wave hello from a distance and tell him Helen and Scotty and old Max and his photographer friend Charley Powell send their regards.



Scotty: *"No, deer, you can't come in without any doe."*
Deer: *"I've got a coupla more bucks back in the woods."*