



Employee Spotlight Rebecca



Rebecca grew up in Airville, PA and attended Red Lion School. Rebecca has been a nurse for over 20 years and came to join us here at Patton's 3 years ago, but also was also previously employed here then and left to work in the horse field. She did receive her degree in equine science. After coming to the realization that there were not that many opportunities in the horse field she returned to the small animal field. Her love for cats and dogs brought her back to the Patton Veterinary Hospital. Rebecca has a soft spot for the abandoned kittens, and enjoys spending time with her family.

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Patton Veterinary Hospital

December 2010

Holiday Do's And Don'ts

By: Leslie Leffler

The holidays are fast approaching and we want to make sure you have all the information you need to keep your pets safe. The holidays bring joy and excitement but along with that your pet may be exposed to a number of possible hazards.



1. Decorations: Pets can become amazed and intrigued with all the shiny new additions. Keep decorations at a safe distance away from your pet to prevent them from choking on them or swallowing them. Safeguard the tree and keep breakables and ribbon out of reach from pets.
2. Lights, Lights! Decorative lights come along with the holidays and attract people and pets alike. Pets can see them as a lighted chew toy. Make sure cords are secure and out of the way. Electric shock can cause burns difficulty breathing, abnormal heart rhythm, loss of consciousness, and death.



3. Many of our family and friends share holiday dinner with the pets. Some of these foods can cause stomach upset or worse, pancreatitis. Pancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas from eating fatty foods. Give your guests some pet friendly holiday treats to give to the pets. If you want to get festive, mix some of your pet's regular food with water to make a "dough" and roll out and cut into festive shapes, then bake until crunchy.
4. Chocolate! What would the holidays be without chocolate and hot cocoa? Chocolate can be toxic or even fatal to dogs & cats. Theobromine is the toxic compound found in chocolate. Signs which may appear within 1 to 4 hours of eating chocolate include: Vomiting, weakness, diarrhea and hyperexcitability.
5. There are many beautiful plants in bloom this time of year but some can be toxic to pets. The poinsettias contain a milky sap which can irritate the mouth and stomach, vomiting may occur. For a complete list of toxic plants, go to www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/.

If you suspect that your pet has experienced any of the above call the office immediately. Or if you just have questions we'll be glad to help.

From our family here at PVH to yours may your holidays be bright and merry.



Senior Wellness

By: Leslie Leffler

“Pets don’t live long enough”, is a very common statement from pet owners. We all want them to be with us for a long time and by providing comprehensive senior wellness and preventative care, we can help. With advancements in technology and medicines in the veterinary field, our doctors can better diagnose and treat. Now, it is not uncommon for dogs and cats to live 12-16 years of life.

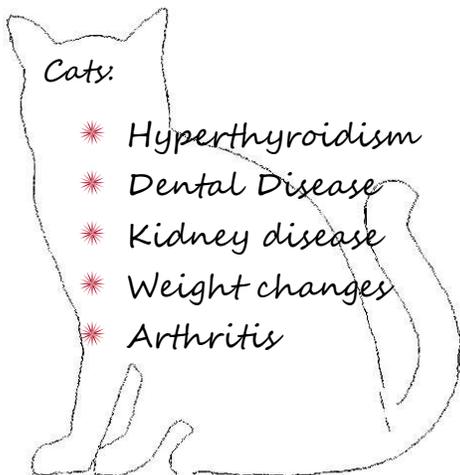
According to AAHA (the American Animal Hospital Association) the term ‘senior’ varies depending on age, species, breed and size. In human age 60 is considered a senior and 45 is middle aged and the time when senior screening wellness starts.

Elderly dogs and cats can suffer from dental disease; watch for bad breath or drooling.. Other signs of failing health would be increased/decreased appetite, unexplained weight loss, excessive thirst, vomiting, diarrhea, skin lumps or bumps, odor from ears or skin and lameness. These are just a few signs. You know your pet best, if you notice anything out of the ordinary please call and ask.



Senior wellness diagnostics may include but are not limited to:

Laboratory panel: Even if they appear healthy, the blood work run can give us a healthy baseline, a normal value for your pet, so when your pet is sick we can recognize abnormalities. Subtle changes can signal underlying diseases.



"Not the least hard thing to bear when they go from us, these quiet friends, is that they carry away with them so many years of our own lives."

(John Galsworthy)



There are many factors to consider in keeping your senior pet happy & healthy.

- ✓ Frequent Teeth Cleanings
 - ✓ Diet & Nutrition
 - ✓ Weight control
 - ✓ Maintain Mobility
 - ✓ Parasite control
 - ✓ Vaccination
 - ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ Reproductive Diseases

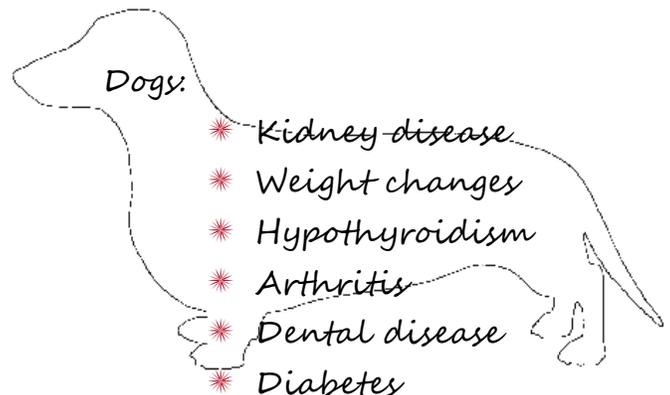
Blood Pressure: Blood pressures are very helpful in diagnosing chronic renal failure, heart disease, hyperthyroidism, etc.

Radiographs: Radiographs are a great way to see ‘the inside’.

Complete Oral Health Exam/Teeth Cleaning: Many are not aware of the diseases caused by bad teeth. Increased tartar is increased bacteria entering the blood stream which begins to attack other organs causing fatal diseases.

Urine and Parasites screening: Common health issues can be ‘caught’ in the urine and their suppressed immune system are more at risks for parasites.

Call the office to schedule your pets Senior Wellness today.



Pet Cancer Awareness

Cancer is caused by an uncontrolled purposeless growth of cells in the body. Cancer can arise from any tissue in the body so there are many types of cancer. Some forms have the ability to spread to other parts of the body. When a cancer has spread this is called metastasized.

The first step in determining whether a tumor is cancerous is having a doctor check it. From that point we can start to gather information on its extent. This includes a cytology (taking a sample and doing a microscopic exam), radiographs, surgical removal and sending to the laboratory for a biopsy and blood testing.

We are concerned for your pets’ health and together we can determine the appropriate treatments and therapy that fit. We want to keep them comfortable and maintain a good quality of life.

Additional Information and Resources On Senior Wellness and Cancer in pets.

Animal Cancer Foundation
www.acfoundation.org

AAHA - www.healthypets.com
 Veterinarypartner.com

American Veterinary Medical Assoc.
www.avma.org

Veterinary Pet Insurance
<http://www.petinsurance.com/cancer.aspx>



We are again teaming up with the Meals on Wheels, Red Lion Senior Center, and collecting pet related goods for participants with animal companions. We will be accepting donations at the hospital during regular business hours starting November 1st through December 19th, to deliver in time for the holidays. We need your help to make the holiday's pawsitively special for someone in need.



The Goodwill of Mankind.....

By: Rebecca Dougherty

Recently Patton Veterinary Hospital was the scene of a Random Act of Kindness. A young man came in very distraught, after having walked several blocks in the cold rainy weather with his pet snake. The snake had apparently dislocated its jaw, after striking the side of its cage after a meal. The young man became quite emotional when he checked in with our Client Relations specialists staff; he desperately wanted to help his pet, but tearfully admitted he didn't have any money. A client of long standing, who was paying his own bill with another staff member, motioned to the other staff member that was dealing with the young man to come over, and offered to pay the young man's exam fee. The snake was examined by Dr. Kevin Schmidt who was able to relocate the jaw, however, the snake would be best served by the use of NSAID (none steroidal anti-inflammatory drug) so that it could heal properly. Again, kindness won the day, one of our own staff members offered to pay for medication. PVH is happy to report the snake is doing well after that ordeal! Thank you to those who think of others in their time of need.

Patton's Biggest Loser

Beginning in January, PVH will be hosting the weight loss program called "Biggest Loser". The program will give owners the tools to safely and successfully help their pets lose weight. The program will feature bi-weekly weigh-ins, exercise and diet tips and a prize for the 'biggest loser'. Contact PVH for more information or see our website.

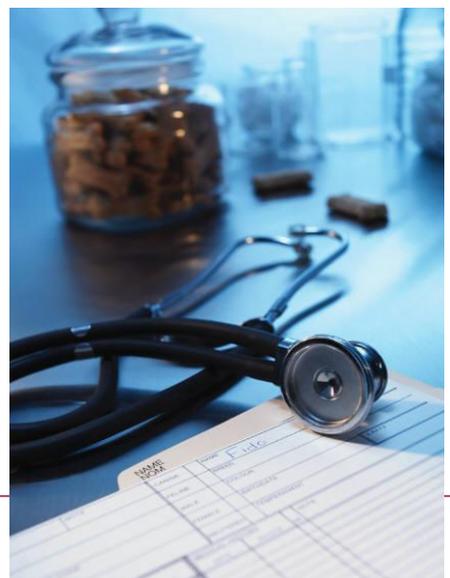


PET PORTALS

We want to introduce an exciting new feature available, free of charge to all clients who have an email address. It's called Pet Portals and it is a secure, private pet health website that gives you direct access to manage your pet's health 24/7.

What can I do with Pet Portals?

- ▶ View pet information
- ▶ Request appointments
- ▶ Receive important medical alerts and clinic news.
- ▶ Post photos of your pets
- ▶ Order prescription refills
- ▶ Create and print instructions for pet sitters or kennel staff
- ▶ Access reliable information on a wide range of pet health topics
- ▶ View vaccination history
- ▶ Request email reminders about when to give your pet's medication.



Kids Corner

Present Hink Pinks

The answers to Hink Pinks are two rhyming words with the same number of syllables. See if you can figure these out.

1. What do you call a present that arrives very quickly?

2. What do you have when you accidentally break two presents?

3. What do you see when your brother opens the prefect present?

4. What do you call it when you cut the wrapping paper the wrong way?

5. What do call a nice gift?

ANSWERS:

1. Swift Gift
2. Double Trouble
3. Boy Joy
4. Ship Slip
5. Pleasant Present

Wacky Word

Who brings presents to cats and dogs on Christmas?
Color in the letters F-L-U-F-F-Y and 'R-O-V-E-R in the grid below.
Read the Remaining letters.

F L R S U
O A F N R
V F T V E
Y R R A O
V U P F V
L A E U W
F F L R F
S Y R O

Local Shelters

York County SPCA
 (717)764-6109
www.ycspca.org

Pet photos with Santa
 December 11th and 18th

Animal Rescue Inc.
 (717)993-3232
www.animalrescueinc.org
 See website for want lists

Tails End Rescue
 Wrightsville
 (717)927-8021



While dogs have 10
 different vocals cats have
 100!

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