



Chatfield Veterinary Hospital

# CVH New Year '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 4:00-6:00

## WHAT'S YOUR 2009 RESOLUTION?

At Chatfield Veterinary Hospital we would like to continue our commitment and oath as veterinarians to you and your pet:

**Our Practice Philosophy** is to provide quality, personalized care with the highest possible standards of veterinary medicine for your pets and the highest level of customer service to you. We want to work with you and your pet to achieve the best care and most affordable treatment options. Our full service hospital offers state of the art medical technology, comfortable boarding facilities in a clean and attentive environment. We take an individualized approach to the long-term care of every patient. We place a high priority on education to help our clients learn about their pet's health care so we can work together ensuring a long and healthy relationship throughout your pet's life. We want our clients to leave our hospital confident that each pet has received the best possible medical service, provided with care and compassion.

### Reflections on 2008

This past year was a great success for our boarding and daycare facilities. Daycare was busier than ever; we now require daily reservations to ensure we don't go over capacity. Boarding was full for every holiday and the summer was busier than we ever expected. Cara, Linnea, and Jenna have done a fantastic job assuring all the guests have a great time in a clean and safe environment. Our high school girls, Katie, Kayla N., Kayla H., and Amy also have gotten to know all the regulars. A big thank you to all our clients for your confidence in us!

Wedding bells rang three times at our practice in 2008: Dr. Julie Harrington married in August, now Dr. Julie Harrington Smith; our receptionist, Amanda, was married in September, now Amanda Parsons; and Dr. Laura Conklin was married in October.

## Feb-Mar Dental Discount Months

Start the new year with fresh breath! Please call to schedule a complimentary dental exam and receive your free dental estimate. Greater than seventy per cent of dogs older than 3 years of age have periodontal disease and because of the amount of force that a dog uses to chew on things many dogs have fractured teeth that can be painful and go undetected. The staff at CVH has spent many continuing education hours of dentistry. With our dental digital x-ray's and state of the art equipment we are able to quickly diagnose and treat all of your pets dental needs.

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**"Dogs have owners, cats have staff." - Anonymous**

## Answers to Some FAQ's - by Dr. Julie Harrington Smith

### Why do I have to have a heartworm test for my dog every year if he is on heartworm preventative seasonally or even annually?

Heartworm preventative works by killing heartworm larvae up to a certain stage of life. Heartworms can grow to this stage in the next month after being introduced by a mosquito on your dog. For heartworm preventative to be effective, it must be given by the owner and taken by the dog monthly. With only one missed or late dose, any heartworm larvae in the dog can grow to the next stage of life that cannot be eliminated by the next dose of preventative. Testing annually for heartworm disease can possibly detect an infection at an early stage before symptoms appear. Here in Colorado, spring is the best time for testing because the test can only detect infection six months after exposure. After our cold, mosquito-free winter, testing in the spring could detect an infection from the previous summer season.

### Why can't you just refill my pet's eye/ear medications?

There are two reasons why an exam may be necessary to refill what may seem like common medications. First, although your pet's eye or ear problem may appear the same as the previous episode, there could be differences that could change the medications or treatments prescribed. During an exam, the veterinarian can ensure the proper course of action is followed based on what is truly going on with your pet. Certain medications could be *harmful* to your pet if used when other conditions exist. Second, to prescribe medications legally, a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship must be in place. Typically this entails having seen the patient and performed a physical exam regarding the problem and to have an understanding of the pet's medical condition and history.

### Why do I have to schedule an exam when my pet just needs vaccines?

A vaccine is most effective when given to a healthy animal. The exam allows the veterinarian to determine the animal's overall health, and if they should receive the vaccine. This exam is also a time to discuss concerns about your pet, and for the doctor to obtain a recent history of your pet's health. Giving vaccines to a unhealthy pet is not in its best interest—it may not be able to generate the protection it needs against disease.

## Prescription Foods At CVH

Being able to prescribe prescription foods for your pets individual needs is a great asset to veterinary medicine. We have chosen the best companies as our resource for pet dietary needs. We work closely with Iams, Royal Canin and Wellness for our food selection. Iams and Royal Canin (IVD) provide us with prescription diet foods and Wellness provides us with an all natural uniquely formulated holistic pet food. Please feel free to call with questions or schedule a consult regarding your pets dietary needs. Many dogs are on prescription diets for kidney, intestinal, allergy, or overweight related problems. We have recently discontinued the Hill's brand of food and would be happy to help you find a compatible replacement or direct you to the nearest retailer for Hill's foods. Amanda Parson's is our coordinator for food ordering and she is happy to help you in anyway.

## "All the Trimmings" Dog Cookies

2 cups cooked ground turkey  
 2 cups brown rice flour  
 2 eggs  
 ½ cup dried cranberries  
 ½ cup carrots, diced and pureed in food processor  
 1 cup cooked, mashed sweet potatoes or yams  
 2 tablespoons honey  
 1 tsp dried rosemary  
 ¼ tsp garlic powder (or granulated garlic)  
 1 tsp ground cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 375°. Combine all ingredients, and mix until a dough forms. Roll out onto a lightly floured surface to ¼-inch thickness. Cut into shapes with a cookie cutter or knife. Place on an aluminum foil-lined cookie sheet and bake 22-27 minutes. Transfer and cool completely on wire rack. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

## Beware of Antifreeze!! - by Carla Pales

Every winter, hundreds of cats and dogs are treated for ethylene glycol toxicity. Although ethylene glycol is used primarily in antifreeze, it can also be found in cosmetics, paints and snow globe toys. Cats, dogs and children are attracted to ethylene glycol because of its sweet taste.

Ethylene glycol causes acute kidney failure and death. It is highly toxic and only a small amount needs to be ingested to be fatal. Less than ½ tablespoon can be lethal to a 10-lb cat or dog. Animals typically develop symptoms of ethylene glycol toxicity within 30 minutes. In order to decrease the number of poisonings, manufacturers have developed safer antifreeze products

containing propylene glycol or methanol instead of ethylene glycol. Several states have passed legislation that requires the addition of a bitter-tasting substance to antifreeze products to make them less attractive to pets and children. Despite these efforts, ethylene glycol-based antifreeze products still are the most commonly used, and our veterinarians continue to see this avoidable and usually fatal poisoning. To keep your dogs, cats, children and wildlife safe, do the following:

1. Use antifreeze products that contain ingredients other than ethylene glycol.
2. Store any products that contain

ethylene glycol in safe, sealed containers out of reach of pets and children.

3. Clean up any spills, and be sure your car is not leaking.
4. Know the symptoms of ethylene glycol

poisoning: staggering, lethargy, increased thirst and urination, vomiting and dehydration.

If you think your pet has been exposed, time is of the essence. Bring your pet to CVH or the nearest emergency clinic for immediate treatment.

## A Day in the Life of a Boarding Dog by Cara Dillon, Boarding/Daycare Manager

Our day at the kennels at Chatfield Veterinary Hospital starts at 6:30 each morning. That is when the first employee arrives to let all of the dogs out. They are let out for about 15-20 minutes (depending on the weather) and then brought inside for breakfast from 6:45-7:15 a.m. Once the dogs are fed, we let them relax in their suites and digest for approximately 30 minutes. After that, it's play time!

If your dog likes to play with other dogs, he/she will be allowed out in a play group. Since Doggy Daycare is included in the price of boarding, boarding dogs can play outside all they want! However, if your dog doesn't particularly like to be around other dogs, he/she will get to go outside but not in a play group. We will give them shifts outside and rotate them with other dogs that are not in play groups. If you have a larger dog (over 25 lb) and they are boarding over a Tuesday, which is our "Little Dog Day" at daycare, then your dog will not play in the biggest yard but instead will be put in one of our two side yards. We try to give them the big yard when the little daycare dogs go in for naptime between 12 and 2 p.m. Tuesday is the only day that not all the dogs will be resting from 12-2:00 because we do let the larger dogs out in the yard while the little dogs rest.

At 2 o'clock all the dogs will be let out and brought back in for dinner at 4 o'clock. After dinner and digestion time, they are let out to play until we begin to close down the kennels and get everyone ready for bed. Then it is lights out and the dogs stay snug and snoozing until more fun the next day!!

## Stop Bad Habits Before They Start!

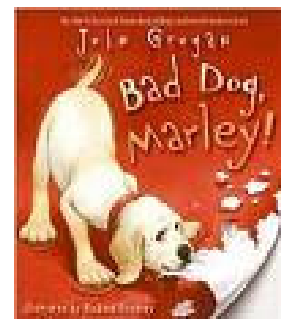
Eliminating an established bad habit can be more difficult than preventing one. However, many owners inadvertently encourage puppy behaviors that lead to poor habits, like nipping, pulling on the leash, or running away.

For example, consistently walking your puppy off leash almost inevitably leads to running to investigate something. The

puppy learns the game of chase when you try to control or catch them. But using a 15 to 20-foot retractable lead gives the pup a controlled freedom, while eliminating the habit of running off.

In most cases, prevention merely requires forethought. Think about the adult dog

you want, and reward behaviors that encourage desired habits. Following the think-ahead philosophy allows you to spend more time enjoying your growing dog and far less time fixing learned bad habits.



## “Gear-ing Up” With Your Dogs for Winter by Dr. Laura Conklin

Ahh...the beautiful Colorado sun has shifted south and we are well into winter. This is a beautiful time of year, and yet I always feel nostalgic knowing that the warm, effortless days of autumn are behind us. The cold weather represents a shift of mental and physical gears, and I need to adjust to find ways to exercise my two very energetic dogs. When it's cold and the wind is blowing, I would much rather curl up and hibernate on my sofa, and yet two pairs of sweet, brown eyes and two wagging tails gently, but insistently, remind me that my responsibility as a dog owner does NOT include being lazy!

So, the next step is to find the appropriate places to go exercise the dogs, keep myself very warm so that I can stay outside for extended amounts of time, and lastly, ensure that the dogs are protected from any potential frosty frights. Dogs can easily get frostbite on uncovered paws, tails, and ears, not to mention many dogs will just be totally miserable from the cold (just like us!) and can suffer from hypothermia. But our dogs rarely communicate any discomfort to us because they are loyal and so excited to be outside with us. There are many brands of outside dog gear, and because my dogs are athletic, and I am often in somewhat rugged terrain, my favorite is called “Ruff Wear” (works great for totally suburban or city dogs, too!) They have an excellent website, and their products are thoroughly tested for warmth, durability, comfort and aesthetics. My favorite products are the K9 overcoat (very warm, durable, visible, and comfortable), and dog boots (with the inner sock liners). Other products are the Track Jacket, Web Master Harness, dog packs, and the Safety Beacon. As with all clothing, the fit and correct sizing are crucial, so that they are comfortable wearing unfamiliar garments. Many dogs have adequate coats and do not require overcoats, but even the thickest-coated dogs may need boots to protect sensitive footpads. Great winter exercise can range from long walks, hiking, snowshoeing, or just goofing around at the local dog park. Try to seek out south-facing paved or dirt hiking trails in order to minimize ice, and it will allow a little extra sunshine to warm your cold bones. Snowshoeing is an inexpensive way to exercise both our dogs and ourselves, with difficulty ranging from beginner to advanced. You can access mountain trails, or just cruise your local neighborhood on snowy streets and grassy areas.

After an invigorating, adventuresome, or leisurely outing with your favorite companion, make yourself a cup of hot tea and then you and your dog can BOTH curl up on the sofa for a well-deserved nap! Happy Trails!!!

## White House Dogs Through the Years

**King Tut**, German Shepherd Dog (Herbert Hoover)

**Fala**, Scottish Terrier (Franklin D. Roosevelt)

**Heidi**, Weimaraner (Dwight D. Eisenhower)

**Charlie**, a Welsh Terrier; **Pushinka**, mixed breed; **Shannon**, Irish Spaniel; **Wolf**, Irish Wolfhound; and **Clipper**, German Shepherd Dog; and **Butterfly**, **White Tips**, **Blackie**, and **Streaker**, **Pushinka** and **Charlie's** pups (John F. Kennedy)

**Checkers**, Cocker Spaniel; **Vicky**, Poodle; **Pasha**, Terrier; and **King Timahoe**, Irish Setter (Richard Nixon)

**Beagle**, **Little Beagle**, **Him**, and **Her**, all Beagles; **Blanco**, a white Collie; and **Yuki**, a mixed breed dog (Lyndon B. Johnson)

**Liberty**, Golden Retriever (Gerald Ford)

**Lucky**, Bouvier des Flandres, and **Rex**, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (Ronald Reagan)

**Millie**, English Springer Spaniel, and **Ranger**, one of Millie's puppies (George H. W. Bush)

**Buddy**, chocolate Labrador Retriever (Bill Clinton)

**Miss Beazley** and **Barney**, Scottish Terriers; **Spot**, English Springer Spaniel (George W. Bush)

??? (Barack Obama)

