

### LOCAL EVENTS

#### CALENDAR

##### **Pineview Hall Senior's Day**

Every Wednesday 10:00am  
Pineview Hall, Bendixon Road  
963.7427 or 649.8281

##### **The Alternate**

Karaoke Tuesdays and Fridays  
Local Live Entertainment Saturdays  
963.9840 Cummings Rd

##### **Farmer's Market**

Every Saturday 8:30am to 2:00pm  
Courthouse, corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & George  
[www.farmersmarketpg.ca](http://www.farmersmarketpg.ca)

##### **YMCA Annual Road Race**

Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> 8:00am  
YMCA Massey Drive  
562.9341 [www.pgymca.com](http://www.pgymca.com)

##### **Horsemanship Video Night Series**

Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm (see article pg2)  
1919 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Academy of Learning)  
250.996.8026 FREE tea & goodies

##### **Aaron Pritchett In Concert**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm  
Blackburn Community Centre 963.3292  
[www.blackburn-community.com](http://www.blackburn-community.com)

##### **Spirit of the Sled Dog Presentation**

Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup>  
14295 Chief Lake Road  
250.967.4479

##### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bob Harkins Fishing Derby**

Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup> 11:00am to 3:00pm  
West Lake Provincial Park  
612.7871 [friend@northernbc.com](mailto:friend@northernbc.com)

## do horses have two brains???

Depending on your level of interest in horses, this is an extremely "hot topic!" One that every horse owner worldwide should be aware of...

If you've spent any time working with horses, you will most likely have asked yourself if the two of you are from the same planet?! ☺ Interaction with horses can be very difficult for several reasons and at the top is the function of the horse's brain, its effect on prey/predator relations and fight vs. flight response.

The horse's brain is divided into two hemispheres. Unlike humans, their two hemispheres are not connected with neurological connective tissue (corpus colossum). This means that messages do not transfer back and forth from the left side to the right. Put simply, training that occurs on one side, must occur on the other for the horse to be completely balanced and understand your actions.

Unlike horses, we think with both sides of our brain all of the time. We have the ability to understand what has occurred on our left side and apply it to our right with little to no effort. Communication between hemispheres of the horse's brain is so slight, they can think with only one side at a time; information does not transfer back and forth.

In nature, every horse is born with a dominant side, which effects how they move and respond to their environment. It also affects how they learn. Humans tend to be predominantly left sided with horses due to the nature of their tack which is put on and done up on the left.

One-sidedness can result in safety and reactive behavioral issues such as spooking, bucking, bolting etc. It is our responsibility to be uniform and train both sides of our horse's brain; tasks done on the left must be done the right. This requires practice on our behalf because we also tend to be unbalanced and use the side of our body that we are most comfortable with. Some horses do very well, quickly adapting to both sides; for others its like starting all over.

Horses are prey animals. Flight is their innate survival instinct. Survival instincts and basic life functions such as breathing, are all controlled by the brain stem. Horses have a large brain stem (excellent instincts) and small cortex (poor problem solving skills). We have a hard time understanding flight because our brain stem is small (poor instincts) and cortex is large (excellent problem solving skills).

Humans have vast intellectual capacity but lack basic instinct. We tend to think first; react later. Our first instinct is to freeze and "process" our way out of frightening situations. Horses react first; think later. When pressured, they completely lose their ability to problem solve, causing them to involuntarily "flight" from predators. Instinct tells them to either run back to or jump into the centre of the herd (often the reason humans get stepped on). It is imperative to identify and develop a relationship in consideration of this instinct.

It is also interesting to note that horses do not fear predators... they fear predator behavior! A lion is still a lion when she has a full belly yet she resides at peace in very close proximatey to her prey. As her hunger rises, her body language becomes that of a hunter (predatorial). Only upon onset of this behavior do her prey prepare for flight. Humans may also exhibit predatorial actions when confused or frustrated.

Understanding equine behavior is vital. Horses do not talk. They do not understand English. They understand body language, intention and may learn to decipher vocal tone. Understanding our innate differences greatly improves communication as well as our safety. Remember... even your well trained horse can go from bombproof to a 1200lb explosive in just a split second.

#### WORD KEY

CORTEX: upper brain where logic, problem solving and rational thought take place  
BRAIN STEM: lower brain containing basic survival instincts such as breathing

# What's Happenin at Murdoch Vet Clinic...

## exciting updates on our biggest loser challenge

Our first hour-long walk on Cottonwood Island Park trail was excellent! A total of 10 people and 7 dogs came out, despite the sprinkling of rain just before. The dogs were well behaved & we enjoyed getting to know our BL participants better ☺



WALKS PLANNED AS FOLLOWS (subject to change):

June 1<sup>st</sup> Forests for the World, Uni trail  
June 8<sup>th</sup> Ft George Park, Cottonwood  
June 15<sup>th</sup> Moore's Meadow, north end  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> LC Gunn Park  
June 29<sup>th</sup> Cottonwood, main entrance  
July 6<sup>th</sup> Forests for the World, Shane Lk

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

## Manager's Message...

*"Communication is the heart of life. It is the interchange of ideas between two people or things. Without it we are dead to all..." - L. Ron Hubbard*

JONATHAN FIELD (JF) renowned horseman and teacher, comes to PG for the first time this October!!! Join host, Kyla Pollard, for an opportunity to watch Jonathan's extensive home study videos on the large screen, Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Academy of Learning (FREE tea and goodies). Kyla will be available to answer questions and provide information about Jonathan's horsemanship program, Inspired by Horses. She will be taking deposits for registration for the JF Advanced Course 1 clinic October 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. Kyla is the owner of new company Khas Tan and provides horsemanship services. She holds a Level III Parelli certificate (currently working toward Level IV); is actively working in Stages 7/8 of Glenn Stewart's program; working within Courses 4/5 with Jonathan Field; and has completed 300 direct hours with Martin Black! Her horsemanship philosophies and techniques are primarily inspired by the legacy of horsemen Ray Hunt and Tom Dorrance ☺

## What you might like to know about "EAR CONDITIONS AND HOT SPOTS"

How much do you really know about ear conditions? Lets test your knowledge... 1. What causes ear odor? *accumulation of yeast or bacteria in a confined space* 2. What causes black gunk? *yeast, bacteria, mites or excess secretion* 3. What causes head shaking and/or itching? *inflammation, excess discharge* 4. Does alcohol/peroxide treat ear conditions? *no! Both are skin irritants and make inflammation worse* 5. How often should you clean ears? *weekly if the problem is chronic; as needed if no previous problems exist* 6. Are ear conditions linked to food allergies? *yes! Allergies initiate an inflammatory response. Chronic ear problems that do not respond to treatment may indicate allergies.* NOTE: MOISTURE (E.G.: SWIMMING) MAY CAUSE AND/OR ATTRIBUTE TO AN EAR CONDITION!!!

Dermatitis (skin inflammation) is a relatively common condition. Often referred to as a "hot spot," dermatitis is caused by heat, allergies, bug bites, matted fur, fleas, mites, dampness etc and further irritated by licking, biting, chewing or scratching that results in inflamed (hot) areas on the skin. What begins with just redness and inflammation may quickly lead to infection and extreme discomfort for your pet. It is important to find the initiating cause and treat appropriately. Hot spots are common in the spring and summer, especially in longer haired animals. Less commonly seen are self-inflicted hot spots due to extreme boredom (tied up for long periods etc). Hot spots should not be ignored. If you believe your pet may suffer from some type of dermatitis, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

## 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, Equalan, 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: Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Monday August 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Monday September 6<sup>th</sup>**

## DID YOU KNOW...

THE CINNAMON BEAR IS A SUBSPECIES OF THE BLACK BEAR AND CAN BE FOUND IN BANFF/JASPER NATIONAL PARKS ☺

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

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

DR. B VEALE & DR. J PATERSON, Locum Veterinarians  
KRISTY J, Registered Animal Health Technician  
SHANNON C, Administrative Assistant  
SHELDON G, Kennel Attendant and Volunteer

2933 Gunn Road Prince George BC V2N 2H8

T: 250.963.9898

F: 250.963.9819

E: main@murdochvet.com W: murdochvet.com