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★ At home with the stars ★

ALL IN THE VAN PATTEN FAMILY



Eight is Enough dad invites GLOBE into his cozy compound



couple Dick and Pat relax comfy living room

EIGHT truly IS enough for TV dad Dick Van Patten - even in real life. The actor and his wife Pat share a sprawling compound with their three sons, three daughters-in-law and two grandkids!

Dick and Pat hang their hats in a cozy three-bedroom, two-bath home just outside L.A. in Sherman Oaks. The 2,500-square-foot home, which once belonged to screen legend Maureen O'Sullivan, was built in 1928 on an acre of land. They added a tennis court, swimming pool and a two-bedroom guest house, complete with exercise machines and a sauna.

Son Vince, 43, an actor-director and former tennis pro, lives next door with his actress wife Betsy Russell and their two young kids. Meanwhile, sons Nels, 45, and his Baywatch babe wife Nancy Valen and Jimmy, 44, and his spouse Shana Hiatt live five blocks away in the "Patten Place" townhouse complex built and run by their dad.

"With family constantly coming and going, we never have a chance to feel lonely," Dick tells GLOBE in an exclusive interview. "The kids are

always around and friends come by to play tennis and swim. They usually stay for dinner and end up spending the night in the guest house."

The Van Patten bunch not only plays together, they often work together as well. Vince and Jimmy wrote, directed and produced a dark comedy called The

Flunky. Jimmy is the star, while Dick, Nels, Shana, Nancy and Betsy all have cameo roles.

At age 72, Dick is still going strong. He stars in two soon-to-be-released films - William Shatner's sci-fi flick Groom Lake and Quiet Kill, a thriller in which his wife of 48 years, Pat, plays his onscreen spouse. He also promotes a line of health food for pets called Natural Balance for Dogs and Cats, which his two pooches Freckles and Tyler are

crazy about.

"In all my years of acting, I've never had a slow year," boasts Dick. "And I'm even more fortunate in my private life!" - ROBIN MIZRAHI



Dick and his TV wife Betty Buckley

