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Visits to the Vet Clinic

Ear infections are one of the most common reasons to visit the vet clinic. There are many different causes and methods of treatment; this article will help clarify some of the mystery.

What is an ear infection? If you see your dog (or sometimes your cat) scratching at her ears, they are sensitive to touch, there may be an unpleasant odour, and if you lift the ear flap, you may see redness, and discharge, your first step (if this is your first encounter) is to phone us and book an appointment. Over the phone, the receptionist may hint that this is an ear infection, unfortunately, over the phone it can-

not be determined what is the cause and therefore what the appropriate treatment should be.

Once the vet has had a chance to see your pet and ask you a series of questions, it can be determined if this is an acute or chronic problem.

Acute infections may affect any breed of dog and include causes such as speargrass in the ear canal, or from a recent bout of swimming. If left untreated, the shaking involved with acute infections may cause the ear flap to swell from a burst blood vessel—an aural hematoma. If treated prior to

this, often infections can be resolved simply by placing medication in the ear(s) twice daily. Occasionally, sedation may be required to flush the ear or remove the speargrass from the canal.

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Any dog who likes to run through long grass, is at risk for speargrass finding its way into the ear canal.

Hallowe'en Hazzards

- Fireworks are scary for many dogs and cats, please ensure they are safe at home
- Black cats are prime targets for mischief
- Hallowe'en treats must be kept out of reach of our pets
- Drop in to see our great costumes this year!!!!

From the Grooming Room

Homecare between grooming appointments (part one)

Many dog owners are not sure what they need to do to care for their dogs between their professional groomings. All dogs need to be brushed and combed thoroughly every

week. Frequency and length of time you will spend will be determined by the type of hair your dog has and the style in which they are trimmed.

Grooming tools are very important and your groomer will be happy to advise you on the

correct brush and comb to use. Most dogs need a good slicker brush to remove tangles and to get down to the skin. Pin or bristle brushes are not generally useful.

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Healthy Teeth, Healthy Pet

Disease of the mouth is one of the most common ailments affecting dogs and cats today, and with more and more research and understanding into these problems, dentistry is a routine part of our pets' healthcare. As high as 85% of cats and dogs have some form of periodontal disease, leading to pain, foul breath, and tooth loss. Chronic infections can lead to heart, liver, lung and kidney damage! Dentistries are done as a rou-

tine procedure at the hospital with your pet under a general anaesthetic. The cleaning, or prophylaxis, is done with a high speed scaler, followed by a polishing of all surfaces - just like us! The teeth and gums are all charted for abnormalities and areas of concern. These are then explained to you when you pick up your pet later that same day.

During your pet's yearly health exam, your vet will examine

the oral cavity, especially in older patients. At home, you can continue to monitor the teeth and gums for signs of yellowing of the teeth, redness along the gumline, and of course, bad breath. Be aware if your pet becomes reluctant to eat, drops his food, paws at his face, or develops any swelling under the eyes.

Dental exams can be booked simply by calling us.

Nikki, AHT



Even young cats can develop dental disease such as stomatitis

Have You Checked Out Our Website?

Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital has reached another milestone this summer with the launching of our website www.crescentfallsvet.com. We feel communication with our clients is an essential part of our commitment to our clients and we recognize that we live in a time where people turn to the internet to search for the information they require.

Our goal is to provide valuable information that is relevant to our clients and at the same time making sure the information is current and accurate.

We have created several pages including "Meet the Doctor" and "Meet the Staff" and the huge hit, "Is it an Emergency?"

You will also find links to our Newsletters (such as this one)

and an upcoming library with various topics to help you understand various diseases.

There is lots of great information and fantastic photos of our pets and some of yours too! Most importantly there is a "Contact Us" page if you have comments for us.

Doris, Practice Manager

Check out our website at www.crescentfallsvet.com

From the Grooming Room - continued

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Careful attention must be paid to the areas prone to matting. These include behind the ears, the chest and underarm area, the backs of the legs, and between the toes.

Always follow with a combing to ensure you have removed all

the mats; a brush can glide over the top third of the coat, missing the undercoat entirely.

Your groomer will be delighted to show you how to maintain your dog, and both of you will be delighted with the results.

Jan James - The Grooming Room



This Maltese-Poodle requires extensive at-home care between groomings.

On a Personal Note

Dr Ringness' four-legged family includes several cats and dogs and two horses.

In the canine category, there is Bristol, her "old man". He arrived at the farm 12 years ago while she was still attending vet school. He is a black & white Pointer X Lab who brought home two little black & white kittens in his mouth one day from the neighbouring farm, unharmed. At an age when most dogs would be slowing

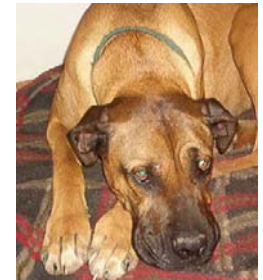
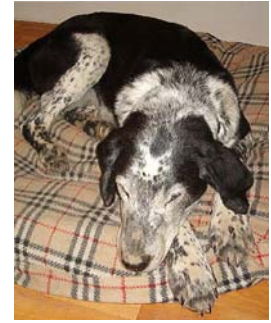
down, Bristol is still out hunting coyote, bear, and just last month, yet another in a long line of porcupine.

Stratos, the "Brown Dog" is a Boxer X Great Dane who has the tail of a Dane with the excited wag of a Boxer - a lethal combination! When Stratos was just eight months old, she went missing one sunny winter day. As darkness fell, still missing, Dr Ringness searched the snow covered fields for her.

She was found caught in a coyote leg-hold trap. After freeing her and carrying her home through the deep snow, an anxious 24 hours was spent wondering whether or not her leg would need to be amputated. Fortunately today, she is able to chase the coyotes on four legs along side Bristol.

Dr Ringness currently has just three cats. She adopted Jaguar from the SPCA in Saskatoon

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The Fabulous Life of "Vanna White"

Vanna, a long-time resident clinic cat, didn't always have the life of a celebrity. She was rescued at the waste disposal site by a good samaritan. Already set to be the queen, she was unable to stay at her new home where two other cats already lived. Through a series of events, we adopted her here. Her name came about because of her colour. A cat who is

mostly white is referred to as a Van. Given her queenly attitude, her rescuer thought Vanna White an appropriate name.

Vanna thinks she is Vanna White with the luxurious life she leads. She comes and goes as she pleases, prancing around the back field. We occasionally receive a call from a

neighbouring business saying she's visiting them again, and they send her home.

Once home, Vanna can be seen lounging in the "Penthouse Suite" cat condo in the reception area of the clinic.

And that's the Fabulous Life of clinic cat, Vanna.

Tammy, Receptionist



Visits to the Vet Clinic - continued

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Chronic ear infections may affect some breeds of dogs more than others. Breeds such as Cocker Spaniels, Labrador Retrievers, and Golden Retrievers are among the most common seen for this problem. Although the infection

may involve bacteria or yeast, there is often an underlying cause such as food allergies or hypothyroidism. Food trials or bloodwork may be in order to help determine if the primary disease can be treated, thus reducing or sometimes eliminating the ear infections. As with acute infections, the ears

themselves are usually treated with topical medications; occasionally an ear flush with or without sedation is necessary.

Lisa, Receptionist



Labrador Retrievers often have chronic ear infections

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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.



On a Personal Note - continued



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her first month at vet school. Jag is a black domestic short-hair cat who knows she's queen of the household.

Desmo is an eleven year old longhaired polydactyl (he has extra toes). On his first trip home in his kennel, he decided to splash water out of the dish until he was finally let out. He then proceeded to curl up in the driver's lap and slept peacefully for the 6 hour trip home.

Dr Ringness' third cat is her barn cat, Mac. He is a grey & white tabby cat who was adopted 7 years ago. Right



from the start, Mac's job has been to patrol the farm for mice and of course snooze in the haystack. True to most barn cat personalities, Mac adores affection and has so far avoided both the coyotes and the traffic.

Dr Ringness also has two horses, Simon and Dario. Simon is a 17 year old Paint who enjoys going for a ride as much as Dr Ringness. Dario is a two year old Warmblood who you can see as a newborn in the picture to the right. He is a gentle horse who learns quickly. At over 16 hands, he's not finished growing yet; Dr

Ringness will need a step stool just to groom him.

Colleen, Vet Assistant

