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Blizzard doesn't deter dedicated Qns. workers

by [Liz Rhoades](#), Managing Editor

Neither snow nor lack of plowing can keep some Queens residents from their appointed rounds. In two cases, horses and hospital patients were the beneficiaries as a result of last week's blizzard. In Middle Village, the Department of Sanitation's reportedly laissez-faire attitude toward plowing was no deterrent for Chris Calandrella, a doctor of osteopathy, who works in the emergency room at New York Hospital Queens in Flushing. Hospital officials are beaming over the fact that Calandrella walked eight miles to work on Monday, Dec. 27 because he was unable to dig his car out. It took him two and a half hours to trudge through the snow.

"He didn't want to miss work," said NYHQ spokeswoman Cynthia Bacon. "He is extremely dedicated."

Over in Fresh Meadows, stable owner Dave Muravey was so concerned about the welfare of his seven horses and one he is boarding that he literally bunked with them for five nights. "It was important to make sure our babies were OK," said Muravey, who stayed from Christmas through the following Wednesday night.

He and his wife, Joy Tirado-Muravez, took over the facility on Pidgeon Meadow Road last August and opened the Western Riding Club LLC, giving lessons and training for adults and children.

"When we heard about the storm, we were worried about the horses getting fed, the water freezing and the possibility of the stable roof collapsing," Tirado-Muravez said.

The couple lives about a mile from the stable and Tirado-Muravez was able to walk in food for her husband and deliver clean clothes. Neighbors and friends supplemented with cookies and stew and carrots for the horses.

Muravez slept on the floor and tended to the horses, exercising them in the ring, which he had to dig out.

But he indicated it was all worth the effort. "My horse, Buddy, loves to play in the snow and Amber, our little filly, had never seen snow before and acted like a kid romping around until it hit her that it was cold," Muravez said.

He noted that each horse had a different reaction to the snow: joy, fear, panic, curiosity and disinterest.

The roads near the stable weren't plowed until Wednesday night. Things got back to normal after that.

"It was wonderful how people came together to help the animals and us," Tirado-Muravez said. "We couldn't have done it without them."



Dr. Chris Calandrella walked eight miles to work. Buddy as a reindeer for Christmas, center. Bosco, right, shows interest in the snow. PHOTOS COURTESY NYHQ AND BY DAVE MURAVEY

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