

# Independence Veterinary Clinic



## Quarterly Newsletter Volume 6



### What We've Been Up To

- On June 15th, Shannon and Megan attended a continuing education course in Raleigh on surgical nursing skills.
- On August 4th, Becky and Kim went to N.C. State College of Veterinary Medicine to attend a continuing education course on emergency and critical care for nurses.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** We will be closed on Saturday **November 24th**. Remember we are also closed for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to celebrate the Holidays with our families.
- Our new addition up front for the comfort of our clients. We will provide coffee, tea, cocoa, water and snacks while you wait for your beloved pets. If you're lucky you will pop in when Donna is baking cookies!
- After popular demand, Ms. Pat is back! We are thankful to have her working with us again.
- Brittany has been promoted to Inventory Manager, please ask for her if you need any special food or medication orders
- Emily gave birth to a healthy, 6 lb 15 oz baby boy named Ethan on September 10th! Congratulations!
- Dr. Michelle Bryan participated in the Dog Day Festival in observance of Responsible Dog Ownership Day on Sept 8th
- Please join us for Pet Palooza on Saturday Sept. 29th, where IVC will be hosting a micro-chip clinic

### Boarding Recommendations

When going on vacation you may be concerned about where your pet may stay while you are away. You want your pet to be taken care of as well as you take care of them. The facilities we recommend are ones that we would use ourselves. We have personally visited each kennel we recommend. Stay-N-Play is in Indian Trail and is a small boarding facility with personalized care. Madonna, the owner, was a veterinary nurse. Charlotte Kennels is also in Indian Trail and strives for great care for their boarding friends. Best Friends Pet Care is in Pineville and is a larger volume boarding facility that offers boarding and play care. We hope you feel comfortable boarding your pets and know they are getting great care!

**Stay—N— Play** - 704—821-3696

**Charlotte Kennels**—704-821-1218

**Best Friends**—704—752-0504

If you are of the "There's No Place Like Home" philosophy, you can consider some of our pet sitters:

**Critter Care Pet Sitting**— 704-291-3162

**Carolina Cuddles Pet Care**—704-460-1695

**Beth's Loving Pet Care**— 704-778-8540

**Critter Sitters**— 704-821-1337

### White Coat Fun Visits For Your Puppies!

Everyone has heard of "white coat syndrome". Many pets experience this fear as well. It can be extremely difficult to bring these pets to the clinic. Some pets resist examination, restraint, procedures (pedicures, ear cleaning, temperature, and blood collection) and even weighing. When your pets are fearful, this stress can make their visits rather uncomfortable. We can help these pets get better socialized in preparation for their veterinary appointment. Please call ahead to schedule a visit and, by the way, these "fun visits" are free. We will work to help show your pet that veterinary visits are not scary, and can be fun.

Pet behavior is extremely important. Behavior problems are the number one reason for healthy pet euthanasia. Please be sure to let us know if your pets are having any behavior problems!

## Spaying and Neutering Your Pets

At Independence Veterinary Clinic, your pet's health is our top priority. For this reason, we strongly recommend and encourage all pet parents to spay and neuter. This very routine procedure provides great health, behavioral, and social benefits.

Spaying or neutering your pet will help ensure them a longer, healthier life. In females, spaying can help prevent breast cancer that has been shown to be malignant in 50% of dogs and 90% of felines. It can reduce this risk by 98% if pets are spayed before the first heat cycle. In addition, an unspayed female runs the risk of developing pyometra—a serious infection of the uterus, which can lead to emergency surgery, peritonitis and even death. In males, neutering reduces the risk of prostate disease and eliminates testicular cancer. For the best protection, males and females should be spayed by 6 months of age or before their first heat cycle.

This procedure also has great behavioral benefits. Females who are not spayed may vocalize and urinate frequently and in inappropriate places. Intact males may mark their territory with a very strong urine spray, be more aggressive, and wander from home—even if it takes digging under a fence. By taking away their desire to mate, spaying and neutering can help your pet stay home and stay happy!

Aside from the direct benefits this procedure can have on your pet and home, it is also great for the community. Every year millions of dogs and cats are euthanized or suffer as strays. Stray animals can prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, and even injure children! These animals are usually a result of unwanted litters that could have been avoided by spaying or neutering.

As with any surgery, we take every precaution to ensure your pet's spay or neuter will be as safe and comfortable as possible. Feel free to contact our staff with any questions or concerns you may have.



## Cerenia for Motion Sickness



Introducing the first approved veterinary medication for the treatment and prevention of motion sickness in dogs. We all know how hard it is to travel with a sick pet. This new drug is effective for 24 hours and can even be given the evening before your trip. We love to take our pets along with us when we travel, and with more and more pet friendly accommodations available it is easier to do so. Many pets want to be with us and go with us, but just can't stomach the car ride. Now we have a safe and effective way to control motion sickness in dogs.

## Word Search Puzzle

### Cat Breeds

- Abyssinian
- Balinese
- Bengal
- Birman
- Burmese
- Chartroux
- Manx
- Ocicat
- Persian
- Ragdoll
- Siamese
- Devon Rex
- Russian Blue

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



## Donna's Easy Snack Wraps

## Rescue Kittens at IVC

You will need:

- 12 10 inch Flour Tortillas
- 1 8 oz. Cream Cheese
- 1 Head of Lettuce
- 1 6 oz. Deli Turkey
- 2 Cups Carrots (Shredded)
- 3 Cups Minced Tomato

Spread cream cheese evenly over the tortillas. Then, top the cream cheese with the lettuce leaves. Arrange turkey slices in even layers on top of lettuce. Sprinkle the carrots and tomatoes over the turkey slices. Then, roll the tortilla into wraps and cut the wraps into bite sized pieces. Secure with a toothpick and you're all done!



Last month one of our employees, Megan Moneyhan, rescued 8 feral kittens from the woods behind her house. Over the last 4 weeks Dr. Bart and Dr. Michelle were kind enough to allow them to stay at the clinic while they were treated for upper respiratory infections and nourished. Megan and some of the other staff stayed late every night and came in early to care for them until they found homes. The kittens became some of the sweetest we have ever seen. Megan wants to thank everyone who helped out or donated items to help care for them. A special thanks goes out to the wonderful individuals who adopted them. We are so happy to know they now have loving homes. Hopefully this will help people realize the importance of spaying and neutering their animals so we can stop the cycle, because not every kitten is as lucky to find someone to care for them.



## Baylisascaris Procyonis

- It is known as the raccoon roundworm.
- 70% of adult raccoons and 90% of juvenile raccoons carry this parasite.
- Infection occurs with ingestion of raccoon feces.
- When humans ingest the roundworm eggs, the larvae hatch in the intestinal tract and travel through organs and tissues to the rest of the body.
- Causes neurological and physiological damage.
- Symptoms include nausea, lethargy, liver enlargement, lack of coordination, loss of muscle control, coma, and blindness.
- Human infection is rarely diagnosed. Many cases are incorrectly diagnosed as other diseases.
- Children become infected through ingestion of eggs from soil, water, hands and other products that have been contaminated with raccoon feces.
- Baylisascaris is resistant to most environments and it can survive in adequate moisture for years.
- There is no treatment for a Baylisascaris infection.
- Remember to remove trash and litter that may attract raccoons to your yard. Close lids to trash cans.
- Avoid all contact with raccoons.
- Raccoons prefer to defecate in one area (latrine), thereby creating an area of high concentration of parasites.
- These latrines pose a high risk for people and pets.



### Highlighting Our Team



**Megan Moneyhan**

Megan has been with us for 1 year. She lives with Bailey, her two-year-old Yorkie, and Lucky, her 1- 1/2-year-old kitty. She also recently rescued a feral kitten which she named Circle K. When she's not at work, you might find her at the gym or on the beach.



**Dana Greenberg**

Dana has been with us for 3 months. She has an adorable 4-month-old kitten named Mowgli, whom we recently declawed and neutered. She is currently a sophomore at UNCC and is taking courses in business admini-

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