

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



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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Mitzi

Mitzi Eaton first joined our staff in 1979 when we were still the Red Lion Animal Hospital. She became a Certified Veterinary Technician in 1981 and worked in various roles throughout the hospital including surgery, inpatient, and outpatient technician. During this time, the hospital provided veterinary support to the Pennsylvania Game Commission which sparked a passion for the Veterinary Technician. She realized that the birds needed more rehabilitation before they could be released in the wild but there was no one local that could help these creatures recover. It was in 1988 that she became a licensed raptor rehabber!

Mitzi left PVH in 1994 after the birth of her third child and then

continued on back



The Dangers of Ice Melts

We strive to keep our walkways, driveways and roads safe during the icy winter. With all the different types of ice melts and salts out there, the cold winter weather is a little more manageable. But some of those helpful ice melts are actually harmful to our pets.

The main ingredients in most ice melts are sodium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chloride, and magnesium chloride, which are all harmful to pets especially if ingested. If ingested, ice melts can cause dehydration, excessive drooling, tremors, seizures, ulcerations in the mouth, vomiting, and diarrhea. A dog that ingests 4 grams (less than 1 ounce) of sodium chloride per 2.3 pounds of body weight could die.

Be proactive to protect your pets from this potentially dangerous situation! First, don't allow your pets to eat snow or drink from puddles. Be sure you clean your pet's paws off after coming inside. Consider using dog socks or boots on your pet's paws. Be sure to keep your ice melt products out of paws reach! Some dogs will eat it directly out of the packaging if given the chance. Finally, consider using non-toxic brands/products like Safe Paws or Morton Safe-T-Pet.

If you suspect that your pet has ingested ice melt, please give us a call to be seen as soon as possible. You can also call the Pet Poison Helpline at 1-800-213-6680 (fees may apply). Let's be sure to keep our pets safe this winter!



By Joy Wisniewski

Winter Itchies

Winter seems to bring a number of inconveniences, including dry skin. Itching, scratching, chewing and dander complaints often increase during colder, drier months, but they may also be symptoms of other problems, among them:

- Allergies (food, inhalant and contact allergies may all manifest as skin problems)
- Fleas or other external parasites
- Bacterial infections
- Fungal infections such as ringworm
- Stress
- Thyroid, kidney and liver disorders

Keep a close watch if your pet starts to exhibit increased itchiness, and consult with your veterinarian if the symptoms persist for more than a week. Signs of a more serious problem include:

1. Open sores or redness
2. Dull, dry or brittle coat
3. Patches of missing fur
4. Persistent licking, especially of the paws

Once you've determined the cause is just dry skin, there are a number of things you can do to help alleviate your pet's discomfort. Brush your pet frequently to help stimulate oil production and remove dead hair and dander. Don't bathe your pet too often, as bathing tends to dry the natural oils. If you do bathe, choose a mild shampoo and conditioning rinse designed for cats and dogs, as most human shampoos are too harsh for pets. A humidifier may help both you and your

pets cope with the dry indoor air.

Feed a high quality diet—nutrition is one of the fundamental elements of skin and coat health. Your veterinarian may recommend vitamins and supplements for an extra nutritional boost.





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

Sunday, March 1

1-2:30 pm:

Pet Loss Support Group

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

continued from front

rejoined the PVH family in 2000 when her kids were a bit older. All the while she was also treating up to 175 raptors a year. Mitzi's current work at PVH may be more "behind the scenes" with more medical record and housekeeping tasks, yet she continues to be an integral part of the PVH team.

Mitzi is one of very few people in the surrounding counties that is able to take in sick and injured eagles, owls, and hawk wildlife and care for them until they are ready to be released into the wild. Her veterinary technician skills have come in handy over her last 30 years as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. She often needs to take radiographs to check birds for broken bones, lead shots, etc., and practices phlebotomy when drawing blood for diagnostics. Mitzi has perfected her avian restraint, feeding, and bandaging/splint application skills as she has worked with a variety of raptors. She was recently honored by the York County Conservation District as the "York County Citizen Conservationist of 2019" for her years of community service in Education and Wildlife Rehabilitation services.

We are proud to have Mitzi as part of our team— our staff relies on her years of expertise and knowledge. When Mitzi is not busy treating the 15 or more raptors that are in her care (including the five resident Education Ambassadors), she is caring for her family's four Golden Retrievers, their cat, and three snakes.



By Kelli Swanson



Scratch That!

Scratching is a normal feline behavior, so it's important to provide your cat with an acceptable place to scratch. Scratching helps remove the old, outer nail sheath called the "husk." Scratching posts come in many shapes, sizes and textures. Be sure to choose one that is sturdy and allows a full stretch. Entice your cat to scratch her post by occasionally sprinkling it with catnip. To help deter unwanted scratching in other spots, try placing some double sided tape on the spot your cat has scratched.

Pica

Dogs and cats will eat the craziest things. Unfortunately, it can get them into a lot of trouble, too. For some dogs, nothing is safe. Socks, underwear, rocks, cell phones and empty food wrappers are all fair game. Cats are particularly attracted to rubber bands and string.

When an animal frequently ingests non-food items (sometimes compulsively), the behavior is called "pica." In these cases it's especially important to talk to your veterinarian to determine if there may be a root medical cause.

Once ingested, foreign objects can be deadly. As they pass through the gut, they can scrape the inner lining, creating ulcerations and infections, or get lodged and cause a complete blockage. Some items will pass naturally, however surgical removal is sometimes the only option.

Animals that have swallowed a foreign object may initially appear normal. Lethargy and intermittent vomiting and/or diarrhea are common, and the pet may become dehydrated if they can't hold enough water down. If there is a complete blockage, the pet will not be able to keep anything down, and its condition will likely deteriorate quickly.

If you believe your dog or cat has ingested a foreign object, call us immediately. The sooner the problem is addressed, the less likely internal damage will occur.



FEBRUARY IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have signs of periodontal disease by age three. Not only can this disease cause pain, tooth and bone loss, the resulting

bacterial infections can enter the bloodstream, then spread throughout the body and cause permanent damage to the heart, lungs, kidneys and liver. Prevention is safer and far less costly than treating this disease, so please consider a dental checkup for your pet.