

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Three Days Grace In Concert

Special Guests Seether & Econoline Crush
Monday February 4th 7:30pm
Prince George CN Centre
ticketmaster.ca for more information

21st Annual Prince George Iceman

Skiing, Running, Skating & Swimming
Sunday February 10th
Join as a Team/Individual or Volunteer
Patrick 960.5235 John 640.0019

Ruin's Valentine's Teen Video Dance

Ages 13 to 18 (under 13 not recommended)
Friday February 15th 7:00pm \$10.50
Prince George CN Centre
614.9100 for ticket information

FMX World Tour

The Stars of Freestyle Motocross & BMX
Saturday February 16th 7:30pm
Prince George CN Centre
614.9100 for ticket information

Travis Tritt In Concert

With Special Guest Gord Bamford
Wednesday February 20th 7:30pm
Prince George CN Centre
ticketmaster.ca for more information

Mr. Prince George Pageant

Friday February 22nd Doors 6:30pm \$30
Prince George's Best Strutt Their Stuff
Ramada Hotel Downtown PG
564.3737 for more information

FEBRUARY IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!

Oral disease begins with a build up of bacteria in the mouth. Bacteria mixed with food debris and saliva causes plaque. Plaque then turns to tartar as bacteria grow and as calcium salts are deposited. Bad breath is usually the first sign of the disease as well as a change in eating or chewing habits.

70% of cats and 80% of dogs begin to show signs of oral disease by age 3. We can attribute this to many reasons such as domestication, poor quality pet food and unnatural diet or a combination of several factors. Without ever knowing for certain the cause, our best solution is to provide regular dental care.

Periodontal disease is a common problem often seen in smaller dogs, affecting the supporting tissues and structures of the teeth. The disease is painful, causing tooth loss, dysfunction and systemic complications (heart, liver and kidney damage occurs as bacteria enter the bloodstream via the gums.

Domestic cats experience oral disease and develop painful lesions in their mouth known as resorptive lesions associated. If your cat or dog is an aggressive chewer or stays outdoors for most of the day, they may be at risk for broken teeth.

Hard objects such as rocks and cow hooves can be detrimental to aggressive chewers. A broken tooth risks root exposure and extreme pain.

Fear no more because Murdoch is here to help! Receive a FREE dental exam this February as well as 15% off our dental services.

Book a dentistry and also receive:

- FREE bag of MediCal Dental food
- FREE bag of Hill's t/d food
- FREE toothbrush and toothpaste
- Dental Report Card for your pet
- Photo in our monthly newsletter

BE PREPARED FOR BREEDING SEASON...

Thinking about breeding your mare? Debating when to do it, how to do it or what stallion might be worthy? We may have some answers...

It might be helpful to know a bit about equine reproduction before committing to a pregnant mare and new foal.

The estrus (heat) cycle is measured from the beginning of one heat to the beginning of the next. Mares may start cycling irregularly in November and as the days get longer in January and February. Later in June their cycle repeats itself every 21 days.

Signs of heat are squatting, tail raising and urinating. Heat length ranges from 2 to 12 days and individual mares tend to be very consistent with their cycles. The mare will be ready to accept a stallion on the second day of heat and should be bred every other day until she no longer accepts him.

Pregnancy can be detected 14 days after breeding. With the aid of ultra sound, you will see the embryo as a black fluid filled bubble in the uterus.

If you are taking into consideration breeding through the use of artificial insemination, thorough preparation is needed. Your plan should include:

- Notifying your vet clinic of your intent
- Selecting a stallion and finalize a contract
- Providing the name of the farm to the vet clinic so semen can be ordered when the mare is about to ovulate
- Have a pre-breeding exam completed
- Plan for 3 ultrasounds to determine when the mare will be receptive to the AI
- Don't expect all mares to 'catch' on the first AI

Artificial insemination is a rewarding service, although it requires significant commitment in terms of time and cost. There are several individuals that you may have to work closely with to attain success. Let us be one of them©

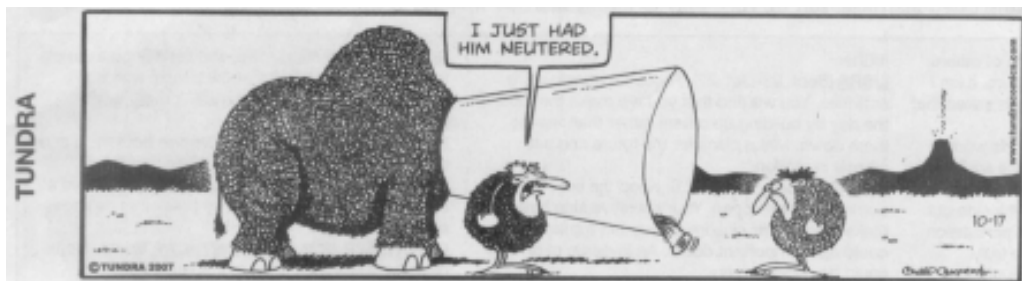
Calving Season Is Just Around the Corner...

OUR BUSIEST TIME OF THE YEAR IS ALMOST HERE... February to April is our busiest season. A flurry of activity begins at the end of January and we don't stop for a breath until May. We experience what has come to be termed "calving season" and know nothing other than heifers, calves and placenta. Equine foaling also begins during these months and keeps us on our

toes until June. We ask that clients please be patient during these very busy times; staff will do their best to meet your needs. Dr. Murdoch and Dr. Green will be in high demand and ask for leniency in advance if the need to cancel appointments occurs due to emergency situations, which are frequent during these months. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Manager's Message...

Welcome to 2008. After *new* resolutions and well thought out promises, this year is going to be different! Sound familiar...? If you've made a promise to improve one or more aspects of your life, remember that it doesn't have to happen all at once. Take a deep breath. This is your year. Have faith in time ☺



What you should know about "parvo" Parvoviral Enteritis is a virus causing inflammation of the intestinal mucosa (lining of the intestines). Parvo affects dogs of all ages and is passed by ingested feces, saliva, vomit or contaminated material. The virus takes between 3 and 8 days to outwardly affect the animal and is contagious for approximately 2 weeks. Symptoms of the virus include depression, anorexia (not eating), fever, vomiting and/or a bloody, foul smelling diarrhea. Infected dogs typically become very dehydrated due to excessive vomiting and diarrhea, which is concerning. Parvo can be fatal and there is no cure. It is like other viruses in that it has to run its course. A test is available to determine infection. The best treatment is supportive and includes intravenous fluids to maintain hydration, antibiotics to prevent secondary infection and isolation to avoid proliferation. The virus is extremely resistant to cold, heat, acid and many disinfectants. Vaccination is the best preventative treatment.

VISIT OUR RETAIL SECTION FOR...

MediCal, Royal Canin and Hill's Prescription diets
Toothbrushes and Toothpaste for your dental needs
Pill Poppers for regular administration of medication
Leashes, collars and halti's
Seat Belts for your pet's safety when travelling
Hypoallergenic Dog & Cat Treats no more itching ☺
Toe Nail Clippers
Horse Dewormer Quest Plus, Quest, Eqvalan & more
Oatmeal Shampoo great for sensitive skin
Breathalyser water additive for cats & dog

IF WE DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU NEED - JUST ASK!

HOLIDAY CLOSURES *we will be closed on the following days...*

Friday (Easter) March 21st ▪ Monday May 19th



From left to right: Dean Wood, Dr. Christine Murdoch Wood, Michael Bayley, Kelly-Anne Heinrichs, Shannon Carroll, Kent Maitland (standing), Kristy Johnson, Kelly Maitland 2007

DR. CHRISTINE MURDOCH, Owner & Veterinarian
DR. JODYNE GREEN, Associate Veterinarian
KELLY-ANNE HEINRICHS, Office Manager
MIKAYLA VANDELDE, Veterinary Administrative Assistant
SHANNON CARROLL, Administrative Assistant

KELLY MAITLAND, Registered Animal Health Technician
KRISTY JOHNSON, Registered Animal Health Technician
KEBRINA HORROCKS, Registered Animal Health Technician
KACIE HALONEN, Veterinary Assistant
ALEXYS CHURCH, Kennel Attendant