

# Midnight's Mewsings

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Layout done by : Leslie Leffler

## Employee Spotlight



**Employee Spotlight**  
Tammy Rineer

Client Relations Specialist

**Hometown:** Red Lion, PA, although born in Lancaster  
**Started at PVH:** Nov. 2003

**Pets:** The Rineer Rescue Ranch is currently home to several dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, goats, fowl and small animals.

**Education/Experience:** Graduate of Manheim Township High School and numerous online courses including nutrition and health care. Nineteen years working with animals as a caretaker and vet. assistant in both York and Lancaster.

**Have you always been interested in animals?** Ever since I was old enough to steal food from the family cat to feed the strays! It just seemed natural. I've always been interested in animals in need, senior pets, and those with special needs.

**Why did you choose to work at PVH?** I was previously a client and knew PVH had caring and compassionate doctors and staff. I am thrilled to be a part of it!

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## February is Dental Awareness Month

By: Rebecca Dougherty

We humans have it easy when it comes to dental care; we brush, floss and go to the dentist twice a year. But our furry friends aren't so lucky. If we never brushed or went to the dentist, and lived into our 80's, can you imagine what the state our teeth would be in? Yet this is what we expect of our faithful companions. Studies show that 70-80 percent of cats and dogs have significant oral disease by the time they are three years old! Periodontal disease is actually the most common disease affecting our pets, more than heart, lung, liver or kidney disease.

One of the most important aspects of your pet's annual exam is the oral health check; our veterinarians will grade your pet's teeth from 0-4. If there is no sign of dental disease he will be graded as a zero. A pet with slight gingivitis and some plaque and tartar build up, but no loss of gum attachment to the teeth, is considered a grade one. This is a good time to have the teeth cleaned, before significant problems start. A grade two will have a heavier accumulation of tartar, there will be some loss of tissue attachment, and the gums will bleed easily if probed. Once a pet reaches a grade three, there is a heavy accumulation of tartar; there may be loosening or mobility of the teeth and some bone loss in the jaw. There may be cracked or fractured teeth requiring oral surgery. By the time a pet reaches grade four, there is extreme teeth mobility and bone loss; again there may be cracked or fractured teeth, and heavy tartar and plaque. Periodontal disease begins with the accumulation of plaque, which is composed of food particles, saliva, and bacteria. Small breed dogs and cats that salivate excessively are more prone to the build up of plaque. If the plaque is not removed with brushing, it begins to mineralize and form dental calculus, or tartar. Tartar is what causes the

gums to become inflamed, allowing more bacteria to form, causing further inflammation. This in turn causes the gum tissue to swell, trapping more bacteria, which damages the tooth attachment to the gums and can lead to the destruction of the jaw bone, itself. Destruction of the jaw bone may take 2-5 years, but meanwhile your pet is in constant, significant pain due to the inflammation and infection. Every time your pet chews it releases the bacteria and infection into the bloodstream, leading to the liver, kidneys, lungs, and most importantly, the heart. Often many common problems that affect your pet can be traced to periodontal disease. Research shows that having your pet's teeth cleaned can add 1-3 years of quality life to your pet.

Signs of periodontal disease in your pet can be red, swollen gums, bad breath, pawing at the face, a change in eating habits, or swelling of areas of the face. There may also be broken teeth, especially by those dogs that are aggressive chewers. Broken teeth can lead to abscesses, or infection in the gums.

Since most dogs and cats are not accommodating about having their mouths examined, any dental cleaning must be done under anesthesia. Blood work should be done ahead of time to check the health of your pet's major organs to give your veterinarian an idea of the safest drugs to use for anesthesia. Once your pet is under anesthesia, the mouth will be evaluated for loose or broken teeth, pockets of infection, exposed roots, and, in cats, resorptive lesions, like cavities in humans. Any suspicious teeth will be x-rayed. The radiographs will show the amount of abscessing around the roots, or in some cases broken roots. Some teeth can be saved with just the dental cleaning, or application of dental products. X-rays will show if extraction is necessary. The teeth will then be scaled with an ultrasonic

scaler, up and under the gum line, and polished just like a human dentist. Often fluoride or other dental products are applied to help keep plaque formation to a minimum.

Now your pet's teeth are clean and shiny white! How do you keep the plaque and tartar from building up and causing the same problems again? Home care is the most important aspect of your dental cleaning. Begin introducing brushing by rubbing your pet's face and gums, using beef or chicken flavored toothpaste. Once the pet is comfortable with this you may introduce a finger brush or small toothbrush. Don't forget the inside of your pet's teeth! Use lots of praise and (dental!) treats. If brushing is simply not an option there are many dental products that can help. Our veterinary hospital offers mouth rinses, or dental chews containing enzymes to help keep plaque from forming. Barrier products, such as Oravet, a paste-like substance applied weekly, also works well. Also available are water additives, a tasteless substance you add right to your pet's drinking water. It works equally well on dogs and cats!

Don't wait for your beloved companion to show signs of deadly periodontal disease; start now by proactively brushing your puppy or kitten's teeth. If your pet is older, it's not too late, you can teach an old dog (or cat) new tricks! Brush daily if you can, or weekly at least. After all, it is hard for them to hold the toothbrush in their own paws! Take your pet to our veterinarians for an oral examination. Your reward will be several more years of love from your pet.





PETS OF THE WEEK

- Aussie Snyder - Guardian of Chad Snyder
- Yogi Spyker - Party planner of the Spyker Household
- Marli Garner - spoiled puppy of the Garner Household
- Ginny & Hermione Berkheimer - guinea pigs pampered by the Berkheimer Family
- Trapper Trout - beloved troublemaker of the Trout Family
- Toby Lofties - Shi-Poo puppy, adored by the Lofties Family
- Keesha Lytle - the sparkle in the eyes of the Lytle Family
- Libby Kauffman - spoiled rotten (and lovin' it!) by the Kauffman Family
- Dusty Harbaugh - Dusty is Thad Harbaugh's right hand man
- Abby Lynch - there is never a dull moment with Abby around!



**Slentrol Success Story**

By: Tabitha Clark

We are pleased to announce that "Scrat" Smith is the winner of our Biggest Loser program. Congratulations, Scrat! As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, Slentrol is a new FDA-approved weight loss medication for dogs. Scrat started taking Slentrol on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2008. At that time, he weighed 25 pounds, which is very overweight for a miniature pincher. Today, Scrat is down to his ideal body weight of 19.1 pounds! Scrat is now a much healthier dog, reducing his risks of health problems such as arthritis, heart disease, skin and hair coat problems, and respiratory and heart issues. If you have tried diet



and exercise for your dog and he is still overweight, ask our veterinarian if Slentrol is right for your dog.



PVH Community Buzz  
by  
Kristi McArthur

It's that time of year again!! In honor of the holiday season, the season for giving, we are launching our annual food drive for Meals on Wheels. From December 1<sup>st</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup> we will be collecting items for cats, dogs, birds, and other household pets to be delivered during the week of Christmas. In the past we have been very successful due to the kind nature of our clients and other members of the community in helping to make someone's holiday extra special. So please feel free to drop off any pet food or toys, kitty litter, blankets,

etc. at our office during normal business hours Monday-Saturday.

While at the office please notice our tribute tree in the lobby. We are selling ornaments for \$5 that can be personalized to hang on our tree (or take home to hang on your tree) in honor of a lost pet. The tree will be up until after New Years. All proceeds benefit Pennies for Paws. Pennies for Paws was created to ease the physical suffering of pets, and to alleviate the financial and emotional burden of the people who care for them. The fund comes entirely from the donations of other clients. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office at 246-2611. Hopefully together we can make the holiday season a great one for those families in need.



Celebrity Pet Pals

Doris Day: Actress, Singer and Animal Heroine

By

Shawn Downs, Client Relations Specialist

Although thirty-five years have passed since Doris Day last appeared on the silver screen, she remains one of the most recognized and beloved entertainers of all time. Her career flourished during the 1950's and 60's, with a string of box office hits that included *Teacher's Pet*, *Pillow Talk*, and *Please Don't Eat the Daisies*. She enjoyed fame as a top-selling recording artist, and starred in her own television se-

ries, "The Doris Day Show", on CBS.

She will forever be remembered as Rock Hudson's favorite leading lady and for the signature songs "Sentimental Journey" and "Que Sera Sera". But Doris Day has also achieved success as a dedicated humanitarian, most notably as an advocate for the welfare of animals.

Miss Day is the founder of two non-profit organizations aimed at improving the quality of life for animals across the world. The Doris Day Animal League and the Doris Day Animal Foundation each work with communities and legislators in the hope of educating the public and passing new laws to protect animals. Over the past several years, their efforts have raised awareness about animal abuse, puppy mills, and the importance of spaying and neutering. One of her most important programs, Spay Day USA, has been responsible for spaying and neutering over one million pets since first being launched a decade ago.

Doris Day's lifelong passion for dogs began as a teenager. During her recuperation from a devastating car accident, a dog named Tiny proved to be her greatest comfort. "I was on crutches for more than a year," says Miss Day. "He never left my side, understood my moods, and gave me the kind of companionship that only a dog can bestow."

Today, both foundations continue

to take the initiative in animal care causes. Their latest project seeks to introduce "animal friendly" license plates to all fifty states. With the purchase of a special license plate, vehicle owners are able to proudly display their support of animal welfare and contribute funds at the same time. So far over half the United States currently offers the special plates, with much-needed donations being allocated to shelter/rescue organizations and spay/neuter programs.

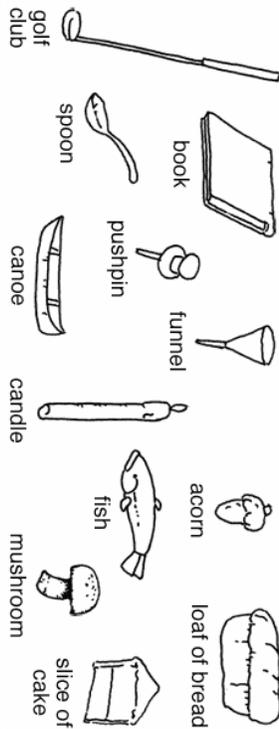
Through her boundless love and tireless efforts, animals have indeed found their champion in Doris Day. She has even earned the respect of President George W. Bush, who awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2004. "Doris Day became an American icon as an actress and singer," said President Bush. "It was a good day for our fellow creatures when she gave her good heart to the cause of animal welfare."



# Kitty Corner

By: Kristi McArthur

# Lend A Paw



## SPCA

3159 Susquehanna Trail North  
 York, PA 17406  
 (717) 764-6109  
[www.ycspca.org](http://www.ycspca.org)  
 Upcoming Events:  
**Canine Treat Fundraiser**  
 Orders by December 13th  
 Pick up December 18th, 19th & 20th

## Christmas Pictures

December 13th and 20th

## Animal Rescue Inc.

2 Heritage Farm Drive  
 New Freedom, PA 17349  
 (717) 993-3232  
[www.animalrescueinc.org](http://www.animalrescueinc.org)  
 See website for their most recent  
 Wish List!

## Did You Know?

Just one cow gives off enough harmful methane gas in a single day to fill around 400 liter bottles.

### Patton Veterinary Hospital

425 East Broadway  
 Red Lion, PA 17356  
 Phone (717) 246-3611

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!!**  
[www.pattonvethospital.com](http://www.pattonvethospital.com)

