

WHEAT RIDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL'S

Furry Free Press



wellness care • surgery • dentistry • senior care • 24-hour emergency hospital • nutrition • specialty services

Happy New Year!

We are excited for this upcoming year and have many fun and informational programs planned. February is National Pet Dental Health Month. In this issue you can read about ways to make sure that your pet is receiving great dental care at home. If you think it is time for your pet to have a dental cleaning, give us a call and we would be happy to set up an appointment with one of our general practice veterinarians.

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If you prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please send your email address to mtapp@wrah.com.

Pay Attention to Those Pearly Whites

Dental hygiene is just as important to your dog and cat's overall health as nutrition, exercise, and grooming. Unfortunately, dental hygiene for our pets is sometimes overlooked. Many pet owners have accepted "doggy breath" as a natural occurrence and few owners brush their pet's teeth often enough if at all.

We recommend that you look at your pet's teeth on a regular basis and be aware of the signs that may indicate a problem. Use caution and lift the lips around the mouth and look at all of the teeth and gums in the mouth. Watch for the following signs: halitosis (bad breath), reluctance to chew, increased salivation, red gums, tartar (yellow or brown, hard substance on the surface of the tooth), or missing teeth. Give us a call if you notice any problem or have questions about what you are seeing.



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Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital is excited to announce that our own Dr. Elisa Mazzaferro, has been chosen to be the official veterinarian of this year's "Puppy Bowl" on Animal Planet. Tune in Sunday, February 7th from 3-6pm to learn ways to keep your pet happy and healthy. See the back page for an invitation to our Puppy Bowl TAIL-Gating Party and Open House.



Maverick was brought to Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital after he was hit by a car. After surgery for a humeral fracture, he was adopted by our own Dr. Lori Wise.



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Appointment Hours:
Mon - Fri: 9 am to 9 pm
Sat & Sun: 9 am to 5 pm
24-hour Emergency Hospital

Dental Care continued

Address dental disease as soon as it is detected but better yet, work hard to prevent it.

There are several things you can do at home to keep your pet's teeth healthy. Start a dental care routine early in life to allow your pet to get used to the feeling of having their teeth brushed. Here are some important tips:

- Do not use human toothpaste – it can make your pet sick. Use a product designed specially for dogs or cats.
- Daily brushing is recommended to remove plaque (a disorganized, slime on the tooth surface). Undisturbed plaque can start to form tartar/calculus within 24-48 hours.
- Work your pet's brushing into your routine - consider brushing your pet's teeth around the same time you do yours, early morning or before bedtime.
- Before you begin, ask your veterinarian to show you some techniques to make tooth brushing easier on you and your pet.



Your veterinarian will evaluate your pet's teeth at every annual exam. Based on the exam, a professional dental cleaning may be recommended. This requires general anesthesia. Your pet's teeth and gums will be examined thoroughly (including full mouth x-rays). The teeth will be descaled and polished. If any problems are noted, tooth extractions may be necessary. Alternatively, you may be referred to a veterinary dentist for specialty procedures such as a root canal to alleviate pain and preserve the tooth structure. Some pets require professional dental cleanings one or more times a year, while others can go longer in between cleanings. By following a consistent program of home-care, you will greatly improve your pet's dental health. This will result in fewer professional cleanings, less tooth loss, and a happier, healthier pet.

Meet Our Veterinarians



Elizabeth A. Ashbaugh, DVM Emergency and Critical Care Resident

Dr. Ashbaugh was born and raised in Austin, Texas. She attended The University of Texas in Austin where she studied music and chemistry. She then attended Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine where she received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in May 2006. After completing her internship with Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital in June 2007, she was selected to stay on board for the residency program specializing in emergency and critical care medicine. Dr. Ashbaugh is a member of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, American Animal Hospital Association, American Association of Feline Practitioners, the American Veterinary Medical Association, Texas Veterinary Medical Association and the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Ashbaugh's other interests include music. She has played the oboe for 14 years and has been a member of several symphony orchestras in Texas, Montana, Washington DC, Germany and Austria. She also enjoys hiking, cooking and playing with her terriers, Annie Bannanie and George Pants Silly Head.



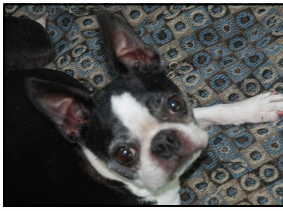
Maureen Finke, DVM Practice Limited to Internal Medicine

Dr. Finke was born in Dayton, Ohio but grew up in Germany. She received her veterinary degree from Texas A&M University in 2002. After completing an internship at the Ohio State University she worked as an emergency veterinarian in Detroit, Michigan. She completed her residency in Small Animal Internal Medicine at the University of Minnesota in January 2007 and stayed on as a clinical instructor for six months. Dr. Finke successfully completed her Internal Medicine board examination in June of 2007.

Dr. Finke's special interests include endocrinology, immune mediated diseases and infectious diseases. She recently moved to Denver with her two cats, Lt. Dan, a three-legged rescue kitty, and Ariel, a very mischievous and naughty Siamese cross. She recently adopted Pippin, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. In her free time, Dr. Finke enjoys snowboarding and cycling.

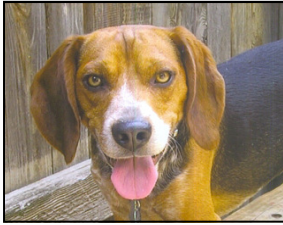


Happy Birthday!



Betty, 9 years

Betty turned 9 this past December. She enjoys napping, stealing treats from the kids, and barking when she isn't the center of attention.



Copper, 9 years

Copper is a Valentines Day baby. He loves chasing squirrels and sunbathing. His family calls him the "Italian Beagle" because he loves pizza.



Albert, 2 years

Albert was rescued from Southern Colorado. He loves lying in the snow and eating fuzz. He "moos" when he is excited and loves hiking and making friends with small dogs.

Congratulations to QT Bear!

Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital would like to congratulate QT Bear for becoming the first and only American Eskimo to earn a WCFO Dog Dancing Title in the U.S.A. Her dance partner and owner is Karen Allard. Keep up the great work!



A Letter from Dr. Laura McKeever



Although some of you are already aware of my son's illness, many of you may have wondered why it seems almost impossible to schedule an appointment with me. Last June, my three-year-old son, Cullen was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma, which is an aggressive soft tissue tumor. He had been complaining of worsening abdominal pain for about a week or so. Initially my biggest concern was that he had appendicitis or some type of bowel obstruction that would require a surgery. Unfortunately, I now realize that would have been good news. A CAT scan done in mid-June identified a large abdominal mass. We were referred to Children's hospital, where he was diagnosed with metastatic cancer. The next few weeks were a blur, and every bit of news that my husband Chip and I got seemed

to be the worst possible. Since then, the months have been consumed with chemotherapy treatments, hospital visits, surgeries and every type of scan, screen or evaluation known to medicine. I have been so thankful to be employed by Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital since the partners of the practice have allowed me a much reduced, modified schedule that enables me to care for my son. Thankfully, he has responded well to the initial treatments and at this point seems to be in remission.

I wanted to take this opportunity to extend a note of deep gratitude and appreciation to both the staff and clients of WRAH. My family has been overwhelmed by the unconditional support that we have received since that horrible day last June. I am repeatedly touched by your cards and inquiries regarding Cullen's condition. Many have contributed meals and gifts or dipped into personal finances to make the day to day routine easier for us. I know that I will never be able to personally thank each of you, but please know that you have made a difference in our lives with even the smallest note of encouragement. Thank you also for accepting my absence as your veterinarian or coworker. I have felt, at some level, that I have let down both my furry patients and their families as well as my colleagues these past seven months, yet each time I am back at work, I am met with only compassion and concern. I feel blessed to be surrounded by such good people, and I hope to be able to become a more dependable figure at the hospital in the next several months!



EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST.



Join us for our TAIL-Gate Open House

As an accredited member of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), we are a proud sponsor of Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl VI. Our own Dr. Elisa Mazzaferro will be getting the puppies ready for play!

Join us for a TAIL-Gate party on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, between 1 pm and 3 pm. Come meet our staff, take a tour of our facility and learn more about veterinary care. Enjoy a little TAIL-Gating with us!

Being accredited by AAHA means that our hospital is evaluated regularly to ensure that we meet the association's standards of excellence. These standards are recognized around the world as the benchmark for quality care in veterinary medicine. To learn more about AAHA-accreditation, visit www.healthypet.com.