

**Sunday, 12 June 2011 11:09 AM**  
**Rapid Springs, South Dakota**

Hi Everyone,

I'm in Rapid Springs, South Dakota. I'm waiting to meet up with my RAVS (Rural Area Vet Services) group to go to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation (4th largest Indian reservation and home to the Sioux Indians) in the morning. I don't expect to have access to a computer or the time to update you during the week. I expect to be working harder than this body has seen in a LONG time. I am a princess after all (or *Princesa* as Juan tells me) sounds so much better in Spanish too. Princess brings up connotations like JAP (Jewish American Princess) or some spoiled young thing. Princesa sounds like some gentle flower...lol.

They will make me get up early EVERY day, no more coffee in bed (what if I don't get coffee at all?!), and I'll have to share the shower if I get one at all. UGH... If I wasn't a spontaneous person, things like this would never happen to me. NOT thinking things through is my norm....

I hope to see what life is like for American Indians today. I can't expect to see a pow wow, people dressed in colorful beads and head dresses. Young beautiful brown men racing by on paint horses...

Nor the reservations of the past that Grandma Evie (Evelyn D. Hovde, [Chinle Navajo Reservation](#), AZ) and Aunt Linda and Uncle Bob (Linda Ostema Hovde and Robert Louis Hovde, [Dziltz-Na-O-Dith-Hle, Navajo Indian Reservation](#), near Farmington, NM) worked on in the 70's, more likely the obesity, depression and poverty prevalent in places such as this. How can the animals be faring? These days there are likely to be casinos. I'm not crazy about this turn of events either. Maybe it can be seen as some kind of turn about is fair play. You (the white man) brought us (Indians) alcohol and fostered our addiction and now we foster your addiction to gambling. Only I don't see the Indians being immune to the negative side (maybe they get lost in the gambling too). I hope that the casinos are truly enhancing their quality of life - their education and health... I hope.

My goal is to see the people and their companion animals with a compassionate open heart and not to freak out in front of the veterinary students. That wouldn't be good....

I'm looking forward to sharing pictures with you when I come out on the other side :)

Until then,

Love, Kelly