



Chatfield Veterinary Hospital

# CVH Fall '09 Newsletter

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## Hours of Business

- Monday 7:30 - 7:00
- 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 Boarder Pickup Only 4:00-6:00

## FALL SENIOR SPECIAL!

Through October 31st, we are offering a Senior dog/cat special wellness check-up. This special wellness check includes:

- A physical examination
- Full panel blood work
- Urinalysis
- 2 Chest X-Rays
- 2 Abdominal X-Rays
- X-Ray viewing by Board Certified Radiologist

Through October the regular price for this check up would be \$431.00. We are offering a discount of \$75.00 which brings the total cost to \$356.00. Call anytime to set up an appointment for your pet's Senior well check.

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## When is My Pet Considered a Senior?

**Generally speaking, a dog or cat seven years of age or older qualifies them as a senior. This can vary, however, with the size and breed of the animal. For instance, smaller dogs tend to have longer life spans than giant-breed pets. A giant breed dog as young as five years of age may be considered a "senior," while a small-breed dog may not reach senior status until 10 to 13 years of age. Senior pets need more attention than they did when they were younger, even if they're healthy. Dogs and cats age faster than people do, so health condition changes can occur much more quickly. Some of the diseases and conditions that affect animals include: arthritis, cancer, dental disease, diabetes, intestinal issues, thyroid problems, heart, kidney failure, and liver disease. With advances in pet nutrition and veterinary care, our pets are living longer. To help get the most from that extra time with your senior pet, it is recommended that you bring your pet in for a complete physical exam once every six months, along with routine testing once a year to help detect diseases early, when they are easier to treat.**

## Say Cheese!

Help us decorate our exit way and bring in cute, funny or memorable photos of your pets.

## Meet Our New Staff Members!

**Dr. Ben Nemmers (DVM):** Dr. Nemmers was born in Okinawa, Japan and then raised in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Since he was young, he always thought about being a veterinarian. He received a B.S. in Zoology at North Dakota State University, where he competed on the men's basketball team on an athletic scholarship. Dr. Nemmers attended Iowa State University-College of Veterinary Medicine. He has an interest in Small Animal Surgery and Dermatology. A week after graduation, he married a fellow classmate, Colleen, before their move to Colorado. In his free time, Dr. Nemmers loves spending time with his wife and their two dogs, Lucky and Dakota. They are a very active couple and cannot wait to enjoy the great outdoors of Colorado.

**Rebecca Parker (Daycare/Kennel):** Rebecca is one of the newest members of the CVH staff. She comes to us with years of experience as a Certified Pet Care Tech through the American Boarding Kennel Association. When Rebecca is not at CVH she works at a hospice and rehabilitation center as an activity director assistant, likes to hike 14ers, plays softball, is a book worm and movie buff. She is working towards a bachelors degree in social work. Rebecca is the mother of two beautiful sons, Ethan and Logan. Rebecca is excited to work with the wonderful daycare and boarding pets and looks forward to each day at work!

**Codell Loats (Daycare/Kennel):** Codell has joined the CVH team this August after moving back to Colorado from Laguna Beach, CA. His love of animals and having the ability to play with them all day brought him to the Chatfield boarding staff. Codell graduated Orange Coast College with a degree in Business. In his spare time Codell likes to work on his many inventions.

**Devan Sheil (Daycare/Kennel):** Devan came to CVH in April this year. She will be attending Bel-Rea Veterinary Institute this fall to pursue a career as a veterinary technician. She enjoys bringing her dog, Coco, to work with her.

**Rachel Okeon (Vet Tech):** Rachel joined CVH in April and is thrilled to be part of a wonderful team. Rachel has worked as a vet tech for the last eight years. She's also worked as a receptionist, vet assistant and would frequently volunteer at different animal hospitals. Rachel is expecting her first child (a girl!) around Christmas time.

**Ernie Bjorkman (Vet Tech):** Ernie joined our team in May. Ernie was a local TV anchorman for the last 26 years but wanted to pursue his passion in life, working with animals. So after 3 years of college, 35 years after the first go around, Ernie received his associate degree in Veterinarian Technology and was certified in March of 2009. Ernie and his wife have two English Bulldogs, Ziggy and Fannie, who enjoy splitting their time in Denver and at their mountain house in South Fork. Ernie is eager to meet and help all of the clients, both old and new, at Chatfield. For him, being a Vet Tech is a passion, not a job.

**Jessica's Sandoval (Vet Assistant):** Jessica joined the CVH team this August after graduating from CSU in Animal Science. She also has three Associate degree in Exotic Animal Training. She plans on continuing to work with animals and expanding her knowledge in the veterinary field.

Everyone has been a wonderful addition to our practice. We really enjoy having them on our team and we hope you do too!

### *WELCOME BACK TERI!*

We would like to welcome back our wonderful groomer, Teri Long, after her extended leave of absence due to back surgery. We are so glad to have her back on the CVH team!



## The Dreaded E-Collar

By Ernie Bjorkman, CVT

Thank the folks back in the “Elizabethan” days of England for the idea and the name. The Elizabethan or E-collar was first made popular by the elite of that time who wore them to show off their status. Very stiff and starched, they made it almost impossible for men and women to turn their heads. A veterinarian, long ago, took that idea and the E-collar was invented.

We and our pets may not like the hard plastic device but the E-collar has saved many animals the trauma of re-opening a wound and their owners the financial trauma of spending even more money.

When we ask you to make sure your pet wears an E-collar, it is for their own welfare.

It is natural for any animal to go right to a wound or a “hot” spot on their body and start licking it. If there are sutures holding skin in place, it is also natural for your pet to try and get rid of that foreign material. In both cases, licking and biting the wound can cause infection as well as re-opening the wound.

Following a surgical procedure, it usually takes anywhere from 10 to 14 days for the two sides of skin to re-attach and heal. That is why we ask that you use the E-collar for up to two weeks. A well fitted E-collar will prevent your pet from causing more serious damage.

But we also recommend that when you are with your pet and during meal times, the E-collar is not necessary since you are there to supervise.



And we are happy to report that American ingenuity is making the dreaded E-collar much more comfortable and tolerable. The soft E-collar is becoming very popular in many veterinarian practices, including ours, so the next time we recommend one, ask about the “softer” version. It is more like a big soft doughnut rather than a crazy looking lampshade!

## WHAT'S NEW AT CVH?

There have been a few changes to the doctors' schedule and we wanted to inform our clients of these changes so they have the opportunity to see the doctor of their choice:

Monday: Dr. Crawford & Dr. Nemmers  
 Tuesday: Dr. Crawford & Dr. Nemmers  
 Wednesday: Dr. Crawford & Dr. Nemmers  
 Thursday: Dr. Conklin & Dr. Harrington Smith  
 Friday: Dr. Conklin & Dr. Nemmers  
 Saturday: Dr. Conklin & Dr. Nemmers



### New Daycare/Boarding Protocol:

\*Need to make a reservation for a day of daycare or for an overnight stay? As most of our clients already know we are asking that any reservations that need to be made be made by calling our boarding staff cell phone instead of the front desk. That number is: 720-257-3083

\*We would also like to encourage clients to make reservations ahead of time. As we begin our holiday season, our kennels do fill up fast. We recommend making reservations as soon as you know your dates. For holidays we require a \$50.00 deposit for every dog which DOES go towards your final bill.

\*Also remember to check out the bulletin board located in

## Yummy Tuna Kitty Treats Recipe:



Looking for a delicious treat for your furry friend? Try these yummy tuna treats.

### You Will Need:

1/2 cup whole wheat flour  
 1/2 cup nonfat powdered milk  
 1/2 can tuna, in oil or 1/2 cup cooked chicken, chopped into small pieces  
 1 tablespoon vegetable or cod liver oil  
 1 egg beaten  
 1/4 cup water

### What to do:

1. In a large bowl, mash the tuna (or

chicken). Add the flour and powdered milk, mixing well. Stir in the water, oil and egg, mixing well. Mixture will be sticky.

2. Shape mixture into 1/2-inch sized balls. Place on a greased baking sheet. Press balls to flatten.
3. Bake at 350°F (175°C) for 10 minutes. Removed treats from oven; let sit for 5 minutes and then turn treats over and bake another 10 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely on wire rack. Store in an air tight container in the refrigerator.

## The Lowdown on Lepto

By Dr. Nemmers, DVM

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease of world-wide significance that infects both animals and humans. It is transmitted between wild animals such as rodents, raccoons, opossums & several other species through infected urine, venereal and placental transfer, bite wounds, or the ingestion of infected tissue. Stagnant or slow moving water provides a suitable habitat for *Leptospira*. As a result, disease outbreaks often increase during periods of flooding. In dry areas infections are more common around water sources. Humans can contract leptospirosis and any potentially infected animal should be handled very carefully to avoid human exposure.

Lepto tends to infect the animals liver and kidneys. In acute infections a fever of 103-104°, shivering, and muscle tenderness are the first signs. Vomiting and rapid dehydration may follow. Severely infected dogs may develop hypothermia and become depressed and die before kidney or liver failure has a chance to develop. The dog may be reluctant to move due to muscle or kidney pain. Animals with liver involvement may develop icterus. Dogs that develop kidney or liver involvement may begin to show improvement in organ function after 2 to 3 weeks or they may develop chronic renal failure.



Treatment consists of antibiotics, fluid replacement, and controlling the vomiting and the problems associated with the corresponding kidney or liver infections. Intravenous fluids are often given to correct dehydration while the corresponding liver or kidney problems are treated.

There currently are vaccines available to prevent your dog from contracting Lepto. If Leptospiral vaccines are used, the animal should receive two to three doses of the vaccine spaced several weeks apart and then annually after that. If you are concerned your dog may be exposed to Lepto please call today and make an appointment.



### **Friendly Reminder:**

We are asking that all clients whose pets are currently on medication, please call 24 hours in advance for prescription refills. This helps us to make sure we have your meds ready at your convenience and avoids making you have to wait for them.

## **Why is an Exam or Blood Work Important Prior to Refilling Medications?**

Prescription medications bind a legal relationship between your pet and your doctor just like it does when your doctor prescribes medications for you. It is the responsibility of your doctor to ensure the correct dosage and that your pet is healthy enough to take the drug. This is why we legally require an exam and blood test to make sure your pet is healthy and the drugs are always helping your pet and not hurting. There are also concerns and lawsuits about online pharmacies. It is hard in this economy not to look for the cheapest. Reasons not to shop online include many of the online pharmacies get their drugs from overseas (e.g., China) and these countries do not have the strict regulations we have when making and dispensing these drugs. Another reason is some drug companies will not stand behind their product (e.g., refunds, treating dog for reactions) if you do not purchase the drug from your veterinarian.

## HOWL - WHEAT TREATS

ONE BITE OF THIS BONE AND YOUR DOG WILL HOWL FOR MORE!

### **WHAT YOU NEED:**

- 4 CUPS WHOLE EAT
- 1/4 CUP CORNMEAL
- 1 1/2 CUPS WATER
- 1/2 CUP WHEAT GERM
- 1/3 CUP CORN MEAL
- 2 TBSP PARSLEY\*

\*DOGS "PERFUR" FRESH INGREDIENTS, BUT 1/2 TBSPN DRIED PARSLEY MAY BE SUBSTITUTED.

### **WHAT TO DO:**

- PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES.
- COMBINE FLOUR, WHEAT GERM, CORNMEAL AND PARSLEY. ADD WATER AND OIL TO DRY INGREDIENTS.
- KNEAD FOR 2-3 MINUTES. ROLL DOUGH TO 1/4" THICKNESS AND

CUT WITH COOKIE CUTTER.

- BAKE AT 350 DEGREES ON AN UNGREASED COOKIE SHEET FOR 30 MINUTES OR UNTIL EDGES START TO BROWN.
- MAKES 2 1/2 DOZEN.

