



# Spring has Sprung

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## Spring ticks

As Spring approaches, the warm weather also brings with it new hazards for our pets. Ticks show up early in Spring and can not only bite us, but can also bite out pets. Ticks cause a nasty welt that can become infected, but can also carry Lyme disease and cause tick paralysis.

Lyme disease is caused by a spirochete bacteria transmitted by certain species of ticks. **Not every tick is carrying Lyme disease**, but both humans and dogs can get Lyme disease from ticks. A classic “bull’s eye” rash around the site of the tick bite can be an indication that the tick is carrying Lyme disease. Usually, if the tick is

on the host for less than 48 hours, transmission does not occur. Therefore, it is important to check you and your pet daily for ticks if you have been walking outdoors.

Symptoms of Lyme disease usually begin two to five months after tick exposure and include fever, shifting leg lameness, enlarged lymph nodes, loss of appetite, lethargy, and kidney failure. A long term course of antibiotics is the treatment for Lyme disease, although it may become chronic with relapses occurring. There is also a vaccine available for Lyme disease which may be advisable if you have found ticks more than

once on your dog.

Another problem ticks can cause in your dog is tick paralysis. The tick injects a neurotoxin into the dog which

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*Dogs who run through the bushes are more at risk for picking up ticks than couch potatoes*

## How Tattoos Work:

- You have your animal tattooed while under anaesthetic
- The tattoo is a combination of letters and numbers that indicate which vet clinic your animal was tattooed at and who is the owner
- The person who finds your animal sees the tattoo in the ear and calls their vet or the SPCA
- You receive a call that your pet has been found!!!

## Mango has Returned!!

We have fantastic news... our beloved cat Mango has been found!!! Tattoos really work!

Mango is our orange tabby kitten who went missing last July. After weeks of searching, we resigned ourselves to her being gone. Then, in February,

out of the blue, we received a call from the SPCA regarding a tattoo number on a found cat. The tattoo number matched our little Mango. She had been living across the street from the clinic. The people at that business had been putting out food for her for a few months,

but hadn’t been able to get close enough to even pet her until that day. She recognized us immediately, and although a little skittish for a few days, she settled into clinic life once again very quickly.

*Jill, Veterinary Receptionist*

25-40% of our pets are not just overweight, but obese.

## Overweight Pets

What is obesity? Obesity is defined as a 15-20% excess over ideal body weight and according to Medi-Cal research, it is estimated that 25-40% of our pets fall into this category.



Like people, obesity leads to various types of health problems in your pet such as, diabetes, joint problems, respiratory and heart problems. Overall, this leads to a decrease in quality of life and life expectancy.

Is your pet overweight? Here's some simple steps:

1. Can you feel ribs? You should!
2. Looking from the top, does your pet have a waist?
3. Looking from the side, does your pet have a tummy tuck?

Why is your pet overweight? The main cause is an excess of calories going in for the

amount of exercise. This is the result of free-feeding, human food consumption and too many treats. Other causes would include metabolic disorders such as hypothyroidism.

What do you do? We all want a healthy pet, so please come in and see us to rule out medical problems. From there, our staff would be delighted to establish a weight loss program with you, designed specifically for your pet!

## Anna



Anna joined our team in July, 2005

Anna is our soft spoken Animal Health Technologist who immigrated to Canada in 1999 from Sweden.

Anna received her Animal Health Technology training at the Thompson River University in Kamloops. She has now settled in our area with her 3 horses, 1 dog and 3 cats.

Anna spends her recreational time riding and is a member of the Interior Arab Club.

Around the clinic Anna is very good at helping other staff members learn the ropes. Her easy going manner makes it very enjoyable to work with her.

A confirmed cat lover, Anna

loves spending time with our various clinic cats. She admits that Jack is her favourite.

You will see Anna around the clinic with a smile on her face and always happy to answer your questions.

*Charleen, Veterinary Receptionist*

## From the Grooming Room



Groomer Jan James is pleased to announce the addition of a new state of the art hydro massage bathing system. This is now available exclusively for her clients at The Grooming Room.

This hydrotherapy system flushes warm soapy water through your dogs coat. High

pressure, high volume water jets loosen dead hair and skin scales lifting dirt and grime.

Your dog will love the massage and his coat will be cleaned and conditioned like never before. Excellent for arthritic dogs as it is soothing to their joints. Highly effectively for medicated baths as the sham-

poo is spread evenly over the entire dog.

Jan is continuously educating herself on the latest techniques and products available. She is proud to be the first groomer in this area to offer hydromassage bathing.

## Pet Overpopulation

Vernon and area has a problem with pet overpopulation. Contributing to this problem are pets that are abandoned when their owners move, or unwanted pets that are dropped off on rural roads or at the landfill. If the animal is not spayed or neutered they will reproduce and thus add to the problem. Non-altered animals owned by irresponsible owners or owners that can't afford to have their pet spayed or neutered also contribute to pet

overpopulation. One female and one male dog, and their puppies can produce 67,000 dogs over a 6 year period!!! One female and male cat and their kittens cans produce 420,000 cats over a 7 year period!!!! You can see how things can get out of hand. Stray animals looking for food break into garbage and fight with owned pets. They may also spread disease to other animals. Things can go terribly

wrong when people put out poison for these strays and owned animals and wildlife may get into the poison too. Okanagan Humane Society and Vernon & District Animal Care Society are helping people who can't afford to have their animal spayed or neutered. They are also trying to help with the control of stray cats and place cats in new homes. You can help by donating time, baked goods (for sales) or money to these organizations.

*Anna, Animal Health Technologist*



*Kittens and puppies are adorable, but please do not add to overpopulation*

## Ticks

Causes a gradual paralysis, usually starting with the hind legs and progressing forward. Treatment involves removing the tick (or ticks) or, if it can't be found, treating the dog with an insecticide to kill the tick. Recovery is rapid once the tick is removed, usually within 24 hours.

Although ticks can cause serious problems, most can be avoided by carefully checking you pet daily during tick season. If you find a tick on your dog, you may carefully remove it yourself, by grasping the tiny head embedded in the skin with a pair of tweezers. Alter-

natively, we are always happy to help with this, simply give us a call.  
*Dr. Christine Harrold*

**Lyme disease is transmitted by certain ticks, but the risk in our area is very low.**

## Romy Fund Update

The Romy Fund has been relatively quiet this term. We've had an anonymous donation to help with animals who have been struck by vehicles. Our sole recipient is a stray cat who came in with a lame hind leg. The people who brought him in did not know what had

happened to him. After radiographs were performed, it was evident that his leg had a fracture just above the ankle area. Given the type of fracture, and that it had already begun to heal, we opted not to do any surgery. The people who had found

him decided to adopt this fine fellow. Another success story thanks to the generous contributions of people like you. As always, we thank you so much.  
*Dr. Kristina Ringness*



*This kitty has a fractured leg. We were able to do X-rays.*

## 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.*



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### *Patient of the Month*



*Echo has a disease in which her own immune system destroys her ability to make new Red Blood Cells*

Echo has been through several months of very difficult treatment for a disease that destroys not just her red blood cells, but the cells in her bone marrow that make the red blood cells she needs to survive.

Echo is a Shih Tzu who has not yet turned three. After successfully whelping and raising a litter of pups, her owners felt she just wasn't getting her energy back. We did some preliminary blood tests on her only to find out she did not have enough red blood cells (hence very little energy) and not for the usual reasons we would typically diagnose. In-

stead, a bone marrow biopsy revealed Echo has a disease called Pure Red Cell Aplasia; her own immune system destroys the cells that make her red blood cells.

Once diagnosed, we were able to start treatment with immunosuppressants. We saw some initial improvement, but then she remained steady at a still very low level of red blood cells. We then tried a different combination of drugs and have been very successful so far in growing some new red cells.

Immune-mediated diseases such as this can be difficult to diagnose and then to treat. We

are constantly trying to suppress the patient's own immune system so that it will not continue to destroy the body's own cells. As a result, these patients are very susceptible to infections as well as the side effects of these toxic drugs.

So far, Echo has not had to endure any serious side effects. And once her red blood cell count is back up in the normal range, we will try to lower the dosages of the drugs that she is on. We will never cure her, but hopefully her remission we be long-term.

*Dr. Kristina Ringness*