

FALL 2019

Patton PRESS



PATTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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Monday-Friday 8am - 8pm
Saturday 8am - 2pm

Text us at: 717-246-3611



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence



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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Beth

Beth joined the PVH team in 2018 as a Veterinary Technician and instantly felt like part of the family. Beth comes with a wide variety of experience—including veterinary research, management, and sales. Unlike many professionals in the veterinary field, Beth never wanted to be a veterinarian. She knew from the start that she wanted to work with animals as a veterinary technician—she wanted to have more hands-on experience with animals and have more time with her clients and patients.

Beth was an animal lover from the start; she had hamsters and a cat growing up but always wanted more. While attending Wilson College, Beth started to add more animals to her

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Give Thanks for Opossums!

The Virginian opossum which resides in all of Pennsylvania is not only the only species of opossum in North America, but also the only marsupial on the continent. Opossums can be found in all different types of environments including small cities and towns like Red Lion and York city.

While the common reaction to an opossum sighting is disgust or repulsion, we really should be more grateful for these furry allies. Yes, allies! Little did we know until a recent study in 2014 that these naked-tail critters have been helping to reduce the tick population all along. Opossums are a frequent host for ticks due to being so low to the ground. But about 90%-95% of ticks that try to feed off an opossum end up becoming a tasty snack. Believe it or not, opossums are amazing and thorough groomers, similar to cats. Opossums even eat the blacklegged tick that typically carries Lyme disease.

Opossums have 50 teeth, more than any other native North American mammal, which stand no match for a clingy tick. Studies have shown one opossum can kill and eat about 5,000 ticks in a single season. The average life span for an opossum is 2-4 years, so if you do the math that's a lot of ticks! Plus, opossums do not hibernate, so that means year-long devouring for these tick eating machines.

Some other interesting facts about the opossum are that they have an immunity to snake venom and Lyme disease. In addition, it is very rare for an opossum to contract the rabies disease due to its naturally low body temperature where the virus cannot survive. You've probably heard the phrase "playing possum" in reference to what people believe opossums "playing dead." Well, they aren't actually acting, it's an involuntary reaction to a threat, similar to a person fainting due to shock. Isn't that fascinating?

Next time you see an opossum passed out on the side of the road or rummaging through garbage, don't be too quick to give them the boot or run them over because they have been doing us a lot of good getting rid of very harmful parasites.

The Dangers of Cooked Bones

The holiday season is fast approaching, which often means gatherings of family and friends for meals. Turkey, chicken, or ham may be on the menu, which usually results with leftover bones. Some may think it is safe to give these cooked bones to dogs, but it is actually quite dangerous.

Chewing on cooked bones can actually cause a lot more problems than you might think. It may cause broken teeth, mouth or tongue injuries, bones looped around the lower jaw, bones lodged in roof of mouth, constipation, rectal bleeding, and windpipe, esophagus, stomach, or gastrointestinal blockage. In even more serious cases, it can result in peritonitis, which is a bacterial infection of the abdomen caused when bone fragments poke holes in a dog's stomach or intestines. Peritonitis is difficult to treat and is treated as an emergency at our veterinary hospital. If left untreated for too long, it can result in death.



A healthy alternative to cooked bones are dental chews! Most chews help control tartar and target bad breath while supporting proper digestion. At Patton we offer Veggiedent Fr3sh Chews! They are plant-based, meat-free, gluten-free chews that are made with non-GMO corn, no artificial ingredients or chemicals and they are moderate in calories. They are a unique Z-shape that allows them to scrape away tartar from hard-to-reach places.

We provide them in four convenient sizes: Extra small dog (1-11 lbs.), Small dog (11-22 lbs.), Medium dog (22-66 lbs.), and Large dog (66-over lbs.). You can find



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Where Compassion Meets Excellence

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Upcoming Events

December 14

2 pm- 6 pm:
Pet Photos with Santa



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

continued from front

crew. She had several rats and also adopted the teaching dog for their college. Beth's first dog, a Whippet named "Garcia," was one-year-old when he came to her. With Beth's love and care, Garcia lived to be 16 years old.

It's no surprise that Beth's extracurricular activities also involve animals. Beth is a volunteer with a therapeutic riding association. She has worked with people of different ages (from 3 months to 89 years old!) as part of her volunteer work. Horses provide many benefits to humans—they provide good balance, can repair neural pathways, and can increase motor skills.

Beth also has a special interest in dermatology cases, as she has experienced skin concerns with her own kitty. She loves being able to relate to clients as a pet owner and enjoys seeing the fruits of their labor when they are able to find and persevere through food trials, medications, and hair loss.

Beth loves that the field is constantly changing due to new

research and information and loves that no two days are ever the same. We are certainly glad to have her on our team!

By Kelli Swanson



The Patton Veterinary Hospital is teaming up with the Red Lion Senior Center to help families and their pets in need. We are collecting pet food, toys, beds, and cat litter. Please help us make someone's holiday pawsitively purrfect!

Donations accepted until December 18



COOKED BONES *continued from front*

Veggiedent Fr3sh Chews at our hospital lobby shop or at our online pharmacy. Avoid an emergency visit at our hospital and

spend more time with your friends and family enjoying this holiday season by keeping cooked bones away from your pets!



By Joy Wisniewski



Fat Cats, Living Large

For humans, the terms "fat cat" and "living large" imply prosperity and the good life, but when applied to our feline friends, the implications are not as happy.

In 2018, it was estimated that 60% of domestic cats in the U.S. were overweight or obese. Research shows these cats are more prone to diabetes, liver disease, arthritis, and lameness issues than cats of normal weight. Obese cats also have a more difficult time with self-grooming and are at risk for skin problems.

Ideally, you should observe a slight waistline behind a cat's ribs when you view her from above, and you should also be able to feel (but not see) her ribs.

If your cat is overweight, it's up to you to help her reach a healthy level. Start with your veterinarian; a complete physical should be done to determine your cat's health status, including blood work to rule out metabolic disorders. After the vet visit, we all know what comes next—diet and exercise!

"Free choice" feeding is not appropriate for an overweight cat, and it may be the leading cause of the feline obesity epidemic. Most cats do well on two meals per day of a measured amount of food. Recommended portions are only guidelines, and the ideal portion for your cat depends on factors including age and activity level.

A normal, healthy cat will sleep 13-18 hours per day. In nature, cats that are not sleeping are often getting exercise by hunting for their next meal. Today's well-fed indoor cats don't have that same motivation. Play with your cat! Regular play sessions will help provide the exercise she needs, as well as important mental stimulation to help keep her happy. Feather dusters, mechanical toys, and wadded paper balls can all provide great entertainment. Regular play sessions are likely to increase the bond you share as well.

Rapid weight loss is not safe for cats. Your plan should be a gradual program to reach a healthy weight. Weigh your cat on a regular basis to monitor progress. Be patient and consistent in helping her reach her target weight.

We now offer weight-loss prescription diets that help your kitty feel full while dieting. Call us for more information.

