



Mountainview Animal Hospital

WINTER NEWSLETTER



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Mountainview Animal Hospital first opened its doors on October 9th, 2001. We just turned 10 years old this fall. We began with Dr. Stephanie Ewing as the owner and only two full-time employees. Since then we have grown. Dr. Nancy Swift joined us part-time in January 2007 and we now have 10 employees.

We have made so many friends, both human and furry, since that first day. It has truly been a wonderful experience becoming part of this very special community.

Anemia is caused by many different diseases. It results from the loss of red blood cell, the destruction of red blood cells or the lack of red blood cell production in the bone marrow.

IS MOUNTAINVIEW ANIMAL HOSPITAL MOVING?

The short answer is no. You may not be able to see us right now but we are exactly where we have always been and we will continue to take excellent care of your pets, even while construction is taking place all around us.

Anyone who has been to Mountainview Animal Hospital or who has even driven by will know that the parking lot and walk way in front of Shopper's Drug Mart and the clinic have been torn up. This has been done so that Shopper's Drug Mart and the associated medical clinic can expand. Shopper's Drug Mart is expanding into the parking area by about 25 feet and they will also be taking over the medical clinic and what used to be Diana Dental. As a result, the Medical clinic will be moved to where the Nail Salon and Shelly's Chocolate were located (near 7-11 gas station). Mountainview Animal Hospital will be remaining exactly where it is.

It has not been an easy battle to protect Mountainview Animal Hospital from the expansion process. Originally the Shopper's Drug Mart expansion was to extend through our hospital as well. The intent of the landlord was to move us to the other end of the plaza, near 7/11 gas station. While I never liked that idea, I was willing to co-operate with the relocation of the hospital provided the integrity of the hospital was maintained. I have had many sleepless nights and have spent countless hours writing emails and letters and on the telephone with the landlord trying to negotiate a fair and reasonable agreement. In the end an agreement that was fair and safe for Mountainview Animal Hospital could not be reached; and so, we will remain exactly where we are.

THANK YOU FOR THE KIND WORDS AND SUPPORT

Some of you have come into the hospital with your pets during the time when I was disputing the relocation of the hospital with the landlord and we have talked about the ordeal. I have to say thank you for the support and kind words. It has been tremendously empowering to know that we have so many people cheering for us. Thank you.

BLOOD, IT IS IN ALL OF US TO GIVE

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to meet Misty, a beautiful and gentle Border Collie. Her family brought her to see us because she had not been feeling well for a few days. We ran some blood tests and discovered that she was anemic. Simply put, anemia is a below normal amount of red blood cells in the body. Mild anemia is not dangerous but does have us concerned

The bottom line

Signs of anemia can include weakness, lethargy, rapid heart rate, rapid breathing and pale or jaundiced gums

Although Misty's family would call her an angel, she did have a little mischief in her too; apparently she was notorious for getting into the garbage.

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but I think you just need the right motivation. Misty proved that theory this summer. At nine years of age she swam for the first time in her life. What was her motivation? Chasing ducks.

Dogs have nine major blood groups. A dog with DEA 1.1, 1.2 and 7 negative type blood or DEA 4 positive is considered to be a universal donor. This means that dog can donate to dogs with other blood types and not cause a transfusion reaction.

On September 30th, Bear gave his first blood donation. His small blood donation would have the potential to save six other doggie lives. His next blood donor appointment will be in January.

about the cause and often prompts us to do more tests to investigate why the body has less than a normal amount of blood. In Misty's case the anemia was fairly profound and was quickly worsening. Misty needed a blood transfusion quickly in order to save her life.

It used to be that we could call our laboratory to have blood delivered to the hospital for a blood transfusion, but that service is no longer available. The Mississauga/Oakville Veterinary Emergency and Referral Hospital is a very special facility where we often refer patients requiring surgery or medical care beyond what we can provide here at our hospital but on that day they had six other patients requiring a blood transfusion and only one bag of blood left. The Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph had a slightly better supply of blood so Misty's family quickly drove her there. Misty had two emergency blood transfusions and still her anemia continued to worsen. Unfortunately, despite all of the efforts that the veterinarians at Guelph made, Misty succumbed to her illness and passed away. Her family was heartbroken.

Despite only knowing Misty for a few short days, witnessing the bond she shared with her family inspired me to take action. So Bear, my dog, has become a member of the blood donor program at the Mississauga/Oakville Emergency and Referral Hospital. I am hoping that by telling Misty's story, she will inspire some of you to do the same.

The process of becoming a member and donating blood is quite simple. During Bear's first appointment, he was given a physical examination and a small blood sample was collected to test that he is healthy and free of contagious diseases. He was also required to give a urine and stool sample (that was easy, Bear always seems to be full of pee and poo). These tests are done free of charge of course. Once the test results were available and Bear was officially accepted to the blood donor program, the hospital contacted me to set up the appointment for the blood donation.

As some of you may know from the stories I tell about Bear, he can be very high strung, so on the day of the blood donation he was given a very mild sedative. Most dogs do not require a sedative. A small area of fur was shaved on his neck and they used a patch of local anesthetic to numb the area where the catheter would be placed. The Technician, Becky and her assistant had Bear lie down on an exam table and a catheter was placed in his neck where they had shaved and numbed the skin. Bear did not seem to notice the needle. The whole process took only thirty minutes.

In those thirty minutes, Bear saved six other dog's lives, got spoiled with attention, treats and a loot bag full of fun stuff to go home with and I felt like I paid honor to Misty and her family. Overall, it was a good use of time.

Unfortunately, not every dog can be a blood donor; for safety reasons dogs must pass a list of criteria before being accepted to the program:

Canine Blood Donor Criteria:

- ✓ Your dog must be greater than 50 lbs.
- ✓ Your dog must be between 1-8 years old.
- ✓ Your dog must have a docile temperament.
- ✓ Your dog must not have a history of blood transfusions.
- ✓ Your dog should be in good health and free of any disease.

The bottom line

The following dog breeds often have universal donor type blood:

- German Shepherds
- Hounds (grey hounds)
- Huskies
- Mixed breeds
- Boxers
- Dobermans
- Newfoundlanders
- Great Danes
- Duck Tolling Retrievers
- Airedale Terriers
- Mastiffs
- Pitbull Terriers
- Curly-Coated Retrievers
- Standard Poodles

Cats have only two blood types, A and B. In North America, most cats have blood type A. The exotic breeds, such as Ragdolls, Himalayans, Persians, Abyssinians and the Rex breeds usually have blood type B.

To prevent human intestinal parasite infection simply practice good hygiene:

- ~ wash hands after outdoor activities, handling pets, pet feces disposal and before meals
- ~ wear gloves while gardening
- ~ promptly remove pet feces
- ~ limit the areas where your pet defecates
- ~ avoid interaction with stray and wild animals
- ~ cover sandboxes when not in use

- ✓ Your dog should not be on any medication other than the standard preventative care (i.e. Heartworm, flea or tick prevention)

Cat lovers don't despair; there is a need for your help too. The Mississauga/Oakville Veterinary Emergency and Referral Hospital currently have several cats living at the hospital who provide blood for critically ill cats. But after 3 years these cats are retired and are available for adoption. Please let them know if you are interested in adopting a donor cat.

The Mississauga/Oakville Veterinary Emergency and Referral Hospital are currently looking for cats with a special blood type. The cat breeds with this blood type are:

- ✓ Maine coon
- ✓ Ragdoll
- ✓ Abyssinians
- ✓ Himalayan
- ✓ Persian
- ✓ Rex breeds

If you have an exotic breed and would be interested in having them donate blood, please contact the Mississauga/Oakville Veterinary Emergency and Referral Hospital.

If you are interested in having your pet enrolled in the blood donor program at the Mississauga/Oakville Veterinary Emergency and Referral Hospital please call Dr. Kyes or Becky Millett for an appointment.

Mississauga-Oakville Veterinary Emergency Hospital

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Website: www.vetemergency.ca

POO IS ALSO IN THEM TO GIVE

Intestinal parasites can be a health risk to both your pet and your family. While infection with intestinal parasites in dogs and cats is not uncommon, available evidence suggests that transmission to humans is rare in Canada. However, it is only through testing and prevention that we can ensure that the whole family remains healthy. Parasitic infections often go undetected because many pets show no symptoms at all. Most people expect to see worms in their pets stool if there is intestinal parasitic infection but that is rarely the case. Generally it is only the microscopic eggs that are passed in the stool; that is how the infection is transmitted to other pets.

Fecal examinations should be done at least once a year. Bringing us a stool sample at your pets annual appointment will allow us to perform a microscopic examination of the stool. If we detect tiny parasitic eggs, we can select the appropriate treatment to rid your pet of its parasites and keep everybody healthy and happy.

The bottom line

A pack of kittens is called a kindle, while a pack of adult cats is called a clowder.

An adult cat can run about 12 miles per hour, and can sprint at nearly thirty miles per hour. I think we have seen Tux run that fast on occasion.

SAFETY REMINDERS

Chocolate is toxic to our furry friends, particularly the dark chocolate.

While most people are aware of this risk, every year we treat several dogs for chocolate toxicity. Dogs can sniff out the chocolate through the packaging and even wrapping paper. So this year, don't leave the grocery bag on the floor with the baking chocolate or that wrapped box of yummy chocolates under the Christmas tree.

Beware of Christmas ornaments made with food and candy. Many of these ornaments are held together with pins and wire. The marshmallow tree ornament that the children make at school may look cute to us, but it smells tasty to our pets. Believe me, they will eat it, pins and all.

TIME WITH TUX

You know, you humans are funny creatures; as a group you just can't seem to make up your minds. The short ones, you call them children, love me, I think; they chase after me, they try to pick me up by the head and they squeeze me between their arms. It doesn't matter what I do, they just can't get enough of me. But you adults are different. Some of you are like the children, without the squeezing though; that's good, I don't like the squeezing so much. But some of you seem to be afraid of me. I come to you and your pet, I greet you with a friendly sniff, if I can, I try to sit on your cat or small dog as a sign of my affection and you don't like that. Even the doctor's and staff chase me away when I do that. I don't get it, I'm just a friendly guy!?



There is one family that comes in fairly often with their cats and they love me. They let me sit on their cats, they let me take naps in their cat's carrier and they even invite me into the exam room with them. The best part, I'm not the one being examined.



HOLIDAY HOURS



Dec. 24 th - Christmas Eve:	Open 9:00 - 12:00
Dec. 25 th - Christmas Day:	Closed
Dec. 26 th - Monday:	Closed
Dec. 27 th - Tuesday:	Closed
Dec. 31 st - New Years Eve:	Open 9:00 - 12:00
Jan 1 st - New Years Day:	Closed
Jan 2 nd - Monday:	Closed

Unless otherwise specified here, Mountainview Animal Hospital will be open during its regular office hours. Animals in the hospital over the holidays will receive the same great care and attention as always. For those patients requiring emergency care over Christmas and New Years, The Emergency Veterinary Clinic on Hwy 10 will be open to serve your pet's medical and surgical needs. You can call ahead at 905-495-9907 or go directly there. The Emergency Veterinary Clinic is located on the south east corner of highway 10 and Wexford Rd, just one block north of Bovaird (Highway 7).

From all of us at Mountainview Animal Hospital,
we wish all of you

**A Very Merry Christmas, A Joyous
Holiday Season and A Happy New Year!**