

Thompson Tribune

East Stroudsburg Veterinary Hospital

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Introducing Our New Health Care Team Members

We have some new additions to our Health Care Team. Since our last addition of 'Who's Who of ESVH', we've added some new faces to our Health Care Team. Here's an up to date introduction to the new knowledgeable staff in our hospital.

Cindy Taylor is a member of our Health Care Team. Cindy began her medical career on the human side. She started working as a transport aid for a nursing home 15 years ago. She then went on to obtain her CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) through St. Luke's Nursing Home in Hazleton, PA. She then began working in various nursing homes for the past 15 years. When she moved to the Stroudsburg area 5 years ago, she started private duty nurs-

ing. She's always had an interest in animals and shows that in her collection of household pets. She has 6 cats, 1 turtle, and an iguana. She is the single mother of 3 boys and brings her knowledge of medicine and her caring personality to our hospital.

Debra Schwartz is a member of our Health Care Team. Debra attended Northampton Community College in Bethlehem in the Medical Office Specialist program. Once completed, she began working in various veterinary hospitals in the area. She worked at both Creature Comforts and Barton Heights Veterinary Hospitals as a front desk receptionist. She enjoyed those jobs, but yearned for more. She wanted to interact with the pets more. She

wanted to have more of a hands-on role in the care of the animals. Since joining our team, she has done an astounding job from switching from a desk receptionist to a Health Care Team Member. Debra has 4 cats at home and has a passion for Honda cars. Her customer service skills and bright smile are a welcome addition to our practice.

Westley Jones is a member of our Health Care Team. Westley came to our practice after moving back from New Mexico where he was employed doing 3-D modeling and design. Westley needed a career change, and decided to join our hospital. With no medical or veterinary background, Westley adapted to the veterinary environment with finesse.

New Health Care Team Members Continued

Westley has a basset hound puppy named "Bertha." His charming personality and ability to educate clients make him a great addition to our Health Care Team.

Alicia Wagner is also a member of our Health Care Team. Alicia

was previously employed here at our veterinary hospital as part of the Kennel Team. Alicia has always loved animals and her compassion for them shows in her work. Alicia extends her skills and responsibilities by dog sitting for clients of our hospital.

One of her many talents include calming down stressed out animals that enter the hospital. Our Health Care Team is completed with our Lead Health Care Team Member, Tina Dorn who has been employed in that position for 5 years. Stop in and meet us.

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- Blood Donors
- Puppies and Summer Things
- Adult Dog and Summer Things
- Senior Dogs and Summer Things
- Home-Based Pet Care
- Heartworm Disease
- Staff Stuff

Canine and Feline Blood Donors Save Lives

We have had several cases of late in our hospital where a blood transfusion has been necessary to save the lives of our patients. Whether it be an auto-immune disease, a surgery, cancer, trauma, or a life-threatening illness or injury. Should the day come when your dog needs a transfusion, the availability of blood could mean the difference between life and death. In addition to a handful of commercial animal blood banks around the country, emergency clinics often

stock blood. Some veterinary schools like North Carolina state include community donors in their programs. Others use resident donors. For instance Dr. Clair and Dr. Sammie's dogs Max and Whitney are our canine blood donors, and my cats Flannigan and Duncan are our feline blood donors. Dogs have at least a dozen types. Each type can be either positive or negative. Because dogs don't have antibodies to blood, blood typing is not necessary for a recipient dog's first transfu-

sion. Dogs who have had puppies or a previous transfusion do need to be cross-matched before subsequent transfusions because they will have been sensitized by the previous transfusions or exposure to the puppies' blood during labor and delivery. There are no negative health effects to donating blood. At most, a slight bruise may develop at the needle site. At our hospital, just like when we donate blood, each donor is rewarded with a nice great tasting snack afterward!

Your Puppy and Fireworks, Barbecues, and Boats

With summer's arrival, sunny skies and warm temperatures lure both dog and owner outdoors. Dogs of all ages are at risk for exposure to summertime hazards. More so than for their older counterparts, summer can be especially perilous for puppies. Lack of experience makes them vulnerable to risks. While most dogs eventually become good swimmers, puppies should always be supervised around

water and should dive in only when they're good and ready. Though it is rare, puppies can drown. Puppies are not necessarily born knowing how to swim. Be nice and gentle when introducing them to water. Also, even if your puppy can swim, he might not be strong enough to combat swift river currents or crashing ocean waves. Even a seemingly benign swimming pool could pose danger be-

cause many puppies have a hard time climbing out. Aside from water, the biggest summer danger to puppies is their lack of experience. They may not know to head for the shade when they get too hot or that sizzling barbecues, and fireworks are as dangerous as they are interesting. There is a whole new world for them outside. After spending the whole winter indoors, they are more inquisitive.

Your Adult Dog and Fireworks, Barbecues, and Boats

With several summers behind them, adult dogs have had plenty of opportunities to learn the warm-weather ropes. But hazards still exist. Like puppies, adult dogs should be supervised in and around water. Pay special attention to pool and hot tub covers. Dogs can get stuck underneath them. If you take your dog boating, put him in a life jacket and keep him

restrained with a leash, particularly while the boat is moving. Otherwise, he may jump out and risk injury from the boat's propeller, a nearby wake-border, or another animal. Also, make sure your dog stays hydrated. This means limiting activity on very hot and humid days, and keeping water nearby. Also watch for signs of heatstroke. Signs include pale

gums, rapid panting, salivation, staggering, general weakness and collapse. A dog exhibiting these symptoms requires emergency medical attention or risks death. Wet him with cool water and transport him to the vet. Heatstroke most frequently occurs when dogs are left unattended or in hot cars. So be sure to check on your furry friend often.

Your Senior Dog and Fireworks, Barbecues, and Boating

Even in the short time span of a year, senior dogs can slow down. Sometimes they are fine in the heat and next year they have a harder time because they have aged. For owners of senior dogs, this often means an adjustment in expectations—shorter hikes, walks instead of runs, maybe even leaving the pet at home when the rest of the family goes boating. Avoid fast-moving boats. Elderly patients might not be able to balance well. Dogs have been frightened by fireworks in the past might become even more edgy as they age. Be sure to keep

them indoors in a safe area of the house during the festivities so they don't injure themselves running about. It's more likely than becoming injured by the actual fireworks. If this doesn't calm them, talk to your veterinarian about sedation. Engage him in slow-paced activities in the cool shade. Find a shady spot under a tree and set up a kiddie pool for your senior dog. If you jog or run with your dog, schedule your workouts for early morning before the temperature rises. Finally, keep in mind that for dogs of all ages, interactions with

wildlife increase during the summer months, as do dogfights. Seniors may have difficulty defending themselves or running from danger, so be extra cautious to keep them out of harm's way. If there are any changes in your pet's medical health through the years, it is also wise to consult your veterinarian about the possible complications of outdoor living in the summertime. For instance, a dog with known cardiac disease may not fare as well for long periods of time in the heat or sustained play as their more healthy counterparts.

Pet Sitters and Walkers Provide Home-Based Options

An alternative to enrolling your dog in day care is to hire someone to walk and care for him during the day. The advantages: He gets to stay in his own home, and you generally pay less than for day care. But the situation has potential disadvantages, such as the security issues that arise when you entrust your dog and home to a stranger. Here are some tips to help protect your dog and home. 1) Get recommendations. Ask your veterinarian for suggestions for reli-

able dog walkers or pet sitters. Or log onto the NAPP's Web Site, www.petsitters.org or Pet Sitter's International, www.petsit.com, for a list of bonded, insured agencies or individuals.

2) Ask questions. Check applicant's backgrounds and references thoroughly.

3) Do a trial run. Before you hire on a full-time basis, ask the dog walker or pet-sitter to care for your dog once or twice.

That allows him to get used to his new caregiver, and assures you the caregiver is right for your dog.

4) Put terms in writing. Once you agree to hire the dog walker or pet-sitter, draw up a contract that specifies exactly what the caregiver is to provide. Leave detailed instructions and the phone number for your veterinarian and pet emergency center for after hours care.

Reminder on Heartworm Disease

Heartworm disease is becoming more common in many parts of the United States. It is caused by the heartworm, *Dirofilaria immitis*. This parasite lives in the right side of the dog's heart and the nearby large vessels (pulmonary arteries). The female worm produces large numbers of microscopic, immature heartworms that circulate in the blood. These immature worms (microfilariae) are taken up with the blood

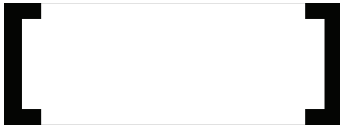
by a mosquito feeding on an infected dog. After living in the mosquito for 10–14 days, the microfilariae can then infect another dog that the mosquito feeds on. The feeding mosquito deposits infective microfilariae into the skin of another dog, and these enter the body through the mosquito bite wound. The microfilariae travel to the heart where they develop into adult heartworms. The adult heartworms produce

new microfilariae within 3 months. It takes at least 190 days from the time the dog is bitten by an infected mosquito until the dog becomes a new source of infective microfilariae. Failure to treat heartworm disease may result in heart failure and/or serious disease of the liver and kidneys. Untreated heartworm disease is usually fatal. Testing and monthly administration of Heartguard Plus are the best methods of prevention.

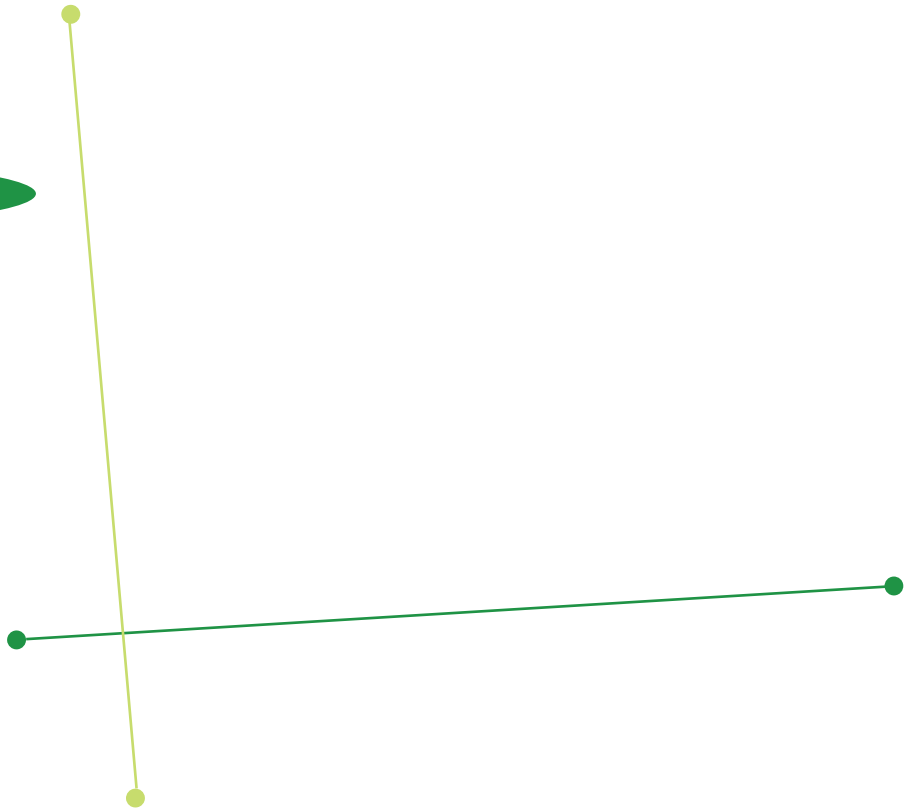


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● Celebrating Healthy Pets
Through Wellness



“Staff Stuff”

New continuing education for our staff! Brad, Rebecca, Cindy, and Debra attended a lecture on Disaster Preparedness in the veterinary community. This lecture will teach such things as:

- 1) How to prepare for and react to a disaster situation.
- 2) The ins and outs of the avian flu, monkey pox, and other various diseases.
- 3) How to identify food-borne terrorist attacks.

The course was held at the Northampton County Community College toward the end of July.

Rebecca will then be attending the Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Society conference in San Antonio, TX in September

of this year. Brad and Carol attended this conference in San Diego, CA two years ago, and brought back a myriad of knowledge for the staff. Rebecca will be learning about growing trends and treatments within the veterinary community for emergency care and treatments.

Our Fort Dodge Pharmaceutical representative took the staff to Blue, a restaurant in Bethlehem, for dinner. Fort Dodge manufactures the vaccinations that we use in our hospital. They are a great company and stand behind their products completely. We have developed a trust with this company and their products over the years, and it was a very enjoyable dinner for the entire staff.

We had a few birthdays and anniversaries this quarter. Rebecca celebrated her 2 year anniversary with our hospital. Tina celebrated her birthday on April 2nd of this year and her 5 year anniversary with the hospital. Dr. Sammie had a birthday on May 8th. Brad had a birthday on June 5th and Cindy celebrated her special day on June 20th.

Rebecca got a new puppy recently! She got a chocolate laborador retriever from a local breeder this June. His name is Logan and he's adorable!