



DCAH Newsletter

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End of Year Message

Amazingly, another year has come and gone. December 31 will mark the ten year anniversary of Dale City Animal Hospital under the ownership of myself and Dr. Terri Levinstein. Though the animal hospital has a 30 year history in this great, ever-changing community, the last decade has been its best ever. How we have grown!

Our current doctors are committed to providing cutting edge health care for the pets of Woodbridge. Dr. Levinstein and I decided from the outset that our goal was to offer the highest possible level of medicine to help prolong the quality of life of our charges. To that end, we are proud to be able to offer endoscopy, ultrasonography, blood pressure monitoring, laser surgery, ophthalmologic instrumentation, videoscopic exams, and telemedicine. While the dollar value of these instruments is high, they are priceless in their ability to help us diagnose and treat your furry family members.

In November, we upgraded to a new veterinary computer software program and switched to a "paperless environment". In the future your pet's medical record will be maintained in the computer and hard copy records will be gradually discontinued. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this transition period.

The Have a Heart Fund is another change that has come about at Dale City Animal Hospital in these 10 years. Generous donations from our giving community, when combined with the contribution of time, effort and supplies from our doctors and support staff, have allowed us to do some of our best work for some of our neediest patients. I am so proud of our animal-loving neighbors for this. No stray and injured animal within our loosely defined borders has to be euthanized simply because there is no one to foot their bill. The fund has also been used to help families in verified financial hardship by providing interest-free loans in order to give life-saving care to their pets. This fund is pretty unique in the veterinary

FDA Recalls Injectable Heartworm Product

This fall the FDA recalled Proguard 6, an injectable heartworm medication. Liver and bleeding abnormalities, which in some cases resulted in death, were associated with the injections. DCAH has not administered this product to any of our patients. We always try to balance our desire to stay current with new medications with our desire to insure their safety. 🐾

community, and we are proud to be able to offer it.

Finally, the most important part of the on-going development of our hospital is what **hasn't** changed. Debbie. Rhonda. Arleen. Dr. Terri Davis. These dedicated women have been here through thick and thin, providing continuity, compassion and care. I challenge you to find any other animal hospital that has so many staff members who have such longevity. Kim, Toni, Jennifer, Andrea, Shonna, Dr. Mary Galloway, Melinda, Bev—these women have each been with us for more than five years, also a very long run in this business; and their contributions to our purpose are invaluable. Finally, I don't want to downplay the worth of Pat, Carm, Nina, Lisa and Tracey, whose tenure with us is shorter, but still appreciated and priceless. I take my hat off to each and every one of these wonderful people—**they** are the reason our hospital continues to succeed in achieving its goals of providing the best care your pets can receive anywhere in Woodbridge.

Thank you again to all of our community for your continued support. Happy Holidays to each and every one of you!

Dr. Allison Mayo



Pancreatitis: A Holiday Warning

Beware! The holidays are coming and so are the wonderful, tasty foods that tempt us all. Foods especially high in fats such as baked hams, sausages, prime rib, and fat trimmings can cause severe stomach and pancreatic upset in your pets. The pancreas is responsible for helping with digestion and if given too high a fatty meal, it can begin to cause severe digestive problems such as vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, blood clotting problems, sepsis and even death.

One such survivor of this disease is a nine year old beagle mix named Trixie (pictured here) who spent more than a week in the hospital on intravenous fluids and antibiotics and required plasma transfusions to pull her through it. This all began after eating a large helping of ham fever several days prior to the onset of her symptoms. Trixie's owner was determined, as were we that she would survive this malady, and today this wonderful dog is still at home with her family. 🐾

Have a Heart

Our Have a Heart program continues to assist with animals in need. This period several litters of kittens were cared for and given new and loving homes. The fund also assisted several cats with chronic ringworm. Ringworm requires repeated treatment with lyme sulfur dips and, in difficult cases such as these, oral medication as well. A Dalmatian puppy that was hit by a car also benefited from the generosity of our clients.

Contributors during this period include:

Tessa Johnson

Robert Rennicker (who found two of the stray kittens)

Melinda Whitman (In memory of Monster)

Judith Schneider (In memory of Buster)

Peggy Bercher (In memory of Molly Koehler, Roxy Sroka and Mac Joyner)

Karen Smith and Nancy Joyner (In memory of Molly)

Charlotte Fields Hughes (In memory of Sophia Louzier)

Tessa Croce (who adopted two of our kittens)

C. A. Carlson (In memory of Toby)

Alice Sheloski

Susan MacDuff

Peggy Bercher and Betsy Keefe (In memory of Rodney Bleistein)

David McKee and family (In memory of Phoofy)

Ann Marie Kirkpatrick (donated profits from a yard sale in appreciation for Trixie's care)

Mr. and Mrs. William Merrill (In memory of Marnie) 🐾

Meet the Doctors

Dr. Mary Galloway has been associated with DCAH since 1995. She has had a long history of involvement with companion animal training and canine reproduction initially as a successful obedience competitor and later as a breeder of Shetland Sheepdogs. Prior to and during veterinary school, she worked as a companion animal trainer.

She earned a BS and MS in Biology from George Mason University and then earned her DVM degree from the Virginia -Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. During her clinical year of training, she did a senior externship at the University of Tennessee in Behavior Problem Solving and another at the University of Minnesota in Small Animal Reproduction.

She has continued to focus on reproduction and behavior throughout her career. Under the auspices of her own practice, Fairhill Veterinary Clinic, she does reproductive and behavioral consulting.

As a successful breeder of Shetland sheepdogs, she is a member of the American Shetland Sheepdog Association (ASSA). She serves on the Board of Directors and chairs the ASSA Health Research committee. She is a member of the President's Council of the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation. She is also a founder of the Fairfax County Pets on Wheels program, a nursing home visitation program now under the auspices of the Fairfax county Area Agency on Aging.

Dr. Galloway shares her home with eight Shelties and enjoys reading and cooking. She also continues her involvement in all types of activities with her Shelties. 🐾



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