

## LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### New Year Party

Monday December 31<sup>st</sup> Doors at 8:00pm  
Pineview Hall \*must be 19yrs of age\*  
Tickets \$25 at Pineview Store & Marty's  
Music by 97 North

### New Year's Eve Dance

Monday December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm  
Blackburn Community Centre (BCC)  
Tickets \$35 at BCC  
Entertainment by Absolute Sound

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Northern Lights Festival

November 28<sup>th</sup> to January 11<sup>th</sup>  
Connaught Hill & PG Civic Centre  
552.1677 for more information

### Big & Rich with Special Guests Terri Clark and Emerson Drive

Wednesday January 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
CN Centre  
[ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca) for tickets

### Bob Ewert Memorial Medical Lecture

Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm to 11:00pm  
Prince George Civic Centre  
[city.pg.bc.ca](http://city.pg.bc.ca) for more information

### Chilliwack

In Concert Tuesday January 30<sup>th</sup> &  
Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup> 7:30pm  
Treasure Cove Hotel & Casino  
614.9111 for more information

## Settling Back Into Routine After the Holiday!

Presents, baking, a house full of friends and family, numerous dinners at aunts and uncles... ..It all takes a toll on us and on those living in our household, namely our four-legged furry family members.

Remember, getting back into routine is very important for your pets. They depend on the steadfastness of their humans for timely feedings, regular walks and affection, which sometimes fall by the wayside over the holidays. Be sure that your pet resumes a regular diet and exercise as soon as possible. If you've noticed mischievous or out of the ordinary behavior, this should cease shortly after things return to routine.

If your pet still seems out of sorts, try providing some extra attention and one on one time. Pets have unique personalities, as do we and handle situations in their own way. Introvert animals don't like crowds and have a tendency to hide, quite opposite of the extrovert who laps up the attention from anyone willing to provide it.

Stress can wreak havoc on immune systems and at this time of year, we are not the only ones susceptible to the many ailments. If your pet seems lethargic, is vomiting, has diarrhea, is coughing or showing any other signs of distress, don't hesitate to call us. Welcome 2008 and happy new year!

## Feline Hyperthyroidism, the "Silent Disease"

Why silent...? Cats are very good at hiding illnesses and this one is no exception. In the early stages of hyperthyroidism, your cat may seem very normal and appear healthy, maybe even overweight. These occurrences may cause the disease to go unnoticed for quite some time.

Hyperthyroidism is a common disease defined by an over activity of thyroid tissue. Both cats and dogs can be affected although it is much more common in cats. Dogs tend to develop the opposite, called *hypothyroidism*.

Hyperthyroidism is a serious disease and left untreated may lead to heart enlargement, poor blood flow and even murmurs. It causes wearing of organs such as the liver and kidney's as a result of an increase in the body's metabolism. The disease is treatable once identified and the outcome for cats is generally very successful.

There are a few methods of treatment. Daily administration of medication is the most common. The medication is designed to shrink the thyroid gland and lessen the body's thyroid hormone.

There are several telltale signs indicative of hyperthyroidism. Some of these include over-grooming resulting in a thin, patchy coat; activity at a time when the cat would normally be less active such as running around the house late at night; weight loss; vomiting; and increase in vocalization.

In certain cases, cats with the disease are easily identifiable as they may start to look dehydrated, weak and even gaunt. You may also notice the eyes becoming sunken.

Detection of hyperthyroidism is very important in order to prevent the development of other associated symptoms and/or problems. This is best met through regular visits to your veterinarian including an exam, blood work and urinalysis.

Constant monitoring throughout the duration of your cat's life is imperative to his/her future success. Increasing body mass after weight loss is also an important part of recuperation. A proper diet recommended by your veterinarian will help ensure your cat's longevity and your happiness©

# Ever Considered Adopting a Senior Pet...?

Sweet sounding whimpers and fiercely wagging tails combined with the ability to look deep into your soul, gives young pets a real edge when begging to be adopted. Something about innocence seems to draw in the majority of those looking to adopt a new pet. Puppies and kittens have minimal trouble finding homes in comparison to the aging pet population. The thing that potential adopters sometimes overlook is just how much senior pets have to offer. Along with being forever grateful for their newfound love and attention, they offer a wide scope of benefits...

- **No House Training** - No more rising at hideous hours throughout the night all in the name of house training
- **What You See Is Really What You Get** - Guess work and unexpected surprises are very limited

- **Less Supervision** - Adult cats and dogs require less supervision than their younger counterparts, ideal for those living busy lives yet still looking for companionship
- **Less Demanding** - Adult pets are usually content to go for short walks or just curl up and nap at your feet. A less intense need for exercise makes the perfect match for an elderly person, single man or woman or a busy family

There are several advantages to adopting an aging pet. Adult pets live harmoniously with humans, are relatively calm and already litter box or house trained. They have plenty of love to give and depending on the breed can live well into their teens. Remember that when caring for a senior pet, their nutritional requirements differ from that of a juvenile. They need a lower caloric intake to remain fit and trim. Happy adopting ☺

## Manager's Message...

Don't forget about dental month! Even the healthiest mouths may experience dental or gum problems. Chipped and worn teeth, fractures and cavities are quite common. Senior's are especially susceptible because their teeth often become more brittle with age. Book today!

Confused about vaccines? Are they really necessary? Vaccines protect against serious and fatal diseases such as Rabies, Distemper, Parvovirus, Bordetella and Chlamydia - to name only a few. Vaccines contain modified viruses or bacteria that stimulate two parts of the immune system: (1) the production of antibodies and (2) stimulation of cell mediated immunity. Your pet needs regular booster shots due to the gradual decline of protection from the vaccine. When questioning whether shelling out the money to vaccinate your pet is worth it, consider that the cost of the vaccine(s) is significantly less than the treatment, if available, for the disease.

**What you should know about "kennel cough..."** 'Tis the season for Kennel Cough, an illness contracted by dogs and characterized by inflammation of the upper respiratory system. Viral and bacterial causes are spread through the air by infected dogs sneezing and coughing. It can also spread through direct contact and contact with contaminated surfaces. It is highly contagious. It can be caused by viral infections such as canine distemper, canine adenovirus, canine parainfluenza virus, canine respiratory coronavirus or bacterial infections such as Bordetella bronchiseptica. If you and/or your dog is often in the vicinity of other pets, are part of a social group or board at a kennel, vaccination against kennel cough is the safest method of prevention.

## Have you seen?

- Dental supplies (toothbrush and toothpaste)
- Leashes and collars
- Hypoallergenic Dog & Cat Treats
- Toe Nail Clippers
- Quick Tote Cardboard Cat Carriers
- Quickstop Blood Powder
- Oatmeal Shampoo (for sensitive skin)
- Breathalyser (water additive for cats & dogs)

and much more!

## Upcoming Events at Murdoch Vet Clinic...

### February is Dental Month!

Visit us in February to receive 15% off of our dental services.

Dental care is very important to the health of your pet. Did you know that plaque leads to bad breath and gingivitis, as well might cause serious tooth root infections? In extreme cases plaque has lead to infections of the heart and kidneys. Regular dental care aids in oral hygiene and may prevent minor to major discomfort in the mouth.

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

Tuesday (New Years) January 1<sup>st</sup> • Friday (Easter) March 21<sup>st</sup> • Monday May 19<sup>th</sup>