

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 Becky Latterman

Becky started working at Patton in August of 1975. She states it was a “pure accident,” and she was just looking for a good job at the time. In her tenure at Patton, Becky has had various roles, including kennel staff, receptionist, veterinary technician, and now, medical records staff. Becky received her veterinary technician license for the state of Pennsylvania in 1983. When Becky first began working for Dr. Patton, the practice was on Pleasant View Street and only had a handful of employees; now the practice has expanded to a larger building on East Broadway and has six veterinarians on staff.

Since Becky has held many different roles through the years, she was able to share a collection of stories, all revolving around the same theme: “to make sure animals are healthy and owners are happy.” She enjoys seeing hospital patients get excited to see their owners. Regardless of how long pets have been in the hospital, they are always happy to be with their pet parents again. Pets continue to teach her the lesson of unconditional love each day.

At home, Becky has two dogs and

continued on back

Making a First Aid Kit For Your Pet

No one likes to think about their pet being in an emergency situation, but being prepared can make a stressful circumstance less scary if your pet becomes ill or injured. Having a well-stocked first aid kit can make it a little easier to treat minor injuries, or deal with an emergency until you can get your pet to the veterinarian.

Be sure to designate a kit specifically for your pets and to check and replenish items periodically. It’s also wise to include a list of any prescription medications your pet takes, including the dosage, and any medical conditions he or she has.

The items in a first aid kit for pets are similar to those for people, including items to clean or bandage a skin wound or broken toenail, tweezers to remove ticks, splinters or other foreign objects embedded in the skin, and hydrogen peroxide to clean wounds or to induce vomiting in dogs in case of accidental toxin ingestion (NOTE: **Never give peroxide orally to cats!** Hydrogen peroxide damages the stomach lining of cats. If your cat has eaten a foreign object or ingested a toxin, get her to a veterinarian immediately. Don’t induce vomiting at home in cats).

Hopefully, you will never have to use these items to treat your pet, but it is always wise to be prepared for an emergency!



A good first aid kit should include:

- Telephone numbers for a Poison Control Hotline, an animal emergency clinic and your local veterinarian
- Slip leash and/or muzzle
- Adhesive tape
- Non-stick gauze (Telfa) pads
- Vet-Wrap or other self-cling bandage roll
- Blunt/bandage scissors
- Tweezers
- Bottle of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- Tube of triple antibiotic ointment
- Digital rectal thermometer
- Vaseline or KY Jelly for thermometer
- Syringe or eye dropper
- Towel or blanket
- Cotton balls/swabs/gauze



By Dr. Sabrina Walters

Southpaw

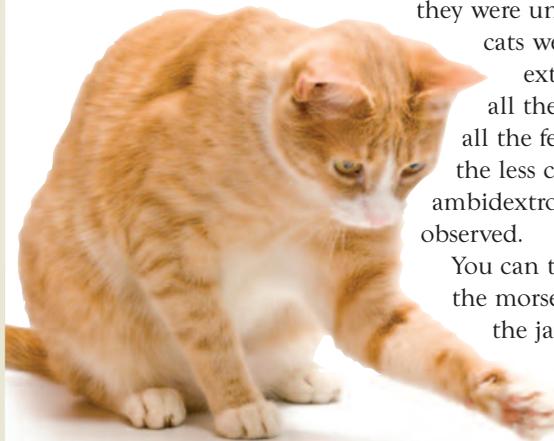
Is your cat a lefty or a righty? It may depend on its sex. According to a study published in the journal *Animal Behavior*, male domestic cats tend to be “southpaws,” that is, they tend to preferentially use their front left paw for certain complex tasks, and females use their right paw.

Dr. Deborah Wells of Queens University Belfast, Ireland, studied paw preference in cats in their homes with their owners present. Researchers gave cats three different tests of varying complexity and recorded which paw the cats initially used. Each test was repeated 100 times. Forty-two neutered adult cats (21 males and 21 females) participated in the study.

In the most complex task, cats were presented with glass jars containing tuna that they were unable to retrieve with their mouth. The

cats were observed as they attempted to extract the treat with their paws. Almost all the males used their left paw, and nearly all the females used their right. Statistically, in the less complex tasks the cats were ambidextrous. No age-related preferences were observed.

You can try this test at home! Show your cat the morsel of food in the jar first, then place the jar directly in front of your cat, so that you do not influence which paw he or she chooses to use.





Where Compassion Meets Excellence

425 East Broadway, Red Lion, PA 17356
Call or text us at 717-246-3611

 FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Upcoming Events

Puppy Class 101
February 6th at 6pm



Be sure to check out PetPage, our new app!

Learn more on our website.

Beware of Bloat

Gastric dilation and volvulus, or GDV, is a life threatening condition in dogs. More commonly known as "bloat," this condition typically affects large breed, deep chested dogs, but all breeds and all ages of dogs are susceptible. Bloat is believed to be the number two killer of dogs in the United States, second to cancer.

The most typical causes of bloat are bolting down food, drinking large amounts of water after meals and vigorous exercise after a meal. Bloat can also occur spontaneously, and be unrelated to food or exercise.

During an episode of bloat, the stomach enlarges (gastric dilation) and then the stomach may twist or rotate (volvulus), which can close off the esophagus.

All dog owners should know the signs of bloat. They include:

- Unproductive vomiting, or vomiting which produces only mucous or foam
- Anxiety or restlessness
- A distended abdomen that may feel tight—although this is not always apparent
- The dog might look at their abdomen or give other indications of abdominal discomfort
- Pacing, and sometimes refusing to sit or lie down
- The dog just isn't acting "normal"

If you suspect your dog may be suffering from bloat, seek emergency veterinary care immediately, as dogs can die very quickly from this condition.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT *continued from front*

ten cats. When asked about her pet family, Becky recalls her mother enjoying the "First Dog," Fala, who was the beloved Scottish Terrier of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor. So, when a client came in with a new Scottie puppy years ago and said there was another littermate who still needed a home, the decision was an easy one. Ironically, this puppy was named Duffy, the same name as another one of the Roosevelt dogs.

Although her role in the hospital has changed over the years, Becky's contribution to Patton has been great. Thank you, Becky, for over 40 years of service to Patton Veterinary Hospital and the Red Lion Community!



By Kelli Swanson

Cats' Tongues

If you've ever been licked by a cat, you may have noticed that its tongue felt like sandpaper. New research is helping to explain this natural curiosity.

Cat's tongues are covered with tiny spines, called papillae, which are made of keratin, just like their claws and our fingernails. The papillae contain hollow scoops, and wick saliva from the mouth and help deposit it on the cat's fur as it grooms. This makes saliva delivery more efficient, helping with cleaning and cooling. The spines also help detangle cats' fur. The combined functions make them the key to deep cleaning.

A domestic cat has nearly 300 papillae on their tongues. The spines are all angled in the same direction, backwards, making it easier for fur and debris to be removed. They normally lie flat, but muscles in cats' tongues make them stand up when needed.

Georgia Institute of Technology created a 3D printed brush that mimics the shape and direction of the spines on cats' tongues. Researchers say this could lead to tools to help effectively apply fluids or medicines.

Researchers studied other cat species' tongues as well. Using preserved tongues from zoos, they determined that tigers', bobcats', and lions' tongues share the same trait. They also found that when you compress the fur, the distance to the skin is the same as the length of the spines. One exception is the Persian cat, whose fur is so long that it typically does need humans to brush it to help prevent matting.

Other studies have shown that the shape of the papillae may help cats grip food, and may also help stimulate the cat's skin while grooming.



**"Dogs are not our whole life,
but they make our lives whole."**

– Roger Caras