



Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

"We'll treat your pet like family!"

Newsletter

July – October 2008

CRITTER'S CHRONICLE

Kate Koogler Ride –

Dr. Teresa Koogler has been practicing veterinary medicine since 1994, and has been with our clinic since 2002. She originally owned her own practice. However she began doing relief work to be able to dedicate more of her time to her beloved Rottweiler Kate who was dying of bone cancer. She started her own cancer research fund in memory of Kate. The Kate Koogler Canine Cancer Fund raises money for canine cancer research.

Kate loved nothing more than being with her family; especially in the side car of Dr. Koogler's Harley Davidson. In honor of both Kate and Dr. Koogler's love of motorcycles and as a fund raiser for the Kate Koogler Canine Cancer Fund, the Kate Koogler Canine Cancer Ride was born. For the 6th year now friends and fellow bike lovers will gather for a beautiful ride through the rolling hills of Washington County and end up at Pen Mar Park for a picnic lunch and multiple raffles.

This year's ride will be held on Saturday October 4th. To register for the ride you may either stop in at the clinic or go to www.katefund.org. Over the last 5 years, the Kate Ride has raised over \$50,000 which was donated directly to CSU's Animal Cancer Center where research is being done on naturally occurring cases of

bone cancer that will not only help dogs with cancer but will help people with cancer as well.

We have all had that one pet in our lives that has touched us more than we ever could have imagined. For Dr. Koogler, Kate was that pet. Although Kate could not be saved, Dr. Koogler is hoping through continued research there will in the near future be a cure for bone cancer. If you do not ride but would like to donate to this worthy cause it would be greatly appreciated.



Senior Pet Wellness Fair –

In honor of our senior patients we are hosting a one night only Senior Pet Wellness Fair. Join us on Wednesday August 27th at 6:30 p.m. with your senior pet (7 years or older) for an evening of education and good old fashioned fun. As with humans, as pets age they also can develop certain diseases. This is where we come in. Let us educate you on the importance of prevention and if necessary treatment of such diseases as: diabetes, heart disease, liver and kidney disease, glaucoma, etc. We are even offering free blood pressure screenings and glaucoma testing for all pets in attendance.

But it will not all be talk. We want you to show off your senior pet and tell us about

him/her. How long have you been friends? Are there any special tricks he/she can do? What makes your pet so special? We will also have free raffles and senior pet games.

Pets are such a special part of our lives and having a senior pet just means you have had that special someone in your life for a long time. We want to help you continue that wonderful bond by not only extending the length of your pet's life but by making him/her as comfortable as possible.

We hope you will be able to join us on Wednesday August 27th at 6:30 p.m. for our Senior Pet Wellness Fair. We look forward to seeing you there. Please call ahead if planning to attend.



3rd Annual Puppy Luau –

We hope you were able to join us on Wednesday June 11th for our 3rd annual Puppy Luau! It was a beautiful evening which allowed us to play outside in the baby pool as well as play some games. Congratulations to "Dayton" Mills who was our winner for Musical Beach Towels and "Flash" Skahill who walked away as Limbo champ!

Everyone had fun making paw print birth certificates of their puppies. The chicken flavored slush puppies were a big hit among the party animals and the fruit flavored ones were a favorite among the two-legged guests.

Thank you to all who attended and we hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did!



“Time is of the essence so any time saved is precious.”

Employee Spotlight –

We would like to take the opportunity to introduce Dr. Tara Cumley as our new full time veterinarian. After a year of searching for just the right doctor to add to our practice, we have found her. Although nobody can replace Dr. Amy in our practice or our hearts, Dr. Cumley is fast becoming a staff and client favorite.

Dr. Cumley was born and raised in Inwood West Virginia along with her 2 sisters and 1 brother. She graduated from Musselman High School in 1999 and received her BS degree in Animal Science from West Virginia University in 2005. She then graduated from Tuskegee University with her DVM this past May. While attending undergrad she worked for 3 years in a small animal practice in Morgantown West Virginia and later worked for another 3 years in a large animal practice at Tuskegee University.

She has now settled here in Maryland with her husband David and 10 month old son Jacob. Among her furry family are dogs “Diesel” a rottweiler, “Molly” a beagle, and “Sugar” a terrier mix. Feline family includes “Cleo” and “Bandit” a one eyed rescue cat. She is also the proud owner of 2 horses; “Blaze” a 9 year old Racking horse with a heart condition and her newest rescue “Otis” a 4 year old Tennessee Walking horse who’s previous owners badly abused. When she rescued Otis he had a fractured jaw and was extremely emaciated.

During her off hours she enjoys everything outside: fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, and softball as she was a pitcher through high school and 2 years in college. We are so excited to have Dr. Cumley on staff. Her sweet nature and love of animals is welcome addition to our wonderful staff. We look forward to having a long and happy relationship with her. Please join us in welcoming her at your next visit.

Mailing Medications –

Is your pet on a chronic medication for thyroid problems, arthritis, or maybe just flea, tick or heartworm prevention? Tired of trying to find the time to pick up the medication? Now for a small fee, we can mail medications directly to your home.

Simply call in the refill, have a credit card number available and we will get the medications out to you within 48 hours. We understand how busy life can get, not to mention the rising cost of gas, and we want to make sure your pets have the medications they need. We are able to mail out medications for less than the cost of a gallon of gas.

Call the office for more information or to order a refill.

First Aid for your Pet –

Snake bites: Summer is a wonderful and sometimes dangerous time of year for our pets. Besides the normal dangers associated with summer such as insect bites and stings, heat stroke, and pesticides, there are other less common problems. One such issue can be snake bites.

The first defense when it comes to snake bites is knowledge.

Types of snakes: In Maryland there are 27 species and subspecies of snakes, two of which are venomous; the timber rattlesnake and copperhead. In comparison, there are 115 species of snakes in all of North America.



Where snakes are found: Snakes can be found almost anywhere in Maryland, from the marshy swampland around the Potomac River to the forest floor in the Allegheny Mountains. During the colder seasons, snakes can make their homes in holes under trees and stumps, under wood piles, and occasionally in basements.

In the event of a bite: First and foremost do not panic. Remove your pet and yourself from the situation as quickly and calmly as possible. If you do not know whether the snake is venomous or not, it is always best to assume that it is.

What to do:

Immobilize the part of the animal that has been bitten by the snake. Try to keep it at or below the level of the heart.

Keep the pet immobile; carry if necessary.

Seek veterinary attention as soon as possible.

Try to retrieve the snake IF it can be done without risk. It is sometimes helpful to identify the type of snake.

Call your veterinarian as soon as you are able to let them know you are on your way. This is especially important as not all veterinary hospitals carry anti-venom and you may need to be redirected elsewhere. Time is of the essence so any time saved is precious.

What NOT to do:

Do not cut over the fang marks.

Do not manipulate the bitten area any more than needed.

Do not allow the pet to move about freely.

Do not ice pack or tourniquet the area.

Do not administer any medications except on a veterinarian’s advice.

Do not use electric shock on the area.

The main goal prior to getting your pet to a veterinarian is to keep the least amount of venom from circulating through the pet’s system as possible. However, keeping too much of the venom in one area, as is done with ice packs or tourniquets, can cause extensive damage to that particular area. The best thing you can do for your pet is to take them to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Time is of the essence and the faster the pet is treated, the better the outcome.



“There are new concepts being learned everyday about how to manage diseases”



National Senior Pet Health Month

As many of you may know, September is National Senior Pet Health Month. When we hear the word “senior” we sometimes think of terms such as weak, ancient, decrepit, elderly, or frail. But instead what we want you to think of are words like vibrant, energetic, spirited, animated, and full of life. How can we accomplish this for your senior pet?

We will start with a basic senior examination. During this examination the doctor will check your pet’s eyes, ears, heart, lungs, and check for any growths or skin abnormalities. Depending on your pet’s age and findings during the exam, the doctor may recommend further testing. Many “senior diseases” if caught early on can be successfully managed, giving your pet a longer and more comfortable life.

Additional testing might include:

* CBC (Complete Blood Count) – this test is used to check for infection, anemia, and autoimmune disorders.

* Blood Profile – checks liver, kidney, and pancreatic functions. Also checks blood glucose which if elevated could indicate diabetes.

• Urinalysis – indicates changes in kidney function and the possibility of bladder stones.

• Electrocardiogram (EKG) – monitors the pet’s heart rate and beat. Changes in rhythm can be a sign of heart disease in pets.

• T4 (Thyroid) – Thyroid issues can be fairly common in senior pets and require daily medications to control symptoms.

• Chest Radiographs (X-rays) – are helpful in diagnosing heart disease and lung issues.

• Intra Ocular Pressure (IOP) – checks for glaucoma. Certain breeds of dogs and cats are pre-disposed to glaucoma although any pet can get glaucoma.

• Blood pressure – some diseases, such as hyperthyroidism in cats can cause high blood pressure as well.

• Schirmer Tear Test – tests for dry eye

• Fecal – although many pets are dewormed as youngsters, it is important as pets age to check for parasites at least once a year. The very young and very old are usually the most susceptible to parasites.

Pets are considered to be senior at the age of 7 years (5 years for large or giant breed dogs). The sooner we begin a senior program, the better the outcome for your pet. Age is not a disease. There are new concepts being learned everyday about how to manage diseases; everything from arthritis to senility can be treated and successfully managed if caught early on.

You as the pet owner also play an important role in caring for your senior pet. While we have the tools needed to test for diseases, you are the one that lives with your senior everyday and can observe if there is something out of the ordinary. Below please find a checklist of some common signs that your senior pet may need attention:

Is your pet forgetting to tell you when he needs to go out?

Is your pet slow to rise from a laying position?

Do you notice your pet limping?

Is your pet getting “lost” in the house; i.e. gets stuck in the corner and does not know how to get out, or forgets where his food bowl is?

Is your pet having accidents in the house?

Are there any changes in eating habits or activity levels?

Does your pet no longer greet you at the door when you come home?

If you are concerned at all about your pet the best thing you can do is bring them in for a physical examination. We will be glad to design a senior program especially for your senior pet based on his individual needs.

Our goal is to make you and your pets’ lives easier. Please feel free to ask us any questions you might have about these issues.

Mudd Volleyball –

The Funkstown Hellcats are back once again and ready to get down and dirty for a good cause. For the 7th year now, we will participate in the Washington County Community Free Clinic’s Mudd Volleyball tournament! This tournament acts as a fundraiser for the free clinic, which provides health care to working individuals who do not have health insurance. As an event sponsor and entering 2 teams the Hellcats and Hellhounds, we were able to raise \$2,400 last year.

This year’s tournament will again be held at Citi Group on Saturday July 19th beginning at 9 a.m. We would love to have a cheering section on the day of the tournament, or if you prefer to make a donation, we would very much appreciate it. If you do come to cheer us on, don’t forget your canned good to use as a parking fee. And always wear clothes that you don’t care about as the mud is everywhere!

Schedule of Events –

July – Pediatrics Month

Thursday July 3rd – Staff seminar by Novartis Animal Health 1-3 p.m. Office Closed

Friday July 4th – Independence Day – Office Closed

Saturday July 5th – Office Closed

Wednesday July 9th – Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank here

Saturday July 19th – Mudd Volleyball – Office Closed

August

Wednesday August 27th – Senior Pet Wellness Fair – 6:30 p.m.

September – National Senior Pet Health Month

Monday September 1st – Labor Day – Office Closed



Pet Fair and Fall Festival –

COME ONE, COME ALL! Join us on Saturday October 18th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for our annual Pet Fair & Fall Festival!

For the 8th year now, we will celebrate the human-animal bond with a day of entertainment, education, and socialization. Some of our events/vendors include:

Kid's Corner with pumpkin carving & crafts – going on all day

Caricaturist for your pet (\$20 minimum donation per pet) 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Doggie Games – 12:00 p.m.

- Musical Sit
- Snoopy Says
- Doggie IQ Game
- Red Rover
- Doggie Ball Pit



Phoenix Landing Bird Rescue

Refreshments by donation – make sure you come hungry

Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank – Free Dog Blood Typing

Grooming demonstration by Briar Patch Pet Salon – Free Toenail Trims

Briggs Animal Adoption Center with pets for adoption

Raffles - \$1.00 per chance or 6 for \$5.00

Hospital Tours – going on all day

Pet Costume Parade and Contest – 1:00 p.m.

* Prizes awarded for: Prettiest, Scariest, Cutest, and Most Original

M.A.S.H. Unit for all of your “sick” stuffed animals – Bring them along and assist in surgery as the doctor sutures them back to new!

Mason & Dixon Kennel Club with Flyball & agility demonstrations.

Stayed tuned for information about a Police K-9 Unit demonstration.

All of the proceeds from this event will be donated to help care for the homeless animals of Washington County. We are anticipating another fun filled day. We invite you to bring the whole family including any and all of your pets. We will have activities for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!

Satellite Adoptions –

We have had wonderful success lately with finding homes for some frisky felines. We want to thank everyone who has either given one of these beautiful cats a home or referred folks to us. We found homes for 6 cats in one month! As wonderful as this news is, there are always more animals that need homes. A good place to venture to if you are looking for a new friend is the Humane Society of Washington County. They have endless numbers of cats, dogs, rabbits, even hamsters and fish that need good homes. You may visit their website at www.hswcmd.org to see a list of animals for adoption.

Our current resident is “Princess” who was found as a stray in downtown Hagerstown. She had recently had kittens although none were found. She is approximately 2 years old and loves nothing more than to be petted and adored. She has tested negative for Felv/FIV, been spayed, vaccinated, and dewormed. Now all this beautiful girl needs is a forever home. Please feel free to stop by and visit Princess and spread the word that if anyone is looking for a mature but playful kitty companion, Princess just might be the one!

Staff Meetings –

For the time being our weekly staff meetings on Thursday from 1 – 3 p.m. will be staying the same. However, sometime in the near future we may be changing our staff meeting days. The office is closed during our staff meetings so please be patient with us as we work out the bugs. Thank you for your cooperation.

www.funkestow.net.com

Your Owner (Slave)
Sincerely,

The proper order is...kiss me, then go smell the other dog's butt. I can not stress this enough. It would be such a simple change for you.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I bear you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, attempt to turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. In addition, I have been using bathrooms for years, canine or feline attendance is not mandatory.

My compact discs are not miniature Frisbees.

I can not buy anything bigger than a king size bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space used is nothing but sarcasm.

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a race track. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me does not help, because I fall faster than you can run.

I can not buy anything bigger than a king size bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space used is nothing but sarcasm.

Just for Fun-



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