

LOCAL EVENTS

CALENDAR

Senior's Day at Pineview Hall

Every Wednesday 10:00am
Pineview Hall
963.7427 or 649.8281

Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Dinner

Saturday April 10th 5:30pm \$100
Civic Centre
960.5750

PGCoC AGM & Inauguration Dinner

Friday April 16th 5:00pm \$60
Coast Inn of the North
562.2454 or www.pgchamber.bc.ca

An Evening with Joe Trio

Saturday April 17th 7:30pm
Vanier Hall
562.0800

Peter Katz at Café Voltaire

Tuesday April 20th
Café Voltaire, Books & Co 3rd Ave
563.6637

Incognito - The Blues Underground

Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th 8:30pm
Prince George Legion
564.0395

Palm Sunday Brunch

Sunday March 28th
Blackburn Community Hall
963.3292

Canadian Homebuilders Home Show

Friday April 30th to Sunday May 2nd
Exhibition Park Kin Centres
563.3306 homeshow@shawcable.com

The devastating effects of pet obesity

The Biggest Loser Challenge (see pg2) is designed to teach you about the importance of pet nutrition and the results of obesity as well as to provide understanding and support.

There are several health conditions that may result or be exacerbated as an effect of obesity. As with humans, pets suffer similar effects of being overweight:

1. Heart disease or failure
 - including Mitral Valve Disease (leaky heart valves), Dilated Cardiomyopathy (weak heart muscle) and Chronic Valvular Disease (thickened heart valves causing heart enlargement etc)
2. Hypertension (high blood pressure)
 - may cause significant damage to the heart, kidneys, blood vessels, eyes and central nervous system
3. Diabetes
 - deficiency of the hormone insulin, preventing glucose production; may lead to ketoacidosis (a life threatening complication)
4. Gastrointestinal problems
 - acute (sudden) or chronic (require lifelong monitoring); decreased digestion, increased flatulence
5. Decreased liver function or failure
 - extremely difficult to diagnose; the liver can easily perform its duties despite 70-80% affected by disease

6. Reproduction problems
 - difficulty conceiving and delivering (dystocia) as well as hormonal problems such as hypothyroidism
7. Skin problems
 - the skin secretes different types of oils and more of it causing itchiness, flaking etc; chubby skin rolls may also fold in on themselves, creating pockets of infection etc
8. Decreased immunity
 - increases susceptibility to infection via decreased resistance to viral and bacterial infections
9. Shorter life expectancy
 - decreased overall health & ability to play and breathe; increased body heat, physical pain and discomfort
10. Complication during anesthesia
 - risks include heart and lung stress leading to cardiac arrest and poor circulation, delayed recovery
11. Pancreatitis
 - high fat content (fatty table scraps) can cause Pancreatitis after only one meal; signs include vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, inability to walk, abdominal tenderness etc
12. Damage to joints, bone & ligaments
 - risks include arthritis, hip dysplasia, ligament damage (especially in the knee, known as the cruciate) and intervertebral disc disease

BITS OF THIS AND THAT... HERE THERE & EVERYWHERE

"Any man with money to make the purchase can become a dog's owner. But no man- spend he ever so much coin and food and tact in the effort- may become a dog's Master without the consent of the dog. Do you get the difference? And he whom a dog once unreservedly accepts as Master is forever that dog's God" -*Albert Payson Terhune*

"If you don't own a dog, at least one, there is not necessarily anything wrong with you, but there may be something wrong with your life" -*Roger Caras*

"I have caught more ills from people sneezing over me and giving me virus infections than from kissing dogs" -*Barbara Woodhouse*

"The great pleasure of a dog is that you make a fool of yourself and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool out of himself too" -*Samuel Butler*

"Do not make the mistake of treating your dogs like humans or they will treat you like dogs" -*Martha Scott*

"A guy wanted to take his Chihuahua into a restaurant with him, so he put on dark glasses and "tapped" his way into the establishment. The waiter said, "Hey! you can't bring a dog in here." The man indignantly claimed, "I'm blind!... this is my Seeing Eye Dog!" "You're trying to tell me," said the waiter, "that this Chihuahua is a Seeing Eye dog?" "What????!!!" cried the man, "they gave me a Chihuahua?" -*Unknown*

What's Happenin at Murdoch Vet Clinic...

The 2nd annual biggest loser challenge 2010

Whether you simply wish to get involved in group walks and take the opportunity to socialize your dog or have been trying really hard to help your pet lose those extra pounds, we welcome you to join us in this year's Biggest Loser challenge! Sign up by April 28th to receive a free bag of introductory food ☺



WALKS PLANNED AS FOLLOWS (subject to change):

May 18th Cottonwood, main entrance
May 25th Moore's Meadow, north end
June 1st Forests for the World, Uni trail
June 8th Ft George Park, Cottonwood
June 15th Moore's Meadow, north end
June 22nd LC Gunn Park
June 29th Cottonwood, main entrance

July 6th Forests for the World, Shane Lk
July 13th Moore's Meadow, north end
July 20th LC Gunn Park
July 27th Ft George Park, Cottonwood
August 3rd Forests for the World
August 10th McMillan Park
August 17th LC Gunn Park

Manager's Message... *don't forget your bear sprag!*

"We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are" - Max DuPre

Happy Birthday to Dr. Green

... have a wonderful day ☺



While others are enjoying dry sidewalks and greening lawns, I am awaiting the melting of the foot of snow still in my yard... I have been reading about local trails and getting extremely excited to take advantage of the superb wilderness and hiking our area has to offer. If you've never heard of the Caledonia Rambler's Trail Guide, you may want to pick one up (Books & Co, Tourism PG, UNBC bookstore)! Did you know that within a 1.5hr drive from PG is the Grizzly Den; Raven Lake; Driscoll Ridge; Sugarbowl; the Farm; and the Ancient Forest, filled with 1000 & 2000yr old humungous cedars?! There are also dozens of trails on Tabor Mountain! Look them up online web.unbc.ca/-ramblers/ & learn about the places you can explore for free! Embrace nature in your own back yard ☺

What you might like to know about "foreign body ingestion"

With the snow melting, spring on its way and lots of new ground to explore, we need to pay closer attention to what our four legged friends may be getting into... Remember that puppies like to taste things and curious breeds such as Retrievers and Terriers tend to get into undue trouble! Stories from clients as well veterinary staff have provided a list of "favorite articles for consumption" including rocks and/or gravel, underwear (sometimes multiple pair), corn on the cob, string and needle with the thread still attached. Ingestion of a foreign object is an emergency; contact your vet immediately! Determining whether or not a foreign body has actually been consumed can be difficult. There are certain objects that may not show up on ultrasound and/or x-ray. If you have an aggressive chewer, it is best to buy toys that are digestible or that say radio opaque (visible on x-ray).

Sharp toys/objects may wreak havoc on the esophagus, stomach and intestines by puncturing the gastro-intestinal (GI) tract. If this occurs, bacteria may leak into the intra-abdominal area, triggering inflammation and infection called Peritonitis, which is very life threatening. Foreign bodies can also cause intussusception (when one portion of intestine slides into the next, like a collapsing telescope). If you see a foreign object protruding from the mouth or anus of your pet, do not pull on it because it could still be attached at the other end. Items such as string, cloth and even long blades of grass can cause extensive damage to the intestine if pulled on, often requiring surgery. Symptoms that your pet may have ingested a foreign body include anorexia (not eating), drooling, vomiting, a painful tummy that may look bloated, lethargy, lack of defecation and depression.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR RETAIL SECTION...?

Oatmeal & Aloe Sensitive Skin Shampoo great for dogs & horses
Stain and Odor Remover remove those tough smells & spots
Pill Pockets & Pill Poppers ease the administration of medication
Small Animal Emergency Kits for safe travelling with your pet
Horse Dewormer Quest Plus, Quest, Eqvalan, Panacur & more
MediCal Royal Canin and Hill's Prescription Diets

Pawguard effective lanolin rub for dry, cracked paws & elbows ☺
Hypoallergenic Dog Treats
Toothbrushes, Toothpaste & Breathalyser
Ear Cleaning Solution for those avid swimmers
Toe Nail Trimmers & Bloodstop powder for those 'oops' trims
Self Watering Pet Dishes, Equine Fly Spray, Ecto Spray

...WE CAN ORDER NUMEROUS ITEMS, COME IN & SEE OUR CATALOGUE!

Closed: Friday April 2nd ~ Monday May 24th ~ Thursday July 1st ~ Monday August 2nd

DR. CHRISTINE MURDOCH, Owner & Veterinarian
KELLY-ANNE H, Office Manager
KACIE H, Veterinary Assistant
CHANDRA M, Administrative Assistant

DR. JODYNE GREEN, Associate Veterinarian
KELLY M, Registered Animal Health Technician
NAVOKARAN B, Veterinary & Technician Assistant
KAYDEN H, Kennel Attendant

DR. BARB V, Locum Veterinarian
KRISTY J, Registered Animal Health Technician
SHANNON C, Administrative Assistant
SHELDON G, Kennel Attendant and Volunteer

DID YOU KNOW... THE BLUE WHALE IS THE LARGEST ANIMAL IN THE WORLD, HAVING MEASURED 110FT IN LENGTH ☺