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## *New Faces At Our Place*

Over the last couple of months, our staff has had a few changes. We'd like to introduce you to the new faces you'll see when you come through our door.

On the front desk, Charleen is our Monday to Friday receptionist. She comes to our clinic with lots of experience in the field, having worked in Saskatoon for many years. You will see Jill on Saturdays greeting you at the front door. Jill took her training in Ottawa and is enjoying our Okanagan weather.

Our new Animal Health Technologist is Anna. Originally from Sweden, she moved to



Canada and took her training in this field in Kamloops.

And last, but certainly not least, we have been joined by a new associate veterinarian, Dr Christine Harrold. Check out the feature article on Dr Harrold later in this issue.

*Back row: Jill, reception; Jan James, groomer; Dr. Christine Harrold*

*Front row: Charleen, reception; Dr. Kristina Ringness; Anna, AHT; Nikki, AHT (and Maria)*

### Inappropriate Urination:

- Pets who drink a lot will often urinate where they shouldn't
- Pets with a urinary tract infection will urinate where they shouldn't
- Spayed female dogs sometimes "leak" when sleeping

## *Don't Take It Personally*

Many pet owners think that when their previously house-trained pet urinates in the house, it means that their pet is mad at them. Not so; they may be trying to tell you there is a medical problem. There are three general categories of problems.

"Scaredy cats" are afraid to go to the litter box, because they

associate the litter box with painful urination or loud noises.

The "bed-wetter" is usually seen in dogs with low estrogen levels after they have been spayed. Typically the owner reports regularly finding a wet spot on the dog's bed.

The "leg-crosser" is the dog or

cat who is drinking so much water due to an illness such as diabetes or kidney disease, that they just can't "hold it" until you come home from work or get up in the morning.

The good news is that these problems are treatable and most pets return to their normal selves with treatment.

*Dr Chris Harrold*

## Your New Puppy



*Nan visits us for her 2nd vaccine at three months of age.*

Have you recently adopted a puppy? What do you do next? Here are some answers for you.

Your new puppy needs a health exam and vaccine at 8, 12, and 16 weeks. During these visits, your puppy will be dewormed as well. The vaccine will help prevent Distemper Virus, Parvovirus, and the viral portion of Kennel Cough. Rabies vaccine is also recommended at 16 weeks.

Be patient and consistent with

house training. Your pup will need to go out after waking up from a nap, after eating, and after playing. You will soon learn to recognize his signals that he needs to go outside; often this involves being near the door.

Crate training can be very advantageous. It helps your dog be accustomed to being enclosed while in the vehicle or spending a day at the vet. The most beneficial aspect is that your dog is safe from chewing/destroying your house while

you are away during the day. Choose a crate large enough for your dog to stand and turn around in. A small room or playpen can be used as well. Ensure the crate is where the family spends a lot of time. Ultimately, you are providing a den for your dog. The crate should never be used for punishment in the training stages.

Contact us for more information. We have informative pamphlets on these and many other topics.

## The Romy Fund



The Romy fund has seen a fair bit of activity on both sides of the fence in the last couple of months. We thought we'd update you.

Generous contributions have been received from Barbara Parker (a regular contributor), Jeanne Vowles, and a donation from Maureen Sieg, in memory

of Kira Cieurka, a lovely Doberman Pinscher.

Patients we've been able help with the Romy fund include Chopper (pictured to the left) who came in to the clinic gasping for air. The cost of radiographs was covered by the fund, thus allowing us to make the diagnosis of Cardiomyopa-

thy and start treatment

Our second recipient was a dog named Yogi who was hit by a car. A laceration to the inside of his leg was repaired with help from the Romy fund.

The generosity of our clients continues to help those less fortunate animals, and we thank them .

## On a Personal Note

*Dr Harrold enjoying some time with her horse*



We are please to announce the addition to our hospital of associate veterinarian, Dr. Christine Harrold.

Dr. Harrold is a native of the Edmonton area and began her education at Lakeland College. She received a degree in Agriculture at the University of

Saskatchewan before attending the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon.

Dr. Harrold owned her own small animal practice in Sherwood Park for eight years. She then moved to Grand Forks where she worked in both large and small animal practices.

Dr. Harrold decided to move to the Okanagan to be closer to family. She brings with her 2 horses, 1 dog, and 2 cats.

Dr. Harrold's knowledge, kindness, and understanding of patient care make her a perfect fit for our growing clinic.

*Charleen, Veterinary Receptionist*

## Your New Kitten

Have you adopted a new kitten recently? Here's a few tips and need-to-know things.

Your new kitten should receive a health check and vaccine at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age. This vaccine protects against Panleukopenia (feline distemper) and three upper respiratory diseases. If your kitty will be going outside, then we recommend a vaccine for Feline Leukemia Virus as well at the 12 and 16 week visits. De-

worming is also done at each of these visits. Whether or not your cat will be indoor or outdoor, a Rabies vaccine is highly recommended to protect your cat and your family against this fatal disease.

Litter training your new kitten should be very straight forward; most kittens automatically use litter in preference to other substrates. If there are problems, consider trying a different litter type (clumping

vs clay), ensuring the kitten has easy access (the sides of the box are not too high, the stairs aren't too scary), the box is in a quiet location (not next the furnace that turns on suddenly) and finally if you have a multi-cat household, that there is one more box than cat in the house, in at least two different locations, to reduce social aggression/dominance between cats.

Last but not least, enjoy!!

*Anna, AHT*



*Ensure your kitten is protected when exploring the environment*

## Is Your Pet Drinking Too Much?

Is your dog or cat drinking too much and then urinating too often? This can be a gradual change, or a rapid, very obvious change. Your pet may be young or old, male or female.

Drinking too much and then urinating too much (we call this polyuria/polydipsia or PU/PD) is the hallmark sign of

13 very specific diseases for cats and dogs. In most cases we can diagnose which of these diseases may be affecting your pet with history, a physical exam, bloodwork to the lab and a urine sample. Most of these diseases are treatable with good success.

How much is too much? Is

your pet constantly at the water bowl? Does he or she drink for several minutes at one time? Does your dog need to go out in the middle of the night on a regular basis? Is the litter box soaked with urine?

If you have any questions regarding this topic, please don't hesitate to call us.

**"Is your pet constantly at the water bowl? Does he drink for several minutes at one time?"**

## How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?

Maria, one of our resident clinic cats, has been living here for 2 1/2 years. She first joined us to be a friend for Gibson, another resident cat who has since passed away.

Maria will usually greet you at the front desk, and will wait for you to pet her or give her a

treat. She likes to be mischievous, stealing pens off the front counter, and the occasional \$100 bill.

Maria is most known around the clinic for her empathy towards the hospitalized patients. Often, when a very serious case is in the clinic, Maria can

be found attentively watching the proceedings. Once the crisis has passed, she heads back up front to greet clients coming through the door.

*Jill, Veterinary Receptionist*



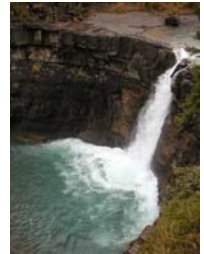
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*Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital strives to give you and your pets the premium service you are seeking. From the smile at the front desk, to Dr. Ringness herself answering the phone on all emergency/after-hours calls, we believe in being accountable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



## *Piranha Puppies and Ferocious Felines*



*Both puppies and kittens can be overly aggressive when playing.*

Puppies and kittens will often exhibit nipping behaviour which we find annoying, but in reality can lead to much more serious behaviour problems.

It is important to teach your puppy or kitten how to use their mouth in an acceptable manner. Avoid games that encourage him to attack your hands and feet. When they do try to get your attention with their mouth, do not reward them with positive or negative attention. Simply remove them or yourself from the situation by getting up, putting the puppy or kitten down and a firm "NO".

Acceptable methods of interacting with your little one include playing fetch (yes, many kittens will play fetch very well), chasing ball, or dangling toys. These all redirect the attack away from your person. And always remember that you should be the one to initiate play with your puppy. If it is obvious your puppy wants to play, have the puppy sit/stay for a moment, then you initiate the play.

By taking the time to curb these behaviours, not only are you saving yourself many of those little bite and scratch wounds, but more importantly,

establishing a proper dominance hierarchy in your household. This will make many facets of your relationship with your puppy of kitten much easier.

*Nikki, AHT*

