

## LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### Natural Horsemanship Demo & Clinics

Glenn Stewart Natural Horsemanship  
Demo: Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm  
Stage I Clinic Thurs-Fri March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>  
Stage I/2 Clinic Sat-Sun March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
**649.8838 or 961.4079 for more info**

### Avril Lavigne Returns to PG

Special Guest Boys Like Girls  
Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm  
CN Centre  
**614.9100 for more information**

### Prince George Dance Festival

Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00am to 9:00pm  
Thursday March 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00am to 9:00pm  
Vanier Hall at PGSS  
**Linda 562.4526 for more information**

### STYX In Concert

Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm  
CN Centre  
**614.9100 for more information**

### Small Business Seminar

With Facilitator Badrudin Moosa  
Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
Community Futures Development Corp  
**562.2454 for more information**

### The Cult In Concert

Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
CN Centre  
**614.9100 for more information**

## I HEARD A RUMOR ABOUT VETERINARY TECHNICIANS...

Some would attest the technician as the backbone of any vet clinic... Are Animal Health Technician's truly undervalued for their effort and energy while caring for hospitalized patients? I did a little investigating on the matter to see what our staff had to say...

"They are like the backbone..."

"Doctors would have to charge more for their time without us..."

"The client usually only sees the doctor, therefore believes they are the ones doing the procedures in the back. They don't see us..."

"It's team work. Without the effort of each team member, it wouldn't work..."

"Doctors wouldn't have time to see as many patients without being able to delegate tasks to the technicians..."

"We do so much of the work that our clients don't see..."

"I believe that each of us plays an important role in the success of the clinic. Omitting any one of us would leave a gap in efficiency..."

Correctly known as Registered Animal Health Technician (RAHT), their job description is immense. Some have suggested that their duties are similar to that of pharmacists, lab technicians, anaesthesiologists, x-ray technicians, animal dentists and nutritionists.

An insight to their vast responsibilities:

*Technicians collect and run samples:*

- Blood, blood glucose and fecal
- Pre-anaesthetic lab work
- Heartworm, FeLV/FIV tests
- Urinalysis
- CBC/QBC
- Ear cytology and skin scrapings

They also prepare vaccinations, clean ears, express anal glands, scale and polish teeth, demonstrate injections for clients with diabetic pets, trim toe nails, discharge patients, research food information to provide up-to-date and accurate recommendations, monitor anaesthetized patients and list really does go on and on. Kudos to all technicians and veterinarian support staff ☺

## LET US HELP MAKE YOUR VISIT MORE COMFORTABLE!

Are you a first time pet owner? Have you experienced a surgery process? Do you know what is involved and what to expect when bringing your pet in for a surgical visit?

Dropping your pet off, leaving them alone in a strange place, with strange people, whether it's minor or major surgery can be stressful and worrisome for many pet owners. We understand this stress well.

We take pride in our work and are honored that you put your trust and faith in us. Your satisfaction and the well being of your pet are our main concerns. We strive to ensure that both of you are as comfortable as possible. We wanted to share the following information to help dissipate your concerns...

We send a presurgery letter to each of our clients booked in for surgery. The letter includes anaesthesia and blood work information. Upon arrival at our clinic, a Registered Animal Health

Technician (RAHT) greets you and your pet and asks a breadth of questions to ensure fasting has occurred and that your pet is healthy before surgery.

Each patient is provided a clean and spacious kennel until time for surgery. They are then prepped by an RAHT and tended to by a doctor. During surgery they are monitored very closely. Once surgery is complete, an RAHT stays with them, patting and talking to them in a soothing voice until they have awakened from anaesthetic.

Once awake, they remain monitored and taken out to relieve themselves. During their recovery stage they are kept warm with water bottles and cuddled up in a blanket.

Upon your arrival, an RAHT brings your pet to you, informs you of the surgery, provides home care instructions and answers any questions you may have. Here's to many more happy surgeries ☺

# Dental Health Month Was A Real Mouth Full...



Riot Heinrichs



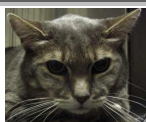
Jag Heinrichs



Andy Beaulieu



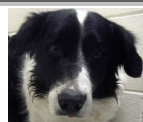
Daisy Heinze



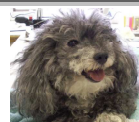
Ikiru Zimmer



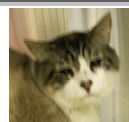
Koko Litzen



Sam Hubbard



Fifi Landry



Rupert Grant



Kai Jamieson



Keelie Hamel



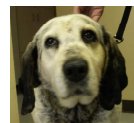
Lady Hamel



Lucky Charm Nichol



Max Kasewetter



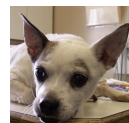
Paige Rahn



Baja McMillan



Madison Medcke



Tessa Hendricks

Thanks to all of our 2008 Dental Month participants (not all shown here) ☺ Here's to happy brushing's and tartar free teeth! See you in 2009...

## Manager's Message...

We know it's important to you that our doctors and staff recall both you and your pet upon arrival at our clinic as well as after walking out the door. For analogy's sake, we might compare a vet visit to a drive thru. You order, wait, pay and leave. Hang on, isn't there more to it than that? When you walk through our door, be it your first time or one of many, our main concern is the well being of your pet. In a sense... You *order* unparalleled service for the health of your pet, you *wait* patiently while technicians and doctors cater to your pet's needs, you *pay* a modest fee for medical services performed by a doctor and *leave* our clinic with a happier, healthier pet (unbeknownst to them). After all, many people claim that pets are like children and children love the drive thru!☺



"I call it Child Labor Day"

**What you might like to know about "Cushing's":** Is it a syndrome? Is it a disease? Cushing's syndrome is a disease also known as hyperadrenocorticism (overproduction of cortisone hormones by the adrenal glands). There are 3 forms of the disease. The adrenal glands are regulated by the pituitary gland, which produces a hormone called ACTH. ACTH stimulates the adrenal gland to produce cortisones. Occasionally an ACTH-producing tumor will develop in the pituitary gland. This is the first form and accounts for 85% of all cases. The second is when a cortisone-producing tumor forms within the adrenal gland. The third form of the disease is manmade (by corticosteroid supplement or injection) and often the result of treating some other serious disease. Symptoms of Cushing's include excessive drinking and urination, increased appetite causing weight gain or obesity, a course patchy coat and thin skin. Dogs with Cushing's often take on the shape of a pot-bellied pig due to excessive weight gain and withering muscles in the legs. The disease is diagnosed with a series of blood tests. The first 6 months after treatment begins are the most critical and dangerous. After having passed 6 months, dogs with Cushing's may live several more good quality years.

## VISIT OUR NEWLY ESTABLISHED 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 and Bloodstop powder for those close clips

Horse Dewormer Quest Plus, Quest, Equalan & 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: Friday March 21st Monday May 19th Tuesday July 1st

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

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