

## LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### Glenn Stewart Natural Horsemanship

Demonstration Friday September 5<sup>th</sup>  
Stage 1 Clinic 6-7<sup>th</sup> Stage 1~2 Clinic 8-9<sup>th</sup>  
2L Ranch 16025 Blackwater Road  
Call 649.8838 or 961.4079

### Tour De North Cops For Cancer

Friday September 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30am  
ReMax Realty 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
[cancer.ca](http://cancer.ca)

### PGARA WESCAR

Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm  
PGARA Speedway Hwy 16E & Old Cariboo  
[pgara.ca](http://pgara.ca)

### BC Summer Games

September 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>  
Various Locations in PG  
250.387.1375 or [info@bcgames.org](mailto:info@bcgames.org)

### Evening In Pink Dinner & Dance

Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm  
Civic Centre  
Monica 552.4114 for information

### Alice Cooper In Concert

Tuesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:00pm  
CN Centre  
614.9100 or [ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca)

### Beach Boys In Concert

Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
CN Centre  
614.9100 or [ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca)

### BC Rivers Day

Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>  
Mary 614.3766 for more information

### SEPTEMBER IS...

### ...EQUINE DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

We invite you to take part in promoting and implementing equine dental health during the month of September. We have dedicated September to the horses!

Horses graze up to 16 hours a day and highly depend on their teeth to survive. In order to chew and utilize hay, grass and/or manmade supplements, a horse must maintain good dental health, be free of infection and sharp points on the teeth and without ulcers in the mouth.

Routine floats are crucial to overall good health, especially as we head into the long, cold winter months. Domesticated horses no longer have the luxury of roaming vast acreage and wild forests to forage for branches, twigs, roots and various shrubs and herbs that help keep their teeth short or their mouths healthy and free of infection naturally.

A float is performed with a handheld tool called; *you guessed it*, a float. Power and manual floats are used to file down teeth. Using a float takes skill and a superb knowledge of equine anatomy.

Do you have a horse that appears head shy? Is difficult to bridle? Has recently colicked? Do you have to feed a lot just to keep up good body condition? Does your horse frequently drop food from its mouth or pass whole grains when defecating? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may have a horse that requires dental care.

Misalignment of the teeth often causes sharp edges to form, which regularly cut the tongue and inside of the cheek, causing painful ulcers. Ulcers can prevent a horse from properly chewing their food, resulting in poor digestion and weight loss, often through winter.

We recommend a dental exam on foals as young as 6 months in order to determine and correct developing problems such as an overbite.

### JOIN US THIS MONTH AND...

- Enter to win a great prize
- Receive a FREE gift package including a tube of dewormer

AND MUCH MORE...

### XYLITOL AND DOGS...

What is Xylitol? You may be aware of its use as a sweetener in many popular products including gum, candy, baked goods and chewable vitamins. But... are you aware of its effect on dogs?

Xylitol is derived from hard woods such as birch and was commercially produced during WWII when sucrose was scarce. It is as sweet as sucrose but contains only two-thirds the calories. In dogs, Xylitol is rapidly absorbed and may cause hypoglycemia within 30 to 60 minutes. Signs include vomiting, lethargy, ataxia, collapsing and seizure.

If Xylitol consumption is not treated swiftly, prognosis can be devastating. In some cases, dogs developed elevated liver enzymes within 12 to 24 hours, several of which developed acute liver failure and were euthanized or died. Sticking to foods that are designed specifically for dogs will help eliminate the chance of Xylitol consumption

### TOXIC FOODS FOR DOGS

There are many rumors regarding which foods are truly toxic for dogs and which are seemingly bad because somebody once said they were. Here are a few that we want to warn you of:

1. **Chocolate (real chocolate, not bars)**  
Causes abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea, labored breathing, heart rate increase and arrhythmia, coma, seizures and death
2. **Coffee**  
Causes abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea, labored breathing, heart rate increase and arrhythmia, coma, seizures and death
3. **Onions**  
Causes discolored urine, vomiting and diarrhea, Hemolytic Anemia, liver damage and laboured breathing
4. **Mushrooms**  
Causes drooling, vomiting and diarrhea, abdominal pain, liver and kidney damage, convulsions, coma and death
5. **Grapes or Raisins**  
Causes vomiting and diarrhea, abdominal pain and lethargy

# Come In for A Visit On September 13<sup>th</sup> 12:30 to 2:00...

## Help us celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

We would like to invite you to join us at the clinic on Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm to 2:00pm for beverages and light snacks in celebration of our 15<sup>th</sup> year in business ☺ All of our dedicated and wonderful clients are welcome to come in for a visit. Enter a draw to win a great prize for your canine or feline companion. Take this opportunity to meet our newest staff members (or those you haven't met yet) and learn all about what we have in store for the month of September. Come out and be part of the celebration that your support and dedication has helped create!

## Manager's Message...

Rain, rain, go away. I'm not usually one to condemn Mother Nature; however, this year I have to admit that all this rain has really put a hampering on my outdoor plans. You know, trying to stain the newly built (water soaked) deck or repair the hundreds of feet of fence line (in the kind of mud that sucks your shoes off) is getting exhausting. Right about now snow actually sounds inviting. Snowy white flakes signify the end of having to dry off sixteen paws after every outdoor excursion. Then again, I've heard rumors that we'll be needing to keep our woollies and shovels close by this season as weather predictions suggest that we are in for another long, snow-abundant winter ☺

### HOSTING AN EXCITING EVENT IN OUR AREA . . . ?

Are you planning/hosting an exciting event located near the Prince George area? Or do you know of an event that might be considered newsletter worthy? If so, I'd love to hear from you ☺ I'm also interested in learning about your success stories regarding your pets and visits to our clinic. Email me at [main@murdochvet.com](mailto:main@murdochvet.com). Also visit our website [www.murdochvet.com](http://www.murdochvet.com) to read our newsletters and much more...

**What you might like to know about "Osteoarthritis"** Osteoarthritis, also known as degenerative joint disease, is very common in dogs. It is more prevalent in seniors but may afflict dogs of any age. Osteoarthritis occurs due to the loss of smooth cartilage that covers and is meant to protect the end of the bones in a moveable joint. The wearing away of cartilage exposes bone as well as the nerves. When the ends of two bones in a joint touch one another (due to the lack of cartilage cushioning), it results in pain and inflammation. There are two types of degenerative joint disease: primary and secondary. Primary occurs as a result of wear and tear and usually onsets with age. Secondary includes hip and elbow dysplasia. Dogs that are at risk are those with congenital problems including dysplasia or patella luxation and those who have had an injury involving the joint, such as a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament. The first signs of osteoarthritis include an altered gait (caused by shifting of weight between unaffected legs), muscle atrophy (muscles become thin), difficulty lying down and rising, stiffness, difficulty climbing up or down stairs and an inability to jump up (such as into a vehicle for a ride). The degree of pain your dog will experience depends on the progression of the disease and/or injury and/or their age. Osteoarthritis causes dull, aching pain as opposed to sharp pain that might otherwise cause the dog to cry out. The joints are generally not swollen resulting in the idea that the dog may just simply "be getting stiff" or "becoming sore in his old age." To the human eye, pain can be very difficult to scale. Severe pain will cause a decrease in appetite and/or behavior. Some dogs will seek solitude; some will seek a warm, soft and comfortable place to lie so as to ease the pressure on their joints. Few dogs will lick or bite at the areas causing them pain. There are several treatment/management options that may slow the progression of osteoarthritis as well as decrease pain. In some instances, owners have successfully opted for joint replacement surgery. If you believe your dog is suffering from osteoarthritis, call us today and help ease the pain ☺

## VISIT OUR RETAIL SECTION...

Oatmeal and Aloe Shampoo great for dogs and horses

SWAT Fly Repellent Cream to keep wounds clean and flies out

Ectospray to stop and kill those pesky bugs

Horse Dewormer Quest Plus, Quest, Equalan, Panacur & more

Pill Poppers for regular administration of medication

Leashes and Collars, Halti's and Seat Belts for your pet's safety

MediCal Royal Canin and Hill's Prescription diets

Hypoallergenic Dog & Cat Treats we have free samples☺

Breathalyser water additive for bad breath

Toothbrushes and Toothpaste for your pet's dental needs

Ear Cleaning Solution for those avid swimmers

Toe Nail Trimmers and Bloodstop powder for those 'oops' trims

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

**Closed: Monday September 1st ~ Monday October 13th ~ Tuesday November 11th**

DR. CHRISTINE MURDOCH, Owner & Veterinarian

DR. JODYNE GREEN, Associate Veterinarian

KELLY-ANNE H, Office Manager

NIKKI W, Administrative Assistant

SHANNON C, Administrative Assistant

KELLY M, Registered Animal Health Technician

KRISTY J, Registered Animal Health Technician

KACIE H, Veterinary Assistant

KAYDEN H, Kennel Attendant

ALEXYS C, Kennel Attendant

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