

New Summer Hours!!

During those hot summer days, we're offering evening hours on Wednesdays. Call us for more info.



Inside this issue:

<i>Summertime Hazards</i>	1
<i>Welcome Dr. Coetser</i>	1
<i>Our Kitty Mango</i>	2
<i>Ultrasound</i>	2
<i>The Romy Fund</i>	2
<i>Visits to the Vet Clinic</i>	3
<i>On a Personal Note</i>	3
<i>From the Grooming Room</i>	3
<i>Interesting Cases</i>	4

### Summertime Hazards

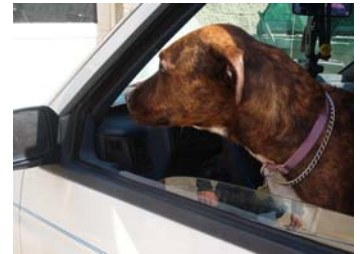
There is no denying that summer in the North Okanagan can be **HOT**, and our pets suffer as much as we do if not properly prepared for the heat. Dogs and cats are unable to sweat to cool their bodies and must pant instead. In the same fashion as sweating though, this dehydrates their systems quickly and therefore plenty of available water is the cornerstone of helping your pet deal with the summer temperatures. Providing shade throughout the day will reduce the risk of heat stroke as well. Putting ice cubes in the drinking water or freezing a wet rope toy can provide coolness in the mouth. Heat stroke should be sus-

pected if continuous panting, staggering, or starry glazed over eyes are seen - call us immediately!

Other common summertime problems for dogs are ear infections and hotspots.

If your dog likes to swim, dry the ears out with a tissue after he/she is done. Rinse your dog with clean water.

Hotspots are areas on the skin that show up very suddenly as moist, smelly, oozing patches. These are inflammatory problems (as opposed to infections) and are often secondary to allergies to flea bites or certain treats. These areas are intensely itchy and very painful for your



*Never leave your pet in a vehicle in summer - temperatures rise quickly, even if the windows are down.*

dog. They require medical attention soon as they will get worse without medication.

*Nikki, Animal Health Tech*

Look for these articles in our next newsletter

- Dentistry
- Our very own Vanna White
- Our Website tour
- Dr. Ringness' furry-family
- From the Grooming Room
- Visits to the Vet Clinic

### Welcome Dr. Christa Coetser

We are pleased to announce Dr. Christa Coetser will be joining our team as an associate veterinarian. Dr. Coetser is an experienced small animal practitioner, well versed in surgical and medical fields. She graduated from Vet school in 1993, and has since completed

an Internship at the Atlantic Veterinary College.

Dr. Coetser has a particular interest in oncology (various aspects of cancer diagnosis and treatment).

Dr. Coetser has a 5 year old son and enjoys the lively antics

of her Pug, Billy.



*Dr. Coetser is performing an ultrasound on a cat with Nikki assisting.*

## Our Kitty Mango



*Mango is our "official greeter in training"*

Mango is the newest of our clinic cat family. She was brought in to the clinic a few months ago by a concerned citizen who found her dragging her backend into their yard.

Being rather scared upon arrival at the clinic, we allowed her a few hours to calm down before we were able to assess her injuries. Unfortunately, radiographs showed us she had suffered a broken pelvis. The type of fracture though, lent itself

well to healing on its own with simple cage rest. The fact that she was still a kitten (approximately 4 months old), she healed extremely quickly; she was running around exploring the clinic in no time.

Her personality melted our hearts and we once again made the decision to adopt this kitten as a clinic cat. Nikki, our AHT offered up the name Mango and we all agreed.

It hasn't taken Mango long to

learn the job of official greeter from Maria. When you come to the clinic, you can expect to either have to step over Mango, sprawled on the front door mat, or waiting on the front desk or one of the seats. She'll be happy to say "hi"!

*Tammy, Veterinary Receptionist*

## Ultrasound Now Available

We are excited to announce that Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital has recently acquired an ultrasound machine. Unlike previous generations of ultrasound machines, this is a specially designed hybrid analog/digital computer form; a process which delivers amazing images.

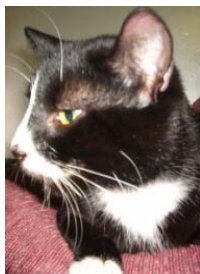
An ultrasound machine is useful in diagnosing problems that conventional imaging (radiographs) may not be able to. The ability to view the thickness of the heart wall, how the valves are working, and the size of the individual chambers of the heart is invaluable in determining the appropriate treatment for each

heart patient. Masses in the abdomen, bladder stones, pregnancy diagnosis, and a host of other concerns are now easily addressed in a simple, non-invasive way.

*Doris, Practice Manager*

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## The Romy Fund - An Update



*Bill is doing much better after his brief stay at the hospital*

Once again we are honoured to highlight the generosity of our clients in helping animals in need of medical attention. Bruce Secord has made a very generous donation this month.

In turn, Bill the cat has been the recipient of this fund. Brought in by his owner in the

middle of the night, it was determined that Bill had been hit by a car. His jaw was fractured, he had a minor laceration on his chin and his tongue was cut almost in half. He was stable, but my fear was damage to chest and his ability to breath. His owner was able to pay for some of the costs, but was very

concerned that the radiographs (needed to determine the extent of damage to the lung) was simply something she could not afford. The Romy fund, therefore, was able to cover the additional costs for this cat. He is doing very well, his jaw is healing nicely.

*Dr Kristina Ringness*

## Visits to the Vet Clinic

### Yearly Health/Wellness Exam and Vaccination

Prevention is the best medicine, and that is why we recommend a yearly health exam for your family pet. Either along with your pet's yearly vaccines, or on its own, a yearly health exam can help you and your veterinarian keep current with your pet's overall health.

When you and your pet arrive at the hospital for your appointment, the first thing we

will do is weigh your pet. During the appointment, the doctor will ask you questions that will help give her a broader picture of the health of your pet. For example, if there is any change in behaviour, appetite, weight, any new lumps or bumps, and most importantly if you, the owner, have any concerns. A full physical exam is done, which includes listening to your pet's heart and lungs, checking their ears, eyes, and mouth. Their **body condition score** along with the

weight allow us to determine if weight loss is needed to reduce the health risks that obesity predisposes for (heart disease, diabetes, etc.). After the exam, if there are no concerns and the doctor has discussed which vaccines are appropriate for your pet, she will then vaccinate. These vaccines help protect your pet from the infectious diseases found in this region.

*Lisa, Veterinary Receptionist*



*Indy is in for her yearly check-up. A fractured tooth was found.*

## On a Personal Note

Doris, our Practice Manager, met Lotto about 17 years ago. As a six-month old puppy, he was found wandering the streets near the SPCA. Doris was volunteering for the SPCA at the time, and fell in love with this adorable little dog. Doris felt they were lucky to have found one another, hence the name Lotto 649, or Lotto

for short. In his early days, Lotto loved to go to the beach where the waves seemed "out to get him" as he raced out and in with the incoming water.

He had a close circle of friends, but sadly they have passed on. Now as a retired gentleman, he spends his day relaxing at home waiting for Doris to get

home from work. The highlight of Lotto's day is of course meal time.

Despite his heart condition and numerous medications for this, Lotto is enjoying life with his dear friend Doris.

*Colleen, Veterinary Assistant*



## Summer Grooming for Dogs - From the Grooming Room

Most people believe that a very short haircut is needed to keep their dogs cool during the summer heat. This is not necessarily true. A very short clip leaves your dog vulnerable to sunburn and insect bites. A better alternative is leaving a little bit of length to protect their skin. Also, if your home is air-

conditioned, a haircut that is very short may allow them to be chilled in the house.

Shaving a double-coated breed, unless prescribed by your veterinarian for health reasons, is also not recommended. The guard hairs serve an important function as an insulator from

both cold and heat. These dogs should definitely be groomed though. A thorough removal of all the undercoat and a thinning and shortening of the coat will make these breeds more comfortable during the summer season.

*Jan James - The Grooming Room*



*Golden Retrievers require thorough grooming in Spring to remove undercoat*

## Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital

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*Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital strives to give you and your pets the premium service you are seeking. From the smile at the front desk, to Dr. Ringness herself answering the phone on all emergency/after-hours calls, we believe in being accountable to you.*



## *Addison's Disease*

Addison's disease (or Hypoadrenocorticism) is often a difficult disease to diagnose. Typically, a dog (rarely a cat) will present in collapse with a history of vague "my dog hasn't been quite right for a couple of months" symptoms.

In this case though, a large male Great Dane, Kona, arrived at the clinic because he was vomiting and had diarrhea for about a week. This is a disease that is diagnosed by sending bloodwork in to the lab. It is a

disease that affects the body's ability to regulate electrolytes in the blood and can result in the animal suddenly becoming so weak that they go into shock and can be fatal if not treated quickly and appropriately with IV fluids and medication.

Once diagnosed, the disease is usually fairly easy to manage with daily medication or a once a month injection. Frequent bloodwork to monitor how well the medication is regulating electro-

lytes is needed. The medication will be needed for the rest of the dog's life

Other clinical symptoms you may see at home before this becomes critical would be drinking and urinating excessively and weakness. The dogs that are typically affected by this disease are young to middle age (2-6 years old).

Kona is doing well now with only a few minor setbacks.

*Dr. Kristina Ringness*



*Kona is a 3 year old male Great Dane who has Addison's disease.*