



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

### *When you book for surgery...*

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When you phone or stop in to book your pet for a spay, neuter, dental, or any other minor procedure you will be informed about two recommended hospital procedures that we are offering our clients. These are Pre-Anaesthetic blood work before anaesthetic and IV fluids during. These are both offered to provide our clients with high quality service and our patients with the best medical care. First, the BCVMA as well as our hospital and doctors recommend doing Pre-Anaesthetic blood work before your pet is sedated or anaesthetized. Your pet's blood is collected and run through our lab equipment

that we have here in our hospital. These results will tell the doctors if there are elevated levels in regards to your pet's kidneys or liver. If levels are elevated, the doctors may use a different choice in sedative drugs or try to find an alternative way to do the procedure. It gives the doctors, staff and you as the pet owner, piece of mind that we have minimized the risk to your pet during anaesthetic. Finally, it provides a great baseline for your pet that the doctors can refer to at any point during your pet's lifetime. Second, the BCVMA as well as our hospital & doctors recommend intravenous fluids



during anaesthetic, surgery and recovery. This is to keep your pet hydrated during the procedure. It flushes the anaesthetic medication through the body and helps your pet recover faster after surgery. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask any of our staff members.

*Lisa, Receptionist*

#### VDAC

- A local non-profit animal humane society
- Primary goal is to have pets spayed and neutered to ultimately control pet population
- For more info please phone Heather at 542-7203

### *Vernon & District Animal Care Society*

The Vernon and District Animal Care Society is an organization dedicated to the well being and treatment of animals. While they do everything from adoptions for cats without homes to emergency care for animals, their main goal is to have pets spayed or

neutered. From fundraising with garage sales or bake sales, you can see them out and about in the community asking for donations to control the pet population. In the past 18 months they have spayed/neutered over 300 cats and dogs for low income

families who could not afford it without their help. If you have any questions regarding The Animal Care Society, or would like to make a donation please don't hesitate to ask any of the staff here at Crescent Falls!

*Kathy, Receptionist*

## Dental Health



*Maria, Oscar, & Vanna*

One of the most common diseases of dogs and cats is dental disease. Some signs of dental disease in your pet can be bad breath, excessive drooling, discolored teeth, and broken teeth.

The disease process starts with formation of plaque, which turns into tartar (hard dental calculus). The tartar inflames the gums and allows bacteria to grow and cause further inflammation. If the process is allowed to continue the bacteria will damage the

attachment of the gums to the teeth which will eventually lead to tooth loss. The infection can also enter the bloodstream and cause problems for the liver, kidneys, lungs, and heart.

An initial exam can usually be made by the veterinarian without any sedation but a thorough exam, and the following treatment, has to be made under general anaesthetic.

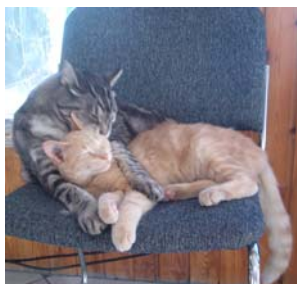
A dental visit at the clinic includes a general anaesthetic,

dental cleaning (removal of plaque and tartar on the teeth, including under the gum line), polishing, and any other procedures deemed necessary by the veterinarian, such as dental extractions and growth removal.

There are commercial foods specially formulated to prevent or limit the buildup of tartar. As an owner you can also help by brushing your pets teeth and provide chew toys.

*Anna, Animal Health Technologist*

## Norton



As our youngest Clinic Cat, Norton is very playful. He is a light orange Tabby, who is about a year old. He loves water and is often found by any tap that is on. He also enjoys playing with one of our other cats, Chevy.

Norton was brought into our clinic not quite a year ago with other kittens from the

same litter. They were found abandoned. All of the kittens were sick, and began to die not long after coming to us. Soon our Norton was the only kitten left. He was eventually diagnosed with Haemobartonella (a feline parasite which attacks the red blood cells) and was given a blood transfusion. After a lot of

work and lots of hoping on everyone's part, he began to recover.

We are happy to say that Norton is now thriving. He is full of energy and we all love him very much. He can get into trouble at times but we wouldn't change him for the world.

*Katrina, Vet Assistant*

## Pet Food Recall—an Update



*Both dogs and cats are affected.*

This has been a scary time for all of us feeding dogs and cats, with trusted pet foods being recalled almost daily. The original "Menu Foods" recall has passed us, but other foods are still being found to be contaminated. Here's the latest information.

The suspected toxin is called Melamine. This is a fertilizer used in china. Wheat gluten and rice protein concentrate are the contaminated ingredients which are in our pet foods. There is an FDA website listing most foods now on the list. Search "Pet food recalls". Unfortunately, there is no way

to be sure which foods are affected.

Signs to watch for include vomiting within 12 hours of eating. Some animals show lethargy and salivation. The best way to determine if this is the cause is a blood test done at the clinic.

*Dr Kristina Ringness*

## *Fleas, Ticks, Lice, & Mites*

As the summer quickly approaches, our pets have a much higher chance of becoming infested with external parasites such as fleas, ticks, lice and mites. The most prominent sign is extreme itchiness. This can be manifested by your pet scratching, licking, chewing and pulling at their fur.

It is very important that an accurate diagnosis be made by a veterinarian of the specific parasite that may be infesting your pet. This is because different medications

are used to treat different parasites. When your pet visits the vet office, the vet may look under the microscope to make the diagnosis; this confirms the type of parasite present. For instance, did you know that there are two types of lice, one is a sucking louse, and the second a biting louse; and the only way to tell them apart is under a microscope. You have probably seen many parasite medications at the pet store, however we caution you about using these prod-

ucts. Most are not as effective against the parasite, and have a higher risk of causing toxicity in your pet.

If your vet diagnoses your pet with a parasite infestation, there are multiple simple and easy medications that will resolve the infection, often simply a once a month topical application.

If you have further questions regarding these parasites, please do not hesitate to call.

*Jessie, Animal Health Technologist*



*Both cats and dogs can have fleas, lice, mites, and ticks.*

## *The Romy Fund*

The Romy Fund was able to help a very sick cat this past quarter. She has since been named Lucky, and she is the most affectionate cat we have met in a long time!

Lucky was brought in one morning as a stray, in very poor shape. Her fur was so matted, you could not locate her skin! She smelled very badly of a bacterial infection

and her mouth was extremely sore. After some initial blood work to determine if she had kidney or liver damage, she was placed on intravenous fluids and started on antibiotics. After a couple of days, she was stable enough to sedate and shave down. This left her with NO fur except on her face! After several weeks of curling up in her blankets and contin-

ued antibiotic, she is feeling much better.

The sad end to this story is that Lucky has been diagnosed with end stage cancer. She will spend the rest of her days with us, purring, and curling up in our laps.

Thank you all again for your generous donations!

*Dr Kristina Ringness*



## *Around the Hospital - Kathy*

When you walk in the door you will be greeted by a warm smile and a friendly hello from Kathy, our receptionist. Her wonderful personality and caring nature has made her a huge asset to our hospital. She's been with us for a year this summer. The job has brought its challenges but she enjoys working with people

and learning new things everyday. Kathy has also been helping the Vernon & District Animal Care Society by fostering some kittens, even though her cat Conan has disapproved. She later helped find a great home for all the kittens. She's lived in Okanagan her whole life. In her spare time

she enjoys playing volleyball, and watching her boyfriend, Ryan play lacrosse for the Vernon Tigers. But for her, nothing beats a nice relaxing evening watching a movie. Her only known future plans are to be a mom.

*Iva, Animal Health Technologist*



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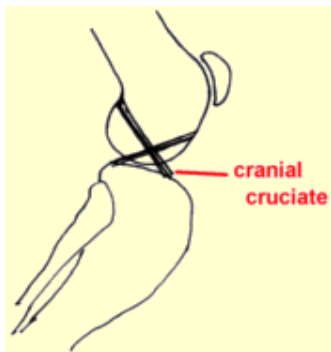
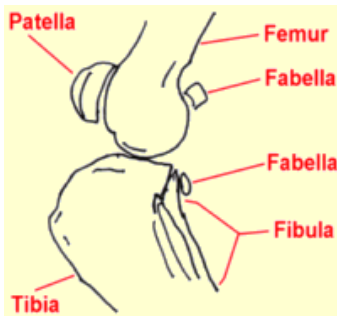
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*Crescent Falls Veterinary Hospital strives to give you and your pets the premium service you are seeking. From the smile at the front desk, to Drs. Ringness & Smith answering the phone on all emergency/ after-hours calls, we believe in being accountable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



## *Cranial Cruciate Ligament Rupture*



A ruptured cruciate ligament is the most common knee injury in dogs. There are two cruciate ligaments that cross inside the knee joint: the anterior (or, more correctly in animals, cranial cruciate) and the posterior (or, more correctly in animals, the caudal cruciate). They are named for the side of the knee (front or back) where their lower attachment is found. The cranial cruciate ligament prevents the tibia from slipping forward from under the femur. There is a good chance that any dog that suddenly has rear leg lameness has a rupture cranial cruciate ligament. This injury is also seen in cats but occurs much less frequently. The history usually involves a rear leg suddenly so sore that the dog can hardly bear weight on it. If left alone it will appear to improve over the course of weeks but the knee will remain swollen and arthritis will set in. Dogs can be presented in either the acute stage (shortly after the

injury) or the chronic stage (weeks or months later). There are many ways that a cruciate ligament can be injured. A young athletic dog playing roughly can take a bad step and injure the knee while playing. This is usually a very sudden lameness in a young large breed dog. On the other hand, an older dog, especially if overweight, can have weakened ligaments and slowly stretch or partially tear them. The partial rupture may be detected or the problem may not become apparent until the ligament breaks completely. In this instance, stepping down off the bed or a small jump can be all it takes to break the ligament. The lameness may be acute but have features of chronic joint disease or the lameness may simply be a more gradual/ chronic problem. The key to the diagnosis of the ruptured cruciate ligament is the demonstration of an abnormal knee motion called a drawer sign. It is not possi-

ble for a normal knee to show this sign. If a drawer sign is noted by a veterinarian, the cruciate ligament is ruptured. Another test that can be used along with the drawer test is called the tibial compression test. If the rupture occurred some time ago there will be a swelling on the inside of the knee. This is called medial buttress and is a sign that arthritis is present in the knee. It is not unusual for animals to be tense or frightened at the vet's office. Tense muscles can temporarily stabilize the knee preventing demonstration of the drawer sign during examination. Often sedation is needed to get a good evaluation of the knees. This is especially true in large dogs. Radiographs (x-rays) are also needed for obtaining a diagnosis. If a rupture is present the treatment of choice is surgical repair. *Dr Trinity Smith*  
*Look forward to the second half of this article in our next issue!*