

Chatfield Veterinary Hospital

CVH Newsletter



Hours of Business

- Monday 7:30 - 5:00
- Tuesday 7:30 - 7:00
- Wednesday 7:30 - 7:00
- Thursday 7:30 - 7:00
- Friday 7:30 - 6:00
- Saturday 8:00 - 2:00
- Sunday - CLOSED

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive the next issue of our newsletter via email, please email us at CVHemail@msn.com and we'll get you on our mailing list.

Exciting News From Kim Crawford, DVM

We are very excited to announce our new expansion project. Many of you may know there is a residence attached to the hospital where the previous veterinarian and his family lived. We plan to transform this space into a state-of-the-art grooming parlor, luxury cat and dog boarding suites, a euthanasia comfort room, and a doggie daycare facility. Remodeling will start early in 2006, contingent on a successful rezoning process. We will retain our small office ambiance and offer 15 luxury dog boarding suites with one-on-one care. Our doggie daycare will only a maximum of 10 dogs per day with personalized loving care for each and every pet. We have lots of training and fun activities planned for those lucky campers. In addition to the interior remodeling and new services, we hope to develop an agility and obedience training center on our large grounds.

Canine Influenza - Laura Conklin, DVM

Canine influenza, or the "flu," is a disease which has received a lot of media attention in the last few months. This is a serious respiratory disease which was first identified in racing Greyhound dogs in Florida. It caused a great deal of concern because it appeared very rapidly, and many dogs became severely ill. It is characterized by a high fever, nasal discharge, cough, and bronchitis or pneumonia. Dogs with these specific clinical signs are hospitalized and treated with intravenous fluids and antibiotics. This disease causes dogs to become very sick, but it is rarely fatal. It is transmitted by nasal and respiratory secretions, and dogs that are in a high density environment (such as dog shows) are at the highest risk for becoming infected. There is no vaccine to prevent the flu. It has now been diagnosed in the general pet population, but there have been no reported cases in Colorado.

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Have you looked in your pet's mouth lately?



February is National Pet Dental Health Awareness month.

Foul breath and yellow-brown teeth in your dog or cat are not only unappealing, they could indicate a serious gum disease that can lead to other more serious health problems.

Periodontal disease affects nearly 80 percent of all cats and dogs over the age of three. It starts as bacteria and plaque on teeth and progresses into a disease that can cause tooth decay, bleeding gums, tooth loss, and even damage to the heart and other internal organs," says Dr. Steve Holmstrom, past president of the American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS) and a spokesperson for the annual Pets Need Dental Care, Too™ campaign.

Without proper dental care, 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by age three. In fact, oral disease is the No. 1 health problem diagnosed in dogs and cats. The AVDS recommends a three-step program to help prevent oral disease.

STEP 1 Visit your veterinarian for a complete checkup.

STEP 2 Start a pet dental care routine at home.

STEP 3 Continue regular veterinary dental checkups.

Help your pet live a longer, healthier life.

The first step is knowledge.

Our pets are living longer these days and nothing contributes more to their long life than regular visits to your veterinarian. Regular visits are important because pets age much faster than we do, so health problems can develop very rapidly, especially in older animals. We want to catch small problems quickly before they become major medical conditions. By bringing your pets in every year for a wellness exam, we can give you an assessment of your pet's overall health and make any necessary recommendations. Our veterinarians will check organ health and function, look for arthritis, which is common in older dogs and cats, as well as gum and dental disease, because dental problems can lead to serious medical complications.

Your Pet's Relative Age

<u>Dog/Cat</u>	<u>Human</u>
1 Year	15 Years
5 Years	36 Years
8 Years	48 Years
12 Years	64 Years
15 Years	76 Years

Meet Two Geriatric Gems!

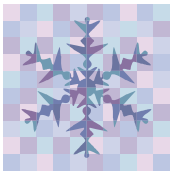
Wicat Schiemberg - Age 24

Brandy Kelius - Age 16



Introducing the Holly Hughes Memorial Fund

Holly was an adorable Brittany Spaniel, born near Christmas. Her owners have started a memorial fund at Chatfield Veterinary Hospital. The fund is in memory of their loving, courageous companion. The fund will be used to care for stray animals or for pets whose owners are no longer able to afford veterinary care. When I first met Holly in April 2000, her sweet demeanor and beautiful eyes captured my heart. I got to know Holly a little better when her sensitive stomach and eating crayons caused her to spend a few days in the hospital. She was a sweet and most gentle patient. At age 11, Holly went blind. She adapted quickly to her blindness, as dogs will. I tell owners, "Just don't move the furniture on them and they will do fine." On August 6, 2005, almost 12 years of age, Holly was euthanized when her daily pain and effort diminished her quality of life. On behalf of Chatfield Veterinary Hospital, thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Hughes for starting the "Holly Hughes Memorial Fund." If you would like to donate to the fund please send your donation to Chatfield Veterinary Hospital, Holly Hughes Memorial Fund, at 8420 W. Ken Caryl Avenue, Littleton, CO 80128.



Winter Pet Care Tips

Housing:

It is best to keep pets indoors during the winter months, but if not possible, outdoor pets must be provided with shelter. Their home should be elevated to prevent moisture accumulation and have a door of some kind to keep out winter winds, sleet, and snow. Shelters should be insulated or heated. Water sources may be heated to permit constant access to water; thermal units are designed specifically for this purpose. Outdoor pets require extra calories to keep warm; feed your pet according to its needs when the temperature drops. In severely cold or inclement weather, no pet should be kept outside. Indoor pets should have sleeping quarters in a draft-free, warm area .

Frostbite and snow removal salt:

Snow and salt should be removed from your pets paws immediately. Frostbitten skin is red or gray and may slough. Apply warm, moist towels to thaw out frostbitten areas slowly until the skin appears flushed (pink). Contact your veterinarian as soon as possible for further care. Snow removal products should be stored out of the reach of pets and small children as their toxicity varies considerably.

Potential Holiday Hazards

Low toxicity -- poinsettia leaves/stems; balsam/pine/cedar/fir; angel hair (spun glass); Christmas tree preservatives; snow sprays/snow flock; tree ornaments; super glue; styrofoam; icicles (tinsel); and crayons/paints.

Moderate toxicity -- fireplace colors/salts; plastic model cement; holly berries and leaves; bubbling lights (methylene chloride); aftershaves/perfumes/alcoholic beverages; and chocolate (dark chocolate is more toxic than milk chocolate).

Highly toxic -- mistletoe (especially berries); epoxy adhesives; and antifreeze. Note that some items have special problems. For example, angel hair is usually considered to be of low toxicity, but it can irritate eyes, skin, and the gastrointestinal tract; the content of Christmas tree preservatives varies and effects depend upon the amount ingested; styrofoam, small tree ornaments or toys, as well as tinsel, can cause mechanical obstructions in the gastrointestinal tract; spray flocking can cause problems if inhaled. Antifreeze, even a very small amount, can be rapidly fatal to pets.



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**Chatfield Veterinary Hospital
8420 W. Ken Caryl Ave.
Littleton, CO 80128**

**Phone: 303-978-9750
Fax: 303-978-9743
E-mail: CVHemail@msn.com**

Winter Savings



February is National Pet Dental Health Awareness month. If you schedule your dog or cat for a dental in the month of February, you will receive \$20.00 off the total price.

For dogs under 3 years of age, we are also offering dental polishing for only \$25.00

Good Puppy Social Club

(for puppies 8-16 weeks)

The first class is orientation for owners only (no dogs). Puppy owners will learn how to deal with common puppy issues: house soiling, crate training, biting and nipping, chewing, and other common improper puppy behavior.

Next Classes (call to confirm availability):

December - Saturday, December 3 (3:00 - 5:00pm) Orientation without dogs

Saturday, December 10 thru January 7 (3:00-4:00pm) with dogs

(No class December 24)

Please contact Linda Mutz at 303-789-0967 or email at Mutzres@aol.com for more information about the puppy classes or to register.