

# FALL NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016

## WRVC to Host Open House on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>

### *Special points of interest:*

- less than 2% chance of being reclaimed
- November 5<sup>th</sup> will be a celebration
- she grasped my hands and blessed them
- NEW-Word search!
- Bravecto for cats!
- FFA Feature

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The clinic had a lot to celebrate these days. This past Spring marked our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the New London area. Those 20 years has seen the clinic grow and evolve in many, many ways. Starting off as a part time satellite office, the clinic is now a busy four doctor facility.



The clinic also houses S.A.F.E.- a rescue organization that acts as a resource for local stray kittens and dogs. Strays have a safe environment to live in to either be reclaimed by their owners or to enter our adoption program. The program exists through the dedicated efforts of our employees, and also through donations from our supporters.

The clinic also has a great clientele. We have an endless list of long term loyal clients, many of whom are considered friends. We would not be where we are now without our dedicated pet owners.

November 5<sup>th</sup> will be a celebration of all three. We will have an open house with tours of the clinic and a focus on the services we offer. We will very likely have a variety of kittens up for adoption, and even a dog or two that people can meet. We will also have a complimentary brat and hotdog cookout for anyone who brings an appetite.

The clinic is excited about celebrating our relationship with the community. We hope that you will attend our event from noon until 4:00PM on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016!

## Bravecto For Cats!

Bravecto, an oral product for flea and tick prevention for dogs, will soon be available in a topical form for cats. Bravecto for dogs has been available for over two years. It has emerged as the most effective product for flea and tick prevention/treatment available. It is also competitively priced and, in most cases, is less expensive than a monthly topical product. The new topical product for cats will provide the same 12 weeks protection from fleas and ticks. Given that we are in the most extreme season for fleas, the release of this product is timely as flea infestations are extremely prevalent in the Fall.

Please contact the clinic if you have questions about Bravecto for cats. This is an exciting new product that will benefit many cat owners.



## A Warm Welcome!

- Welcoming one of our newest receptionists, Sam! Sam originally hails from Chicago, and moved to WI for schooling. Sam attended UW Madison and has her BS in Psychology with an emphasis on animal behavior. She also has attended the UW Veterinay Medical Teaching Hospital and worked in the orthopedic surgery department. In her spare time she enjoys hanging out with her 2 dogs that includes a Pappillon and a Pappillon Yorkie mix, named P-nut and Boozer. She enjoys reading mystery novels as well.
- Welcoming another new receptionist, Rene. Rene moved to WI the first of May and has lived in Germany and seven other states! She's been married for 26 years and has a 23 year old son. The empty nest is filled with one dog and two cats. (One which was adopted through our S.A.F.E Program). In her spare time she enjoys reading, baking, geo-caching, hiking, camping and traveling!
- Jesse has joined our kennel team, and will be a Senior this year in high school. After high school, Jesse has plans to attend the UW Stevens Point to study Psychology. Jesse loves to keep busy with work, school and school activities including FFA. Jesse loves animals and owns 5 different kinds of pets including dogs, cats, a rabbit, a hamster and birds!



Our newest team members look forward to serving our clients with the best care!

## A S.A.F.E. Update-Dr. Ziegler

Approximately one year ago, the clinic changed its policy on accepting healthy adult stray cats into our S.A.F.E program. One reason for this change is that we were overwhelmed with adult cats, most of whom were poorly adoptable simply because they weren't cute kittens. We had a large number of cats living endlessly at the clinic, which put a great deal of strain on us.

Another reason was that studies have shown that if a stray cat is found and simply left alone, it has a good chance of finding its way home. A cat entered into a rescue facility has a less than 2% chance of being reclaimed. Based on these facts and our limited capacity, we decided to change our policy to accepting only orphaned kittens and sick or injured cats. This is not a bad policy, and while it has made things more manageable for us, it has angered many a residents of the area.

People are endlessly showing up at our door with a cat in a carrier expecting us to take it in. If I opened our doors to every stray cat out there, I would likely average fifty a week. The magnitude of the problem is that bad. We are somewhat forced to be selective since we have to first function as a medical and surgical facility. People get frustrated and even angry with us when we cannot accept a cat, and it bothers the staff when people are angry about our policy. We have worked hard to find a middle ground that will serve a beneficial role in our community.

I have often wrestled with completely abandoning our rescue efforts but I hate to go to that extent. Thus far, our new policy is working well for us, even though everyone in our community may not agree. For the time being, we will continue on our current path. It may not be ideal, but it is what we can do.

I cannot help but offer some easy advice that would completely solve the problem:

- Spay and neuter your cat(s)
- Keep them inside.

Sounds easy, right? If only it were.



## When Do You Spay and Neuter Your Pet?-Dr. Ziegler

Spaying and neutering dogs and cats used to be easy. You would do the surgery as early as possible. This served a huge role in a rescue organization in only adopting out surgically sterilized pets, which has had a huge impact on unwanted litters of cats and dogs. However, the validity of early age spay/neuter has come into question over recent years, more so in purebred dogs than any other group .

Studies in large breed dogs, such as Golden Retrievers, Labradors, and German Shepherds have actually showed a possible detriment to spaying and neutering before 12-14 months of age. In most areas of a pet's health, this difference is minimal. The biggest area of difference is in the pets that rupture their ACL (anterior cruciate ligament- a major knee surgery in pets, and the most common orthopedic procedure performed. ), represents the most significant difference with intact dogs being much less susceptible to this disorder.

Keep in mind that there are significant benefits to spaying and neutering pets. There is no doubt that there are trade- offs and many things have to be considered when deciding it and when to surgically sterilize a pet.

So what are the current recommendations? It depends on who you talk to. There are so many opinions. The bottom line is that there is nothing but grey zones anymore. For whatever it is worth, the WRVC will offer the following guidelines:

All cats need to be spayed or neutered as soon as possible. There is no definitive reason to do anything else. Everything possible needs to be done to prevent the endless out of control reproduction of cats.

Dogs, which need to be divided into small breed, medium breed, and large breed:

- a) Small breed dogs should be spayed or neutered over 6 months of age, mainly to assess dental issues (many small breed dogs retain baby teeth, and these need to be extracted. This can be done at the time of a spay/neuter surgery).
- b) Medium breed dogs- anything older than 6 months of age is probably okay. Older is okay as well, but be prepared to deal with a female in heat or a male that is sexually mature.
- c) Large and giant breed dogs- evidence suggests that waiting is better. Surgical sterilization should not be done until after a year of age and possibly not until two years of age.



The other option is to leave your pet sexually intact. Some people choose this option and do it very successfully. There are pros and cons here, especially with male cats and female dogs. These are things that you need to discuss with your veterinarian. The bottom line? We are in a grey zone. Decide what you want for your pet and discuss this with your veterinarian. Feel comfortable with your decisions, but please, no unwanted litters are acceptable.



## **Wolverine-Karen R.**

This past year was a rough one. Three pets lost in less than a year. This past Spring at Easter, I had to euthanize my cat Wolverine to cancer. He came into my life as a four week old kitten and I had him for 10 years. Wolverine was an outgoing and lively cat. I entertained the staff with many Wolverine stories.

He was raised with my dog family and was more dog like in nature and interacted well with the dogs but never with the cats. Except, maybe with Suzy, there was sometimes a problem. For about 3-4 years in a row, Wolverine would pick on Suzy and she would bite him in the face. Usually it was a puncture wound but the worst was a broken jaw. So in the Spring when Wolverine stopped eating, I knew something was wrong as he always had a big appetite. After the diagnosis was made, I tried treatments but he faded fast although he still did things his own way. He was still climbing on roofs and bringing dead and LIVE mice into the house even though he was weak and hardly had the energy to do his normal routines. I say a LIVE one because he let a live mouse loose in the house and watched while Reece and I tried to catch it and he was like "OK I did my part now, the mouse is your problem."

So again, I say Good Bye to a beloved pet, which leaves just me and my dog Reece.

## **Coping with the Loss of a Pet- Shaunna F.**

It is always hard to lose anything or anyone that you love in your life, but I find that anyone who has ever lost their pet can relate to what it's like to cope after they are gone. About 3 years ago I had a dog named Coalie who was a patient here at the Wolf River Vet Clinic. She was the kind of dog who wasn't really a dog. She was like a human, a family member. Anyone who has had a companion like this knows exactly what I'm talking about. She had human characteristics and qualities, and you could tell she had emotions and knew what you were doing and saying. She was the best dog I ever had...and probably ever will have.

I remember the day that I first noticed something wasn't right. She wasn't eating as much as normal and just wasn't acting like normal self. A few days went by and she just didn't seem to be improving so I brought her in on a Saturday to see the doctor. They ran blood work and noticed that her liver values did not look good, but they weren't sure why so they decided it would be best to bring her back Monday to do a liver biopsy and this would give the best indication of what was wrong with her. Since she had only been eating less, I wasn't too concerned and was eager to bring her back Monday to find out what was wrong.

Sunday she really began to decline. She wouldn't get up and walk around and had completely stopped eating. She wouldn't even jump up on my bed when it was time to sleep and I could feel nothing but sorrow for her. Seeing her like that made me feel sick to my stomach and I felt very sad for her. Sad for the fact that I could not help her. Sad that I didn't even know what was wrong with her.

In the middle of the night, she got up from her tightly squeezed ball formation on the floor and slowly rested her head on my chest. When I woke up and I looked at her she began to wag her tail and just laid there for a few minutes with her head on my chest. This gave me such a sense of relief. This was the most spirit I had seen from her in days. As she slowly went back to her spot on the floor, I was finally able to fall asleep soundly.

## Religion and Medicine-Dr. Ziegler

The other day I had a unique experience. I was going to perform a fairly routine surgery on a patient. I met with the owner to discuss the procedure when she asked me to extend my arms and hands towards her. When I did so, she grasped my hands and blessed them, praying for a successful surgery.

The mix of religion and medicine is nothing new. It has been discussed for centuries. The problem is that I am unfamiliar with it. I believe in science and I believe in religion, but I have always drawn a line between the two. Perhaps this has been to accommodate my discomfort zone.

More and more, religion is entering veterinary medicine. Clinicians are praying for pets, along with their owners, before major procedures, euthansias, etc. I can see this as a wonderful thing- or not, depending on the owners perspective. The question is, "How do you approach it?" Some simply do. They offer it and respect the owners' wishes. Others, like me, hide from it with great feelings of uncertainty. It is not that I haven't endlessly prayed for my patients- I have simply done it privately. I might pray for their recovery, or if I feel it appropriate, I will pray for their release to the next world. Right or wrong, I do this alone.

The big question is, "Does this affect the outcome?" I do not have that answer. No one does. That is what faith is all about. However, there are endless stories of surgeons performing tasks that they did not feel they were capable of. They, in their own mind, performed a miracle. This is not the rule, but rather the exception, but it does happen.

As one gets older, and hopefully wiser, one looks for answers in places other than the textbooks and the journals. This is difficult territory. It is a territory I wish I knew more about. Perhaps as life evolves, I will. I hopefully will.

As a side, the surgery I performed for the client went as planned- without a flaw. This probably would have been the outcome if my hands had not been blessed, but believe me, every move I made in surgery was performed as if they were.

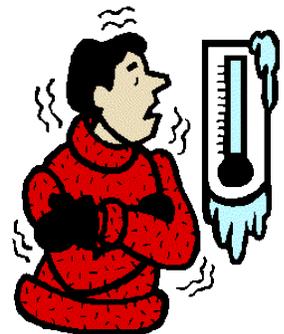
## Fall Dangers To Your Pets -Dr. Mark

Fall is the time of year we start thinking about closing up the house and getting ready for the indoor winter months. These activities can have some dangers to our pets.

One is as we winterize things many have antifreeze used to do this or we are changing the antifreeze in our vehicles. Antifreeze is very toxic to pets. Its sweet taste can be attractive to pets especially dogs. Any open container or even a puddle from a spill can be a hazard to pets. If you are using any antifreeze make sure your pets are not in the area.

Another thing many people do in the fall is set out rodent poison to keep rodents that are looking for a warm spot for the winter from invading buildings. The best way to keep rodents out is to seal buildings so they can't get in. If you do need to use a rodent poison make sure your pets can't get to it, even if it is a pet resistant container. Dogs are notorious for destroying indestructible things. I also DO NOT recommend using rodenticides containing Bromethalin. Bromethalin is a nerve toxin which has no antidote. If by accident a pet or child would get into a deadly dose they would die because there is no antidote. If you use an anticoagulant type, a deadly dose can usually be antidote and with intensive treatment (which may include blood transfusions) the pet or child can be saved.

So as you are buttoning things up for the winter be safe for your pets sake.



## FFA-Who Are We? - Mallory P.

What does FFA stand for? FFA stands for Future Farmers of America. Students are able to join the FFA organization to gain experience in agricultural education. Students do class work in agriculture to help gain skills for certain careers. FFA members/students do on job training as well. This organization also benefits the student by helping them become future leaders!

Students have advisors called Chapters. Chapters are licensed agricultural education instructors hired by local school districts.

The New London FFA Chapter is excited to welcome Crystal Retzlaff as the new FFA leader and agricultural teacher. Crystal grew up in the Sugar Bush area, and has shown animals many years in 4-H. She received her master's degree in agricultural education with biology certification from UW-River Falls, and she has won the Kohl Fellow Award, and Wisconsin Agri-science Teacher of the Year.

Crystal has taught at Oconto Falls and at Clintonville for the past 13 years, and she is excited to teach at New London High School. Crystal has set many goals to improve the involvement of students in the FFA program, and is currently in the process of remodeling the greenhouse at the high school.

This year's officers are President- Kyla Werner, Vice President-Mallory Pittler, Secretary- Sara Harrmen, and Treasurer- Emily Harris.

Our first big event of the year was at the New London Cheese & Sausage Festival on September 10th. We had a petting zoo and welcomed anyone who wanted to pet a variety of animals such as calves, dogs, piglets, chickens, guinea pigs, and ponies.

This year the FFA will be attending the Sectional Leadership Workshop, highway clean-up, World Dairy Expo, National FFA Convention, middle school fun nights, Chilton goat farm tour, horse judging, and many more events. We also will have a home made pizza fundraiser this year starting October 6th to raise money for trips and scholarships. We look forward to helping out the community and we hope to see you at some of our events!



## Coping with the Loss of a Pet– Continued

The next morning she had taken a turn for the worst. She could not get up at all. She wouldn't even raise her head. I began to panic. I grabbed a blanket so I could carry her and quickly ran her out to my car. I remember driving what seemed like 100mph to the clinic and ran inside just weeping. I told the receptionist I needed help and that my dog was dying. Everyone available in the clinic rushed to help me and we took her in the exam room. We decided it would be best for her to stay at the clinic for the day to be monitored and run more diagnostics and her liver biopsy.

As I left I knew she was in good hands but I couldn't help but sob the entire way home. As I walked through my door my cell phone began to ring and I saw that it was the Vet Clinic. Immediately my heart dropped. I didn't want to answer. I didn't want the doctor to tell me what my heart already knew. As I answered the phone and I heard the doctor's voice, the tone of his voice alone confirmed my worst fear. She was gone. I couldn't even finish my conversation with the doctor. I dropped to the floor, threw my face into my hands and began to cry.

It turned out she was most likely born with an auto immune deficiency and that after her orthopedic surgery 3 months prior, she just wasn't able to recover when she got sick.

Looking back now, I know the night before she passed and she laid her head on my chest and gave me her last tail wag, she was telling me her goodbyes and I love her for that. To this day, I have never cried so long or so hard in my life. I have never felt such high intensity of sadness and disparity. I couldn't return to work for 3 days. I couldn't keep myself together. I couldn't get over the fact that she was really gone. I felt judged by others. Friends and work colleagues just couldn't understand how I could be so heartbroken by a pet passing. "It was just a dog."

This brings me to the point of my experience. No one can understand the companionship and love that a person has with their pet. They bring us joy. They are a part of our functional daily lives. They love us unconditionally. They are our FAMILY. No matter how you cope with the passing of a pet, no one can make you feel like you are doing it "wrong." To this day I still reminisce of her memories and it will bring tears to my eyes. Old pictures of her still make me happy and sad at the same time. Always remember as you go through these experiences, there may be people in your life that don't understand the pain you're feeling, but there will always be more people than you think that have gone through the same experiences and have felt what you felt. Never let anyone influence the way you cope with the passing of your pets and companions.



# Flea and Tick

S A S W I F H E A R T W O R M A S D R D  
P P I I N A O Q I A P Y W F E R G R K U  
K X K J S U T S Q K Y H V L V E T M Q T  
O H T S T O J V W N I D F Z Z M R C Y Z  
G C A Q I G M S T P C Q J F E R I G R C  
U I I X L S O A W H D K J L L O T I R T  
I F T W Y G O O L O O R Q N J W A W W E  
T K R O D B R I E P F T A E J E K I B N  
A W O O N M P Z H V A E C U N D K K R O  
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E Y H B J U H P C D I E A L V T X O J E  
W V O G N W Q T B R M L B D L A X Q C P  
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E E O H U R P K T Z D H S G E X S Q Y I  
O E R S K H W O I X O T I U Q S O M H D  
Q R M C A T E T I S A R A P W W H K L E  
X Y I G L K A B S W I C J R S E M Y L S  
W T Y D O X Y C Y C L I N E M Z K M R T

WHIPWORM

MOSQUITO

TAPEWORM

ROUNDWORM

HOOKWORM

HEARTWORM

LYMES

DISEASE

DEER

WOOD

PARASITE

TRITAK

NEXTGUARD

BRAVECTO

ANAPLAMOSIS

ERLICHIOSIS

HEMATOPHAGY

DOXYCYCLINE

FLEA

CTENOCEPHALIDES

TICK

DEWORMER