

SCOTTSDALE VETERINARY HOSPITAL 2016

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Everyone at Scottsdale Veterinary Hospital wishes you and your families a very happy holiday and all the best for the New Year.

We are excited to have a few new team members joining us over the past year. We appreciate your patience as we continue to grow and work towards the development of a cohesive team. One of these new team members is our Office Manager, Heidi. Please make sure to say hello next time you are in.

It has been a busy year and we look forward to working with you to keep your pets healthy and happy. Thank you for your trust and ongoing support.

Photo by Boaz Joseph / courtesy Surrey Leader

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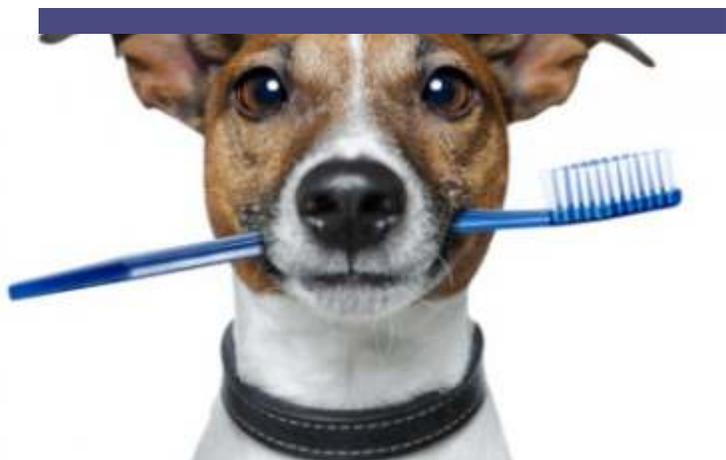


Consumer Choice Award

Scottsdale Veterinary Hospital was voted consumer choice for 2017. We would like to thank all of our clientele that believe in our philosophies and trust in our practices. We also thank our devoted team and hospital family for their hard work and dedication to animal well-being and patient care. We will always strive to better ourselves and to support the community we serve.

Ethical Procedures Policy

We recognize that changing attitudes around previously held beliefs can take time to culminate in action. This has been seen recently with the bans to ear cropping and tail docking here in British Columbia. B.C. joins seven other provinces across Canada in implementing changes to veterinary practice standards by banning certain cosmetic surgeries. We have also recently re-evaluated our practice philosophy and are proud to highlight our new ethical procedures policy. This can be found on our website.



Dental Health

Historically we have provided a dental discount during February. Over the years this became extended from January and often through until April to allow us to meet the demand of this program. Moving forward, in addition to the program continuing in the month of February during national dental health awareness month, we will also offer the same discount year round if a recommended dental procedure is scheduled within 30 days of your pet's examination.



Infectious Disease Update

Leptospirosis

If your dog is out enjoying nature, or even in his or her own back yard, there is a risk of exposure to leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is caused by the bacteria *Leptospira* and can cause serious and even life threatening illness in dogs. People are also at risk of infection with exposure to urine from an infected dog.

We have recently had a documented case of leptospirosis that resulted in the devastating loss of a beloved puppy. This disease is easy to prevent with vaccinations so we are encouraging all dogs that venture outside to be considered as candidates for this vaccine.

What is leptospirosis?

- A bacterial disease that can be carried by raccoons, skunks, rats, squirrels, and other mammals, and is shed in the urine.
- These bacteria can survive for long periods in water and moist environments.

How is your dog exposed?

- Infection can occur through direct contact with infected urine, but also when dogs wade in, or drink from contaminated water sources. Infection can occur when the bacteria are ingested orally, but also when the bacteria enter through breaks in skin or mucous membranes.

The Leptospirosis bacteria can cause serious damage especially to the kidneys and liver. Infected patients may present with fever, lethargy, inappetence, and in severe cases they may be jaundiced. They need intensive care with intravenous fluids and antibiotics, and the hospital stay can be lengthy and expensive. Some patients may not survive. We are highly recommending including this vaccine for puppies at or after 12 weeks of age and all adult dogs not previously vaccinated that are at risk. The initial vaccine needs a booster in 2-4 weeks, followed by an annual booster after that. Call today if your dog is at risk for exposure and make sure your best friend is protected!

Infectious Tracheobronchitis

During late spring and early fall our area experienced a large outbreak of a relatively severe strain of infectious tracheobronchitis (also known as kennel cough), which has recently been linked to a coronavirus. This infection is transmitted through secretions from the nose, mouth and eyes. A dog that is carrying one of these infections can transmit it through respiratory droplets over 20 feet away. The incubation (time from exposure to showing signs of disease) period is generally between 2-7 days and the disease lasts for 1-





Community Involvement

2 weeks. Owners will often notice a harsh dry hacking cough like there is something 'stuck in their dog's throat'. There can be sneezing, nasal and ocular (eye) discharge, but dogs with uncomplicated cases should not be lethargic or off their food.

This year's strain has been thought to represent more of a viral component although most outbreaks that we see are a combination of viruses and bacteria. There are multiple different organisms that can be involved in this disease and the available vaccines only protect against a few. Our vaccine is a combination of Bordetella (bacteria) and parainfluenza (virus). We also vaccinate for adenovirus type 2 (virus) and distemper (virus), which can cause respiratory illness as well. The vaccine stimulates immunity in healthy animals for the most common strains that they come across and allows them to build a faster and more effective response to an infection. However, it is not always fully protective. In human medicine, those who get the 'flu shot' can still get sick but typically not as severely as those who did not get the vaccine. It is the same with our pets. This infection is usually self-limiting but in some cases it can progress to a severe and life-threatening pneumonia. Your veterinarian may prescribe antibiotics to treat any bacterial components of the disease and prevent any secondary infection causing pneumonia. A cough suppressant may also be prescribed to help alleviate the harsh hacking cough characteristic of this illness. Generally infected pets recover uneventfully with the cough improving within a week. If there is no improvement, your dog should be rechecked by their veterinarian.

All of us here at Scottsdale believe in community service and giving back in a meaningful way. Our doctors and staff are often involved in some capacity supporting various organizations and events across the lower mainland. We wanted to highlight the groups we support and programs we offer here at the hospital.



Baxter, Copper and Molly

Puppy socialization classes – We recognize that a healthy happy puppy both physically and mentally leads to adult dogs that are tolerant and desensitized to numerous stimuli. Dr. Irene O'Brien runs these free classes every other Monday night.

BC Guide Dogs and Autism Support Dogs – Founded in 1996, BCGDs breeds, raises and professionally trains dogs for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and for children with autism and their families. We have been partners with this organization for more than 15 years, and Dr. Irene O'Brien is the official veterinarian here in the lower mainland.

Paws for Hope Animal Foundation – We have been partners since this organization was founded in 2011. Scottsdale sees numerous Paws for Hope sponsored cases each year, providing care and support to the pets of those in need. Dr. Shawn Llewellyn is the primary veterinarian for the organization, and along with many members of our team, volunteers at animal health clinics for the homeless run by the organization each year.

SpayAid BC – A Paws for Hope led program that partners with local veterinary hospitals to offer spay and neuter services to those in our community that need the financial support. Qualifying individuals receive assistance to offset the financial costs of spaying and neutering their pets, helping to decrease overpopulation and animals in our community shelters.

Police dogs – For years we have helped serve the veterinary needs of the Delta Community Police and RCMP dogs by providing preventative healthcare and emergency treatment. Dr. Chris Armstrong leads this initiative and provides first-aid training for K9 handlers.

Education – We offer class tours of the hospital to children in our community providing an emphasis on preventative health care for pets. Dr. Nicole Wensink and our team of Registered Veterinary Technicians personally speak with the students and answer any questions they may have on veterinary medicine and pet care.

Surrey Community Cat Coalition – In February we will be partnering with the SCCC and SpayAid BC on a spay/neuter clinic. The goal will be to spay or neuter, vaccinate and deworm around 30 cats during this one-day event for no to low-income pet guardians living in Surrey.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these organizations or how to donate to them, please check out their websites for more information.



Why we are becoming a “fear-free” hospital

We believe passionately in providing the highest standards of care for your beloved family members. This is the reason why we belong to AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) and we voluntarily undergo inspection in over 900 standards to ensure everything we do is at the highest level. Caring for your pet's mental well-being and making visits to us enjoyable and less stressful for all is what we are striving to do. We want your pets to like coming to see us.

The ways we are working to decrease stress in your cats and dogs can be found on our website.

A few ideas are summarized below:

- You can wait in the car, just let us know you have arrived and we can come out and escort you right to a room if the waiting area increases your pet's stress
- Use of calming products such as Feliway for cats and Adaptil for dogs can be very beneficial for many pets, and ThunderShirts (which provide a swaddle-effect) can help others
- We have many safe and effective medications that can be given at home 2 hours before the visit to relieve anxiety, decrease stress and make the visit safer and more enjoyable for everyone

Dogs

- Visit the hospital from time to time for weigh-ins and treats, and bring your puppy to our socialization classes held here at the hospital
- Bring them hungry so we can give tasty treats to help calm and distract them
- If they have a favourite toy or like to carry balls bring one along
- If they have a buddy they do everything with, bring them too, as sometimes a bit of moral support and a calming presence can be helpful

Cats

- Take the carrier out a few days ahead of time and put a cozy blanket and some treats in it
- Get an “easy to load” carrier which allows access from the front and top and can be easily taken apart; some cats prefer to sit in the bottom half of the carrier for their exam
- Place carrier facing forward and use a seatbelt to hold in place to prevent a jarring car ride and wait in the cat only area (help yourself to a blanket with Feliway to place over the carrier to help calm them).



Photo by Boaz Joseph / courtesy Surrey Leader

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Humane Award

This year Dr. Shawn Llewellyn received the CVMA Humane Award. This yearly honour is awarded to one veterinarian from across Canada that demonstrates leadership in the promotion of the welfare and well-being of animals. Shawn has worked for many years highlighting the importance of the human-animal bond with those more marginalized in our communities. He is the board president and veterinary outreach coordinator for Paws for Hope Animal Foundation where he leads animal health clinics for the homeless in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and other neighbourhoods. He believes strongly in the benefits that pet guardianship provides to those more disadvantaged and stigmatized within our society. Shawn is also a member of the College of Veterinarians of B.C.'s Animal Welfare Committee.

Congratulations Shawn!