



merrick ANIMAL HOSPITAL

SUMMER 2010

Phone: 708-485-6500

www.BrookfieldVets.com

email@BrookfieldVets.com

9115 Ogden Ave • Brookfield, IL • 60513

Dr. Penny Bowes, Dr. James Hosek, Dr. Susan Dowd, Dr. Jim Murnighan, Dr. Stacy Kostiuk

Hours: M 8-7, Tu 8-6, W 8-6, Th 8-7, F 8-6, S 8-1

UPDATE

You can email us with your address or sign up for your pet portal at our website. We are now on Facebook page for interesting facts, updates, and news about our practice and animals in general.

We have made a few improvements around the clinic to help improve our facility and your experience. For dog owners, please take note of our dog waste bag dispenser by the front door. Feel free to use it to collect any deposits your pet makes to keep our lawn clean and parasite free. We will be happy to run a fecal parasite examination if you did not bring one from home or you don't have a fresh sample.

We've also added a little color to the reception area and have plans to paint the entire space later this summer. In our efforts to help the environment we are gradual replacing our fluorescent light bulbs with LED lights. These bulbs use 60% less electricity, last 50,000 hours and do not contain mercury. We have already installed LED lights in the can lights in our Doctor's office. We consider conservation and recycling an important part of being a responsible business. More information about these products can be found at store.earthled.com



As of June 4, 2010, Dr. Marianne Kasper has chosen to leave Merrick. We will do our best to continue providing excellent care for the patients who have been seeing her. Between the five veterinarians on staff, we are confident we can find a doctor you and your pet will be comfortable with. If you have a particular veterinarian you have worked with before be sure to ask for them when you call to book your appointment. We wish Dr. Kasper the best on her future endeavors.

We'd also like to let you know that Dr. Bowes is

planning a Maternity leave in September and October and Dr Dowd (Shack) will be starting her leave in the middle of October. During those times our other vets will have additional hours to make sure you will be seen as quickly as possible.

CATS & GERIATRICS

In August we will be observing Bring Your Cat to the Vet Month. August 16-22 is National Bring Your Cat to the Vet Week. We have expanded this to the whole month of August. Even if your pet stays indoors all the time, a thorough checkup is recommended 1-2 times a year. Common problems we see are dental disease, obesity, kidney disease and others. All cats seen in August will get a Free bag of Lean Treats Cat treats along with their visit.

September is Geriatric Pet Month. Most cats and dogs 8 years of age and older are considered to be in the geriatric or "mature" age range. There are certain problems we look for more in older pets including glaucoma, hypertension, heart disease, joint problems, chronic renal disease, and even cognitive dysfunction, the pet equivalent of Alzheimer's. Geriatric exams include a thorough physical examination and may also include a blood pressure reading, glaucoma screen, blood panel, urinalysis, radiographs and ECG.

To help emphasize the importance of geriatric exams all pets over 8 years of age will get a free glaucoma screening (a \$13 value) and \$10 off any geriatric blood and urinalysis panel.

SUMMER TIME

One of the more common problems we see in the summer time are fleas. Fleas are very common in our area and with the warm wet weather we have been



having, will be much more of a problem than usual.

We often diagnose fleas on our patients even when you may not be aware your pet has them. You may see our staff or doctor's using a blue handled flea comb to check for actual fleas or flea dirt; the digested particles of blood they leave behind. You may also see fleas crawling on your pets or notice small itchy bites on your feet or ankles. Within a month a few fleas can turn into thousands and infest every area of your home and yard.

Treatment of fleas is safe and much easier than the old baths or dips. A Capstar tablet may be given to help start killing the fleas immediately followed by a treatment with Frontline Plus or Revolution to continue killing fleas for the next month. We do carry products to help you treat your home, which contain an insecticide to kill adult fleas and an insect growth regulator to stop the rest of the life cycle. Cleaning your home well before treatment can help in control of the infestation by physically removing fleas and the food source for their larva. Vacuum well, wash bedding and area rugs, and mop hardwood and tile floors.



STEM CELL THERAPY

We have started to offer stem cell therapy for pets suffering from chronic osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. The treatment includes harvesting stem cells from the patients on fat tissue, usually taken from the falciform ligament in the abdomen. The fat is sent to Vet-Stem in California for processing and the stem cells sent back in 2 days for injection into the joints, and if enough tissue was taken, an intravenous injection as

well. Response rates are over 75% with many patients able to decrease or eliminate other medications. If you are interested in an evaluation please schedule an appointment with Dr. Hosek. Costs range from \$2,000 to \$2,500 including the lab fees and anesthesia for both procedures. For more information visit www.vet-stem.com.

Also be sure to visit our Facebook page for step-by-step documentation of the procedure on one of our patients.

NEW STAFF

Helen Heffel C.V.T. has joined us in June as our new practice manager bringing her experience and outside perspective to take Merrick Animal Hospital to the next level. She enjoys recreating famous landmarks and structures out of gingerbread and candy. Last Christmas her family was able to enjoy a part of the Great Wall of China and the Eiffel Tower. She also collects unusually shaped potatoes, her favorite being one that is an uncanny likeness of Richard Nixon.

Cris is a new voice on the other end of our phone lines. She has worked as a veterinary receptionist for the last 2 ½ years at another clinic and already is making Merrick her new home and looking forward to gaining more experience. She has 4 cats at home with such unique personalities that bring chaos and fun everyday. She looks forward to getting to know our clients and their pets.

Amara is our newest veterinary assistant. She previously volunteered at Catnap From the Heart and eventually would like to pursue a career as a veterinary technician. She enjoys going to the movies and traveling. She also runs the LaGrange Chapter of the Twilight Fan club and definitely would pick Jacob over Edward. Go Team Jacob!

We look forward to seeing you soon. The Staff of Merrick Animal Hospital