

## PATTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL

425 East Broadway  
Red Lion, PA 17356  
717-246-3611  
www.pattonvethospital.com

### Office hours:

Monday–Friday 8am – 8pm  
Saturday 8am – 2pm

Text us at: 717-246-3611



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Brandy Brenner

Brandy joined the Patton team in February 2012 as a Veterinary Technician. Brandy worked at a Pet Resort for four years prior to working as a kennel assistant and worked her way up to the Veterinary Technician position—she has been working as a vet tech for the past 14 years. The veterinary field has always been an interest to Brandy, both her mom and aunt worked as veterinary technicians and she grew up with all different types of animals.

Brandy has a very calm demeanor and gentle approach when it comes to caring for animals. She always tries to make pets as comfortable and relaxed as possible. Brandy especially enjoys working with nervous animals, small breed dogs, and Pitbulls. Her approach is appreciated by her patients, they always enjoy getting cheese and peanut butter during a nail trim or procedure.

Brandy is mostly involved with outpatient appointments and enjoys educating clients on pet care. She loves when clients are able to understand the importance of preventative medications and other measures that they can take for their pet to have a long and healthy life. Brandy has one cat and one dog of her own and enjoys spending time with her family.



By Kelli Swanson

## Fear Free

Veterinary visits can be highly stressful for pets. When surveyed, many pet owners say that their pet's anxiety sometimes prevents them from even taking their pets to the veterinarian.

At Patton Veterinary Hospital, we recognize and understand the fear and anxiety pets experience. That's why we work hard to manage stress and reduce fear. We also stay up-to-date on the latest research and are continuously improving our practices and protocols. Our entire staff is involved, because this matters to all of us. That's why we worked hard to obtain our new Fear Free<sup>SM</sup> certification.

The Fear Free website states: "Our mission is to prevent and alleviate fear, anxiety, and stress (FAS) in pets by inspiring and educating the people who care for them."

Patton Veterinary Hospital is committed to providing compassionate veterinary care to all animals. Embracing the Fear Free approach is yet another way we're committed to keeping your pets healthy and happy. You can learn more about Fear Free at [www.fearfreepets.com](http://www.fearfreepets.com).



## Autumn Safety Tips

- Autumn is the peak activity period for some **tick and flea species**. Be sure to remain diligent about keeping your pets parasite-free!
- **Wasps and bees** are very active this time of year, so it's easy for dogs to get stung. Dogs can be given antihistamines, but it's important to give the right kind and the right dose. Call us if your pet gets stung, and if you don't have antihistamines in your Pet First Aid Kit ask us for recommended types and dosages at your next visit.
- **It's mushroom season.** While mushrooms and other fungi can be found almost any time of year, fall is the time where most toxic exposures occur. According to the ASPCA: "While 99% of mushrooms have little or no toxicity, the 1% that are highly toxic can cause life-threatening problems in pets." While walking your dog, keep him or her leashed when walking in areas where mushrooms grow. If you see your dog ingesting a mushroom, call us immediately. If possible, it is best to collect a sample of the type of mushroom ingested for identification.
- Many people change their **car's antifreeze** in the fall. Antifreeze is deadly to pets, and unfortunately has an appealing taste and smell. Consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol, or look for products that contain a bittering agent.
- The **holidays** are rapidly approaching. Remember that many human foods pose a serious health threat to pets, including chocolate, raisins, grapes, alcohol, xylitol (an artificial sweetener), and rich, fatty foods, which can cause pancreatitis.



**"No matter how close we are to another person, few human relationships are as free from strife, disagreement, and frustration as the relationship you have with a good dog."**

– Dean Koontz



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### Upcoming Events

**Red Lion Halloween Parade**

October 29th 7 pm

**Pet Loss Support Group**

November 11th 1 pm

## Tapeworms

Your cat struts across the room, tail up, and you notice what looks like a small grain of rice on her butt. Or maybe you noticed a small white fleck on your dog's tail, or in your pet's feces. These can be signs of a tapeworm infection.

Unlike most other intestinal parasites, tapeworms do not commonly lay eggs that are excreted in feces. Instead, the segments are shed, so sometimes the first indication of a tapeworm infection is when owners notice small segments of the worms around their pet's rear end, in their feces or where they sleep.

Tapeworms are long, flat worms that can reach 18" in length. They consist of many segments, each 3-5 mm long. Tapeworms attach to the intestinal wall with hooklike mouth parts. The segments are eventually shed, either singly or in short chains. Once in the environment, they dry, crack open and release the eggs.

Tapeworms rarely cause clinical signs in healthy, adult pets, but they can pose problems for puppies and kittens. Heavy infestations can lead to anemia, and/or intestinal blockages.

Unlike many intestinal parasites, dogs and cats don't get tapeworms from ingesting the eggs. Instead, fleas are an intermediate host for the worms. Pets ingest fleas while self-grooming, and then become infected. In rare cases, humans can contract tapeworms, through accidental ingestion of a flea.

There are several species of tapeworms, and while the most common species is transmitted by fleas, others can be transmitted by eating birds, rodents, or their feces.

Tapeworm infections are easily treated, so if you see any signs of infection, take your pet to the veterinarian right away.

## Parasites

A parasite is an organism that lives on or in another organism, called the host, and derives nutrients from that host, often causing some harm. There are three main types of parasites: ectoparasites, protozoa, and endoparasites.

- **Ectoparasites** are external parasites that typically live on the host. These include ticks, fleas, ear mites, and mange mites. Mosquitoes are considered ectoparasites as well – even though they don't live on the host, they feed on the host.
- **Protozoa** are single-celled organisms that infect the GI tract.
- **Endoparasites** are large, multicellular organisms, often referred to as "worms." These include roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and tapeworms.

Cats and dogs can be hosts to many different kinds of parasites. Some parasites may only cause minor irritations, while others can cause serious diseases and even death.

Protozoa and worms are typically transmitted to pets and people by fecal-oral transmission (i.e. ingesting feces) or by ingesting water or food that has been contaminated with fecal matter from an infected host. Most species infect the gastrointestinal tract of the host. Heartworms are an exception, as they infest the arteries and veins of the heart and lungs. Signs of gastrointestinal parasites can include diarrhea, bloody diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, and a dull hair coat. Pets sometimes show no signs of infection, but in those cases, they can still be transmitting the parasites to the environment through their feces and to other pets.

Some parasites are zoonotic, which means they can be transmitted to humans, too. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) state that whipworm and hookworm infections in humans "account for a major burden of disease worldwide." Humans are also at risk for

roundworm, tapeworm, giardia and coccidia infections.

Parasites are common in the environment, so parasite control is a key element of your pet's health. Follow these four main steps:

- 1.** Year-round use of a heartworm preventive that also controls other parasites.
- 2.** Annual fecal tests. (Twice yearly for pets at higher risk, such as those who live on farms, go to dog parks or eat feces.)
- 3.** Year-round flea and tick control, even for indoor-only cats because people can carry them inside.
- 4.** Sanitation to help prevent parasites: clean your cat's litter box daily, pick up your dog's droppings in your yard frequently and always clean up after your dog on walks. Eggs from parasites may remain viable for years, so it's important to remove this health risk from the environment.

The range of parasites is expanding, and new diseases associated with them are being discovered frequently.

