



## Rutland Veterinary Clinic *and* Surgical Center

# Paws, Claws & Tales

FALL 2011

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### Ben Crowley

Ben has worked at the RVCSC for thirteen years. He started while still in junior high school, learning how to clean, feed and exercise patients and boarders. He spent one summer working onsite with a construction crew while the clinic was being renovated, then went back to college where he earned his undergraduate degree in history, and finally a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. He currently works full-time as an animal care technician as well as taking on many of our library and safety management duties. He is also taking courses through the American Animal Hospital Association in order to become an animal surgical technician, which is his dream job.

Ben says his favorite part of the job is the day-to-day contact with the  
*continued on pg. 4*

## Celebrating Our Dogs: What They Could Teach Us

*(author unknown)*

*Remember, if a dog was the teacher  
you would learn things like:*

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and  
the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy.

Take naps.

Stretch before rising.

Run, romp, and play daily.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.

On hot days, drink lots of water  
and lie under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around  
and wag your entire body.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent,  
sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY!

#### OUR DOGS from top right:

"Huckleberry" Mullin, "Sassy" and "Benjamin" Oakman, "Bear"  
Clark, "Bella" and "Odie" Gallipo, "Daisy Mae" Volino





Yogi, photo courtesy of Paul Horton

## Yogi

Heroes sometimes come with four paws.

Yogi is a gorgeous golden retriever with no special training as a service or search and rescue dog, yet he recently proved that special training isn't always required.

Paul Horton, Yogi's owner, went for a mountain bike ride and brought Yogi along. Paul hit a bump and went sailing off his bike, and in that horrible instant, was paralyzed. Yogi stayed by Paul's side for 45 minutes, until he heard some neighbors walking their dog in the distance. He ran to where the trail met the road and barked furiously to attract their attention. When they came to investigate, Yogi ran back to Paul, making sure the neighbors followed. He would not even leave Paul's side when the paramedics arrived.

Paul is still receiving treatment for his injuries, but without Yogi's actions that led to quick treatment, the outcome could have been much worse.

The Humane Society of the United States has honored Yogi with their Fourth Annual *Valor Dog of the Year Award* for his heroic actions. To see previous winners or to nominate a dog for next year's award, go to [www.humansociety.org/dogsofvalor](http://www.humansociety.org/dogsofvalor).

# EVACUATE!

Whether in response to a family emergency or a natural disaster such as a flood or a wildfire, we sometimes need to travel or evacuate on very short notice. Are you fully prepared?

Experts say the best way to deal with a disaster is to plan ahead, and that's especially true when animals are involved. The time it takes you to prepare an evacuation plan for your pets will be well worth it in the event you ever need to use it; you will be able to leave faster, with the peace of mind that you haven't forgotten items critical to your pet's health and safety. This list may also be useful if you intend to stay put during an emergency such as a blizzard or a hurricane.

Create an evacuation kit with the following items:

- An accurate list of all your pets' medicines, including doses, schedules, and copies of prescriptions in a waterproof container. Include your veterinarian's phone number, but if you've been ordered to evacuate, your veterinarian may have to evacuate as well, so records may not be available and prescriptions may need to be refilled elsewhere.
- Carriers for cats: Cats should always be transported in carriers. Even if you don't normally put collars on your cats, have some ready, along with identification tags.
- Sturdy leashes and collars with tags for your dogs. Crates are the safest way to transport dogs, and if you need to evacuate to a shelter or hotel, crates may be the safest spot for them there as well. Be sure your dog's crate is large enough for him to stand up, turn around and lie down.
- Cat litter box, litter and scoop, along with plastic bags for cleaning.
- Five days' worth of food and water for each pet, along with bowls and a can opener if you feed canned food. Include a list of feeding schedules and food intolerances, in case you must leave your pets with others.
- A pet first aid kit.
- Recent photos of each pet.
- Bedding and toys, if you have space, to help reduce stress.

Many evacuation shelters cannot accept pets except for service animals. Investigate hotels and shelters in the area where you might have to go, so you'll have a list of pet-friendly places in an emergency. Discuss the possibility of pet care with friends or relatives who are not in your immediate area, in case that may be an alternative to a shelter or hotel.

Be sure your pets are current on all vaccinations. Consider microchipping your pet, as microchips are the only permanent form of identification. If you expect an evacuation order, leave early, as shelters and hotels often fill quickly. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME!** Most pets are unable to fend for themselves in a disaster.

For more information on emergency preparedness for you and your pets, check out the Federal Emergency Management Agency website at [www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm).

Additional information is available at the Humane Society of the United States website, at [www.humansociety.org/issues/animal\\_rescue/tips/disaster\\_preparedness\\_pets.html](http://www.humansociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/disaster_preparedness_pets.html).

**“One of the greatest gifts we receive from dogs is the tenderness they evoke in us.” – Dean Koontz**

# We Love Cats!

Americans love cats. Cats vastly outnumber dogs in American households by an enormous number—about 10 million! Yet, a recently published study conducted by Bayer Animal Health determined that pet owners are far more likely to take their dogs to the vet than their cats. Among the reasons the study found for this trend was that many people believed that indoor cats and older cats don't need as much veterinary care as other pets.

We'd like to dispel that myth. To put it plainly: Regular wellness exams are vital to your cat's health!

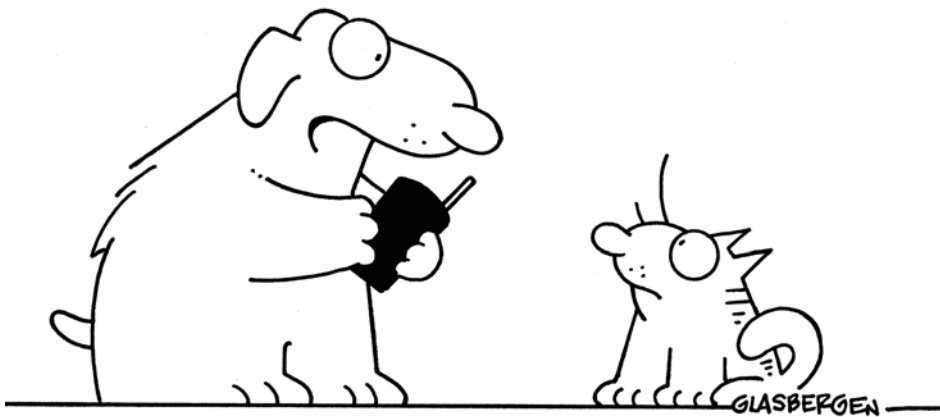
The truth is, even young indoor cats are at risk for health problems. Dogs and owners can bring parasites into the home on their paws and shoes, and fleas, ticks and mosquitoes can also enter unannounced and transmit parasites and diseases.

As they age, cats are at risk for many of the same ailments as their human and canine housemates, such as diseases of the heart, liver and kidneys, hypertension and cancer. These conditions are often asymptomatic until they are fairly advanced, which is why they're sometimes called "the silent killers." Dental care is important for cats as well; in fact, more than 85% of cats over four years old have some form of periodontal disease, which can lead to pain and tooth loss, and the resulting infections can spread through the bloodstream and damage other organs.

Preventive care for your pet covers far more than just vaccinations—it also entails nose-to-tail examinations that help to detect illness in the early stages, when it's easier and less expensive to treat, and the prognosis is usually better as well.

You can help your cat live a longer, healthier life! The safest and most cost effective way to do that is through regular wellness exams.

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**“Words like ROTFL, LOL, BTW, OMG...they were all invented by dogs trying to type without thumbs!”**

## Seasonal TIP

Autumn is here, which means the holidays are rapidly approaching. Resist the temptation to share your delectable dinners and desserts with your pets, as they can pose a serious health threat. **Rich, fatty foods** can lead to digestive distress and pancreatitis. **Alcohol** is toxic to pets, and sweet drinks like eggnog may be appealing to them. **Chocolate, raisins and grapes** are all toxic. **Xylitol**, an artificial sweetener found in many human treats, can be fatal to cats and dogs, even in small amounts.



## The Eyes Have It

Have you ever wondered why some animals' eyes reflect light in the dark, but humans' do not? Many animals that are active at night, including dogs and cats, have a reflective structure beneath the retina of their eyes called the tapetum. The tapetum acts like a mirror and reflects light back through the retina, allowing animals to see better at night than humans, who do not have a tapetum. This structure also causes the yellow/green glow you see when a light shines in an animal's eyes at night.

Cats and dogs have an extra source of protection for their eyes called the "nictitating membrane," also known as the "third eyelid." Unlike the outer eyelids, this thin piece of tissue moves horizontally across the eye. Sometimes a happy or sleepy cat will show the membrane, but it is not normally visible in cats or dogs, and its appearance may be a sign of injury or illness. Humans do not have a third eyelid, but many other mammals, birds and reptiles do!



SPOTLIGHT continued from pg. 1

pets in his care. He has some favorites, and has been seen performing his duties with kittens perched on his shoulder or cradled in his arms. He also enjoys the camaraderie of the RVCSC "team," and we enjoy his ready smile and helpful attitude.

Ben lives in East Wallingford with his dog Elvis and his cat Seth, along with several other family dogs and cats. His passion is mountain biking, and he'll often be found riding the hills and trails of Rutland County.



### RVCSC Wins Title!

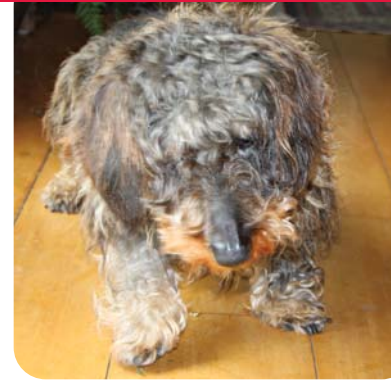
We have once again been honored by our community, who has voted our hospital "The Best of the Best" Veterinary Office for the third consecutive year, according to a recent poll from the readers of the Rutland Herald and the Rutland County Express. We are proud of this award and thank you for your support!

## Laser Therapy Update

Our new laser therapy technology continues to amaze and delight clients and their pets alike. We receive many glowing testimonials about patients suffering from a wide variety of chronic or acute ailments, who in many cases experience improvement after only one treatment. Depending on the severity or type or problem, they may benefit further from follow-up therapy.

A very recent success story started close to home. Dr. Geovjian's 13-year-old dachshund, Joey, presented with acute near paralysis one July morning. He struggled out of his crate, dragging his nearly useless rear legs behind. An aggressive approach might have been to perform an immediate myelogram (dye contrast study to determine type and location of injury) in preparation to consider exploratory back surgery. A more conservative approach was chosen, which included x-rays, anti-inflammatory medication, cage rest and daily laser therapy on the suspected area of damage to his spinal cord. After one week, Joey went home, walking on all four. While still a bit wobbly, he is once again a very happy, furry hotdog!

Dramatic improvements have also been seen in arthritic dogs and cats, chronic ear infections, hot spots and wound healing, to name just a few applications. If you have any questions about whether your pet's medical issue might benefit from the non-invasive approach of laser therapy, please make an appointment for assessment by one of our veterinarians.



"Joey" Geovjian

### Babies Galore

Could it be something in the water? Four of our female employees have delivered or are expecting to deliver babies (girl babies, in fact) by press time or shortly thereafter. This impending baby boom is creating all kinds of excitement, and was recently celebrated with a surprise baby shower. Please join us in wishing the very best to Jennelle, Courtney, Devin and Dr. Heidi.



Jennelle with daughters Ainsley (in her arms) and Ashlynn (standing), Courtney, Devin, Dr. Heidi

**Help Us Get Greener**  
We continue our efforts to go paper-light while improving communication with our clients. Please help us to keep you informed of health alerts, discounts and specials, future reminders and other correspondence by sending your email address to [info@rutlandvet.com](mailto:info@rutlandvet.com).

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