

ALAMEDA CLASS VETERINARY MEDICAL CRUISER

Modified Shelley-Class Thru Deck Carrier

Alameda Class Production Roster

USS Alameda	USS Doolittle
USS Good Ship Lollipop	USS Benji
USS Watership Down	USS Isis
USS Gandhi	USS Gaia
USS Goodall	USS Noah
USS Fossey	USS Harvey
USS Mowgli	USS Lassie
USS Free Willy	USS Tarzan

Since the early days of the Federation, Starfleet has performed a vital role in supporting the colonial efforts of Federation member worlds. This support has not only been in providing supplies and specialized medical care for far-flung colonies, but also in evacuation and large scale transport measures.

With the rapid increase in agricultural colonial growth in the early 2060's, there came an increasing need for the development of a starship capable of providing support for these colonies, especially in the area of veterinary care. Epidemics of newly discovered xenobiological even common diseases could easily cripple a new colony, surpassing its own rudimentary or small relief efforts. Federation Council members argued that such an outbreak could easily lead to food shortages and famines, which would in turn weaken the Federation. Soon Starfleet was mandated to develop a ship designed primarily for this task.

Starfleet's initial solution was to assign retired vessels with expanded vet staffs to critical areas. This was followed by the refit of several classes of Hospital ships, most notably the Hope class, to perform as veterinary facilities.

With the refit of the fleet in the 2270's, a decision was made to put a new, dedicated veterinary medical vessel into production. These plans were soon put on hold due to the development of the Recovery Class Automated Hospital-Rescue Vessel. If the Recovery prototype performed as expected, such vessels could be used to perform large-scale veterinary relief efforts in conjunction with their colonial relief efforts. However, the subsequent disaster of the Recovery program not only the promising future of this ship design, but also that of the veterinary development program.

The veterinary vessel was brought back to the design board in the 2290's following several outbreaks of disease among livestock of outer colonies that led to severe food shortages. The Council responded to this crisis by reopening the development project, now titled the *Mercy* Project. *Mercy* sought to utilize an existing Starfleet ship design and modify it for the intended uses. Although more cost productive, it presented a challenge to deck design. A large-scale veterinary care vessel would have to provide ample room for both surgery suites and recovery rooms for hundreds of animals, some which would be the size of elephants or greater. Large scale carriers such as the Ark Royal Class would have been ideal had not budget and time constraints proven too costly. Instead, the more moderately sized Shelley class thru-deck carriers were chosen as ideal for this project. The Excelsior-Grade engineering hull was extended backwards to give more space for the specialized medical wards and larger transportation systems necessary for the medical facilities.

Although they do not carry as many shuttlecraft as their predecessors, Alameda class vessels carry a large number of cargo shuttlecraft to assist in the transport of patients who are unable to be transported to the starship. Several levels of the starship are designated for the care of animals of Terran equine size and larger. These levels contain sophisticated rail transports, which is in turn backed up by an intricate intraship-transporter network and an internal force field/tractor beam array to assist in the moving of the patients from one section of the ship to another.

Following the Klingon-Romulan wars of the early 24th century, the Alameda Class vessels were refit to serve a secondary function as colonial relief ships, an ironic twist to the Recovery project debacle. Murphy-bed type biobeds and cots built within surgical and medical suites allow the Shelley to carry nearly 800 additional personnel. In the 2350's, Alameda class vessels were refit with 10 EMH programs to help with the care of wounded colonists.

USS Alameda East	"Our expression and our words never coincide, which is why the animals don't understand us." -Chazal
USS Great and Small	"God bless all creatures, Great and Small."
USS Black Beauty	"We call them dumb animals, and so they are, for they cannot tell us how they feel, but they do not suffer less because they have no words." -Anna Sewell, Black Beauty
USS Good Ship Lollipop	"Our task must be to free ourselves...by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty." - Albert Einstein
USS Doctor Doolittle	"If someone asked could I speak Pelican, I'd say like hell I Can, and would!" -Rex Harrison
USS Mahatma Gandhi	"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." - Gandhi
USS Goodall	"All animals except man know that the ultimate of life is to enjoy it." -Samuel Butler
USS Fossey	"Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps; for he is the only animal that is struck with the difference between what things are and what they ought to be." -William Hazlitt
USS Mowgli	"God made the cat in order that man might have the pleasure of caressing the lion." - Fernand Mery
USS Free Willy	"Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to." -Mark Twain
USS Watership Down	"We do not inherit the land, we borrow it from our children." -Native American saying
USS Benji	"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man." -Mark Twain
USS Isis	"In a cat's eyes, all things belong to cats." - English Proverb
USS Gaia	"If Darwin's theory should be true, it will not degrade man; it will simply raise the whole animal world into dignity, leaving man as far in advance as he is at present" -Sanborn
USS Noah	"Nature does not loathe virtue: it is unaware of its existence." -Françoise Mallet-Joris
USS Lassie	"If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons." - James Thurber
USS Harvey	"Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms." - George Eliot
USS Tarzan	"As human beings, we are endowed with freedom of choice, and we cannot shuffle off our responsibility upon the shoulders of God or nature. We must shoulder it ourselves. It is our responsibility." -Arnold J. Toynbee