



Spring Has Sprung

Our New Home!!

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As of January 10th, our new hospital has been up and running. We have now moved to our beautiful new home at 2800 45th Ave. If you missed our grand opening, let us tell you a little bit about our new home.

This facility is much more spacious; almost 3 times the size of our old place! The clients, staff and the clinic cats love this. We now have a large reception area where you and your pet can sit more comfortably and safely. And the Grooming Room is now right up front!

Once you've been shown into an exam room, you'll see these

are much larger as well. We also have a consultation room where the doctor can discuss a case with you or you can visit your hospitalized pet in comfort and privacy.

In the hospital area, we have separate cat and dog rooms, with three large runs for large dogs.

The treatment area has several stations to work at; no more tripping over each other while trying to do the laundry! Our radiology room comfortably holds the X-ray machine, and ultrasounds can be performed quietly in here too.

Surgery is bright and sunny with enough room for a sec-



A quick glance at our reception area. Please drop by and have a look around, if you haven't already!

ond table eventually.

Most importantly, we have added an in house blood analyzer. We can now offer immediate pre-anaesthetic blood screening, emergency diagnostic panels, and chronic patient monitoring that was not available to us before.

Iva - AHT

Welcome Dr. Trinity Smith



We are pleased to announce Dr. Trinity Smith has joined our team as a full time associate veterinarian.

Dr. Smith graduated from Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 2004. She then went on to complete an internship in Small Animal Medicine at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston, Mass.

From there she returned to her hometown of Prince George, BC where she worked at the BCSPCA spay/neuter clinic. She then decided to move to Calgary, Alberta to practise at a busy 24-hour emergency hospital.

After a year in the big city, she made the move to Vernon. Dr Smith is very excited to join a

practice that is dedicated to exceptional care of their patients and clients. Her professional interests include surgery and emergency medicine. On her own time, Dr smith enjoys exploring the beautiful North Okanagan, and spending time with her partner Kevin and their dog Bak!

Kathy - Veterinary Receptionist



One Eyed Jack is rather a shy clinic cat.

One Eyed Jack

One Eyed Jack, or Jack as we call him, is one of our clinic cats whom you will rarely see. A silver classic tabby, with one remaining eye, he quickly melted our hearts when he arrived a little over a year ago.

Jack is a shy cat, not enjoying the limelight, or meeting new

people. For those of us he is used to, he lavishes affection on and expects the same in return. He will drool in gratitude in response to this attention, letting you know you are the chosen one. He is an older cat and is currently suffering from arthritis for which he receives glucosamine supple-

ment daily and a NSAID pain reliever every second day.

For Jack, life revolves around his beloved Anna, one of our Animal Health Technologists, and he wanders around a little lost on days she is not in.

Dr. Kristina Ringness

Adopt-a-Thon

Dr. Ringness invited Vernon & District Animal Care Society to do fundraising and show some cats they had available for adoption during our grand opening. They gratefully accepted and brought in some very nice cats for the public to view. They also provided cake and drinks and raffle tickets for different items.

Many people came through and had a look at all the cats and several cats found their new forever homes with very happy new owners. It was so successful that Dr. Ringness has invited VDAC back to show some of their cats at on-going adoption Saturdays!

We also have a 2 cats that need special homes!

MELVIN

I'm a very, very soft champagne coloured domestic short hair neutered male, approximately 8 years old. I was diagnosed with diabetes a few months ago but I am doing great now with my daily insulin injection. The injections are really easy to do and the staff can show you how to do them. I don't mind the needle at all. During the day, I get to walk around the clinic and you will often find me sleeping in the reception area. Other cats and dogs don't bother me much.

OREO

I'm a very loving, grey and white domestic short hair, 6 years old, spayed female. Having been at the clinic for several months I seem to have put on a bit of weight and I would really like to stretch my legs and get back to my normal slender figure. I grew up with other cats and dogs but are a bit leery of new four footed friends. People on the other hand are great. I love attention and will give lots of affection back.

Anna - AHT

Keep an eye out for future Adopt-a-thon days to be held at our hospital.

The Romy Fund - An Update



The Romy Fund was able to provide Basil with an exploratory to discover the extent of his injuries.

The Romy Fund continues to help animals through the generous donations of people like yourselves.

Basil, an injured dog came in to the hospital in late November. With an uncertain history of what might have happened,

this dog was not feeling well at all. Vernon & District Animal Care Society graciously covered the cost of the exam, and from there, the Romy Fund paid for an exploratory surgery which revealed extensive trauma to the dog's abdomen, including

damage to his kidneys. Initially, it appeared Basil was going to rally despite the damage, but eventually, he succumbed to his injuries and the owners chose to have him euthanized.

Poisonous Plants around the Home

We are always concerned about plants around the home (inside or out) that our pets like to chew on. Which are dangerous, which are not? What do you do if you suspect your cat or dog has ingested a piece of plant?

First, establish what the plant is which has been chewed on. If this is not possible, bring some of the plant with you if a trip to the hospital is necessary.

Second, establish how much your pet has ingested. A rough estimate before you call the veterinary hospital is very helpful.

Third, call the veterinary hospital and explain what has happened. If this is after hours, you need to call anyways; waiting till morning may be extremely dangerous.

This time of the year, the most common dangerous plants are

lilies. Easter lily, tiger lily, Rubrum, Japanese show lily, and some of the day lilies can cause kidney failure in cats.

For a complete list of toxic plants, give us a call, or go to veterinarypartner.com, an excellent source of veterinary provided information.

Dr. Kristina Ringness



On a Personal Note - Iva

We are quickly approaching the one year anniversary of Iva's employment with Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital. Iva is a Registered Animal Health Technologist who graduated from Thompson Rivers University in 2003. She has large and small animal experience. She assists the veterinarians in surgery, performing dental cleanings, assisting in ultra-

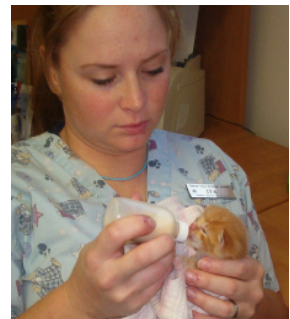
sound, radiology and has extensive laboratory knowledge. She is a hard-working devoted member of our team, and will always go above and beyond to help our clients and patients with true caring and compassion.

Born in Slovakia, she grew up in Armstrong and continues to live there with her new husband, Shawn and her four-

legged friends who run the house: Isis, a Siamese X and Hunter, a Lab X. She also fosters cats for Vernon & District Animal Care Society.

Playing softball and volleyball and learning the game of golf take up the remainder of her free time.

Lisa - Veterinary Receptionist



Gratitude - From the Grooming Room

My article this newsletter is about gratitude.

On Dec 27th, my American Cocker Spaniel, Sparkle, gave birth to 3 beautiful puppies. One little boy did not thrive, necessitating around the clock care from me. This resulted in a 3 week absence and reduced hours from my grooming business. Sadly despite the combined efforts of myself and Drs. Ringness and Smith, the

decision had to be made to let the little puppy, Galen, go.

I am grateful for the experience I had caring for this puppy despite the heartache. I am grateful for the healthy puppies which remain. I am grateful for the loving support of family and friends. I am grateful for my canine companions, Astaire, Connor, Sparkle, and now Liam and Kieran. I am grateful to all my

wonderful clients who have been so patient and understanding. It is a privilege to groom your pets.

My gratitude to Dr Kristina Ringness is twofold; for providing me with a beautiful work environment, and most importantly, for her compassionate dedication as my veterinarian.

Jan James - The Grooming Room



Liam & Kieran relaxing at home.

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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 Drs. Ringness & Smith answering the phone on all emergency/after-hours calls, we believe in being accountable to you.



A True Eye Emergency

On January 1st, 2007 a call was made to the emergency service of Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital. The owner stated that the family Chihuahua had been attacked by an owl and he was now squinting his left eye and had water leaking from it. Dr. Ringness advised the dog be examined immediately and met the owners at the hospital. Upon physical exam it was found that the dog had sustained a full thickness tear to the cornea of the left eye. This type of eye trauma is called a corneal perforation and is considered a true emergency. If left untreated this injury causes a severe infection and eventually loss of sight in the affected eye. Therefore, do to the severity of the eye injury the dog was immediately placed under anesthetic and the tear was carefully repaired using special

ophthalmic instruments. After recovering in the hospital overnight on IV fluids, antibiotics and pain medication, the dog's eye looked much better and he appeared much more comfortable. No infection was present and sight of the left eye was determined to still be present. The patient was sent home and after 2 weeks on topical eye medication and oral antibiotics the tear had completely healed!!! The true success in this case lies in the fact that the owners had their dog seen by a veterinarian as soon as they noticed a problem with his eye. This allowed the eye wound to be repaired soon after the injury occurred. This drastically increases the chance of a successful repair since a fresh wound has a much greater chance of healing than an old wound. Quick action also al-

lowed the dog to be started on oral and topical antibiotics before infection set in. If these owners would have waited even another 12 hours their dog would have likely lost his eye to infection or other serious complications.

This case is an excellent example demonstrating the importance of contacting your veterinarian when an abnormality of your pet's eye(s) is noticed. In some instances it could even save his or her sight. Even an injury to the eye which appears minor, such as a cat scratch, can quickly progress to severe infection and blindness of the eye. Therefore, there are certain signs that you as an owner can watch for in order to determine if your pet has a true eye emergency.

Any condition that causes your pet to squint or protect his eye; any suspected trauma to the eye; any abnormal appearance of the eyeball such as cloudiness or redness; any time the eyelid cannot cover the eyeball; and/or any time there is discharge of the eye (especially green). These symptoms all constitute potential emergencies and veterinary attention should be sought immediately.

Dr. Trinity Smith