



SUMMER HOURS

**WE ARE OPEN
LATE ON THURSDAY
EVENINGS
CALL FOR DETAILS**

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The Summer Itch

Summer is upon us now, and with the wonderful weather more and more of us are going to the many beautiful lakes in our area. We often take our canine friends along. Just like us, our dogs can get swimmer's itch! During the summer months (June to September) tiny worm-like parasites called schistosomes are found in the lakes, and tend to be found near the surface of the water and along the shore.

This parasite's life cycle starts in freshwater snails, then move into waterfowl. On their journey, they may accidentally choose you or your dog to burrow into by mistake. Because we are unsuitable hosts,

these little parasites die; as they die, they cause a reaction which appears as an itchy red rash - otherwise known as swimmer's itch.

Swimmer's itch can be prevented. For humans, a good layer of sunscreen before entering the water can deter these pests. Alternatively, a good shower will remove the parasites before they start to burrow. (If no shower is available, towel off as best you can).

But what about the dog? We obviously can't put sunscreen on the dog, and toweling them off doesn't get down to the skin where the parasites are. Our best option is to hose them off



with fresh water as soon as possible. If you notice a rash a few days later, give us a call to discuss an anti-inflammatory medication for your dog.

Iva, Animal Health Technologist

Diabetes attacks dogs and cats too:

- Usually affects overweight older pets
- First sign is often drinking more and urinating more
- Daily insulin injections are the main treatment
- These injections are surprisingly easy to do

Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes is a well known disease in people, but did you know dogs and cats can get this too? Unlike humans, young animals rarely get diabetes and middle aged or older pets are most commonly affected. Symptoms include weight loss, sometimes with

increased appetite, drinking more and urinating more. Overweight pets are at highest risk.

Just like in humans, diabetes is treatable with diet and daily insulin injections. These can seem like a daunting task, but

most people quickly learn it is easy to do and their pets hardly seem to notice they are getting a needle. Diabetes in dogs and cats need not be a death sentence and many will live happy, healthy lives for many years.

Dr. Christine Harrold

Hit By Car!



Murray and Tangerine

Your pet has just been hit by a passing vehicle! What do you do? First, you **MUST** ensure your pet is safely off the road. A blanket or towel may make this easier. Yes, we are worried about moving animals with spinal injuries or unstable fractures, but ambulances and paramedics are not available for our pets. As well, you must remember that your pet may be disoriented, scared and in pain - do **NOT** get bit! Once safely off the road, call

the vet hospital immediately. As many of you already know, Dr. Ringness answers the phone herself after hours. She will help you establish if this is an emergency, then arrange to meet you at the vet hospital.

Once there, Dr Ringness will examine your pet to see if he is in shock. This is the life threatening process whereby the body shunts most of the blood to the brain and heart (the two most important organs) and as a result the other organs are

starved of precious oxygen. To counteract this, an intervenous catheter is placed and fluids are administered to restore circulation.

At this point, injuries such as fractured bones or internal injuries are assessed and discussed. If surgery is necessary, this is delayed until the patient is stable if possible.

This can be a very traumatic experience, and we hope it never happens to you. If it does, you know we are there to help you.

Chevy



Chevy is our adorable orange tabby with extra toes you've seen laying across the front counter. Unfortunately, he may have swatted at your dog's nose.

Chevy came to us last summer, after having been attacked by a dog. He sustained critical injuries and spent the night in the

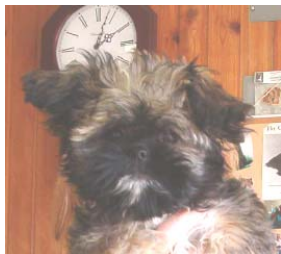
incubator. We were able to stabilize his condition, but the damage to his nervous system was permanent. This is why he has a head tilt and walks slightly off kilter. The nerve damage also affected his ability to close his left eye, therefore he sleeps with this eye open!

Despite his handicaps, Chevy

loves life. He never misses a chance to wander outside to get thoroughly filthy underneath your vehicle, and occasionally will jump in with you for a ride!!

Chevy loves to greet you out front, happy to accept any attention you may offer up.

From the Grooming Room



This puppy is coming in for its first grooming.

Your Puppy's First Grooming

Congratulations on your new addition! Your puppy will be with you for many years to come and will need to be groomed by you and/or a professional groomer during that time. If you choose to have your puppy groomed by a professional, 3-4 months of age is

the best time for their first visit.

During this appointment, your puppy will be carefully introduced to all aspects of the grooming procedure. A bath and blow dry, nail trim, comb out and light tidying of the coat will be done. A full haircut is rarely done on a first visit as

puppies need careful training and handling. Owners can do their part at home by getting the puppy used to handling, particularly the feet and face. Ask your groomer for suggestions on brushing and bathing frequency as this will vary depending on breed.

Jan James, The Grooming Room

Rattlesnake Bites

As summer approaches, and the weather gets warmer, many of us take our dogs for walks and hikes on local trails. Unfortunately in this region, that means an accidental encounter with a rattlesnake is a very real possibility. Even more unfortunate is that most of the methods of trying to keep your dog safe, negate the reasons for going for a walk in the great outdoors. These include keeping your dog on a leash, not allowing investigation of holes,

staying on open trails where rattlesnakes are visible. The one that is easy for us to adhere to is not walking on these trails at night as these snakes are nocturnal.

If you hear a sudden yelp and perhaps the telltale rattle, do not hesitate to act! Try to identify where your dog has been bit. Then, do not delay, get to the veterinary hospital AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!

Treatment for the bite includes

combating the systemic toxin and the tissue necrosis with fluids, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and antivenin.

Prognosis for rattlesnake bites is guarded depending on where your dog was bit, and what time of year it is.

Jessie, AHT Student



This dog was bit by a rattlesnake earlier this Spring.

The Romy Fund

The Romy Fund was able to help a young dog who had been hit by a car, brought in to our clinic and then abandoned.

The young dog received extensive damage to his right hind leg - a fractured femur. After not hearing from the person who brought the young dog in for 2 days, we knew we had to

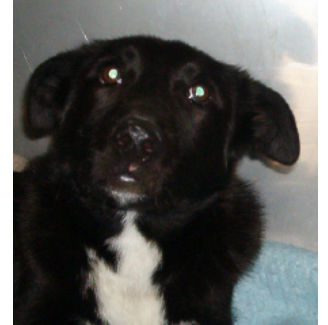
make a decision. If we left the leg any longer, the chances of a successful repair would decrease drastically. Unfortunately, without permission from the owner to proceed with surgery, we were between a rock and a hard place.

We decided that it was unlikely that this owner was coming

back and chose to use the Romy Fund to repair this happy little dog.

We have successfully placed this young dog on a farm with young kids to play with. He's healing very well thanks to your donations!

Dr Kristina Ringness



Around the Hospital - Jessie

Jessie is an Animal Health Technologist student, working with us for the summer. She is currently attending the University of Guelph at their Ridgeway campus. This is a two year program, and she will graduate with a diploma in Animal Health Technology in May 2007.

Jessie was born and raised in Vernon. She first became interested in our field because she enjoys her own horses and cats so much. She volunteered at our clinic for many months before being accepted into University last year.

Jessie's interests include riding

Western Pleasure on her 3 year old paint named Hussey, and spending time with her 2 Siamese cats, Ella and Zack.

Charleen, 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.



Heatstroke



Summer is here again, and with that, high temperatures. Pets can suffer heatstroke just like us.

To help prevent this life-threatening condition, provide access to water and shade at all times. DO NOT leave your pet in the vehicle, even if it's parked in the shade with the windows open. Restrict exercise on hot days. Most importantly, take extra care with pets who have pre-disposing conditions such as obesity, old age, heart disease, and breathing problems.

Some signs of heat stroke include rapid breathing (this is

how pets cool themselves, they cannot sweat), depression, weakness, dizziness, vomiting, diarrhea, shock, and coma. If you suspect your pet has overheated, remove it from the hot area immediately. Lower the animal's body temperature by wetting it with lukewarm water (cooling too quickly with cold water and/or ice, can cause other life threatening conditions) and increase air movement around the animal. If you have not already contacted the veterinary hospital, you should do so and prepare for transport. Many secondary problems can occur, and your pet

needs medical attention to treat these.

At the hospital, the veterinarian and staff can assess whether dehydration is still a problem, if shock has set in, or if over-cooling has occurred and we are now dealing with hypothermia.

If treated appropriately, most dogs and cats recover well from heatstroke. If in doubt, or you have further questions, please call our hospital.

Anna, Animal Health Technologist