

COMPANIONS

July 2009

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An Ounce of Prevention

...is worth a pound of cure. The beginning of 2009 has found many of us facing a bleak economy and uncertain future. Here at Companions Animal Hospital, we are committed to working with our clients to continue to give our pets the best healthcare possible, while staying within your budget.

We all know that prevention of problems is less costly than fixing them once they exist. Medical advancements enable us to diagnose potential diseases before they become a serious issue, including heartworm, thyroid disease, intestinal parasites, and kidney and liver disease. Early detection of these conditions allows for early intervention which can add years to your pet's life and save you money. Did you know that if detected early, 75% of common diseases in dogs and 63% of common diseases in cats can be prevented by dietary modifications alone for a one year period?

Additionally, CAH encourages our clients to consider and embrace the use of pet health insurance. There are several pet in-

surance companies available with a myriad of plans to choose from to fit any budget. CAH has information on three programs in particular: Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI), Pets Best, and ASPCA Pet Health Insurance. These companies and the plans they offer, along with several other insurance companies, can be compared by visiting the website: www.petinsurancereview.com.



Pet health insurance typically covers accidents, injuries, and illness. However, plans are available to cover routine care and referral to specialists as well. Insurance is also available for avian and exotic pets, not just dogs and cats. Pet health insurance comes in handy, especially when faced with unexpected major medical expenses from unforeseen accidents and illness. It allows pet owners to choose the best care for their pet without the stress of finances entering into the picture.

Additionally, remember

that CAH offers a no interest payment plan. CareCredit is a leader in healthcare financing that is similar to other major credit cards with two unique features. Every CareCredit transaction is eligible for a NO interest or LOW fixed interest payment plan. It also can be used at other healthcare practices, like your dentist or chiropractor. There are no annual fees and you can use it for routine veterinary exam fees, to buy your pet's medication, or you can reserve it to use for unplanned or emergency veterinary services. We can help you apply for CareCredit at your next visit, or you can visit the website at:

CareCredit

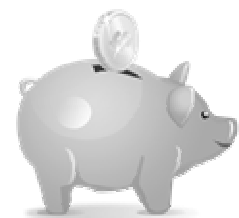
www.carecredit.com.

If you are ever feeling the economic crunch and worried that your pet's health is at risk, please let us help you. Give us a call and together we can figure out how to give your pet what he needs. Let's make 2009 our healthiest and best year yet!

Would You Like to Earn a Credit on Your Account?

Finding a good veterinarian is as hard as finding a good doctor, so we want you to spread the word to those who don't know about CAH by making sure all of our current clients are aware of our referral program.

On your first referral, the friend or family member you refer will get a \$10 credit on their account and you will also receive a \$10 credit on your account. If you make additional referrals, you can earn other great rewards as well.



We think it is a great compliment when one of our current clients refers someone to us. We want you to know that we always welcome the chance to meet your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members.

ROBYN'S FUND UPDATE

Robyn's Fund exists for homeless animals in need of veterinary care. Robyn's Fund is funded completely by donations.

As part of our Pet Health Fair on May 9, we held our annual Robyn's Fund rummage sale fundraiser. We are pleased to report that we succeeded in raising \$478 for the fund. We would like to thank everyone who either donated items for the sale or stopped in to purchase items.

We would also like to thank other recent contributors, which include: Diane Voth, Lori Eggers, Mary Loe and Jody and Marcy Illies as well as the many anonymous people who dropped money into the donation box at the front desk. Thanks to the generous support from everyone involved, Robyn's Fund is once again in the black and is able to help pets in need of care.

Most recently Robyn's Fund was used to help provide some needed blood work for a dog being fostered locally from the Illinois Bird Dog Rescue organization.

Congratulations to Dr. Schurrer!

Dr. Jennifer Schurrer recently passed her final exam to become a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner (CCRP). She began her training for this in 2008 through the University of Tennessee and passed her final exam in June of this year. We are pleased to announce her new certification and look forward to offering a broader range of rehabilitation services.

CAH Dates to Remember

Tuesdays of every week CAH is closed from 1-3:30 pm for regular team meetings. **August 4 and September 1** we are closed for our extended training from 12-4.

August 4, September 10 and October 13 tune in to WJON AM 1240 at 10:40 am to hear Dr. Al-tena and Dr. Schurrer discuss a pet health care topic.

September 7 CAH will be closed in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

September 17 Healing Hearts pet loss support group resumes from 7-8 pm after taking a summer break. This is a time for those who have lost pets to recover, rejoice and reflect on the special bond of being a pet owner.

October 6 we are closed from 11am-4pm for our extended annual staff training.

We appreciate your feedback!

If you are happy with our service we invite you to share your experience online at www.yelp.com, www.veetratingz.com or www.Yellowbot.com. You can also Google Companions Animal Hospital, St. Cloud, MN and choose the review option and choose write a review.

We always appreciate hearing your feedback on ways we can improve our service to our patients and clients.

Puppy Kindergarten Has Changed!

- ♥ Instead of a series of 5 classes we now have individually priced puppy parties every other Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 pm. There is a \$5.00 fee per party.
- ♥ Topics rotate and include crate/potty training, appropriate toys, exposure/obstacle course, Gentle Leaders, first aid, dental health, and nutrition. Check our website to find out when specific topics are being covered.
- ♥ Puppies from 6 weeks of age through one year of age are welcome
- ♥ Puppies need to be up-to-date on vaccinations, verify a negative fecal test (or be treating a positive one), flea/tick free, and have a clean bill of health from a veterinarian. Proof is required.
- ♥ Pre-registration is appreciated but not required to attend
- ♥ Each party will allow time for the puppies to play and the owners to ask questions
- ♥ A socialization exercise and a training topic will also be covered in each class. Training topics will include a basic sit, come, down, and drop it.
- ♥ Our next class is July 28 and the topic is nutrition

Please call us at 252-6700 or visit our website for current dates

**Featured Product
Harrison's Bird Food**

We all would like a companion bird that is a happy, healthy and content member of the family. Feeding your bird right is one of the most important things you can do to establish this. Today there is a lot of information available to pet bird owners from many different sources. Much of this information can be confusing and conflicting. This can make it very difficult to make the right decisions concerning your bird's health and diet. Harrison's Bird Foods can make feeding your bird properly less confusing.

Did you know that improper nutrition is the cause of 90% of health problems and the leading cause of death in pet birds? Often, the signs of improper nutrition go completely overlooked by the owner. The early stages often show no signs at all. If allowed to continue, you will start to see problems with the skin, nails and beak. Poor nutrition also causes problems for the respiratory system and also behavior abnormalities.

There are many reasons why choosing Harrison's Bird Foods to feed your pet is an excellent choice. They were developed by Dr. Greg Harrison with input from other well-known avian veterinarians and aviculturists. All the products are nutritionally complete and should be fed as 90% of your bird's diet. They consist of all certified organic ingredients to ensure that there are no pesticides or fertilizers used in production that can be harmful to your bird. Their state-of-the-art packaging protects the freshness of the products and only natural preservatives are used. Only premium whole grains and legumes are used. Harrison's Bird Foods are easy and economical to use. There are no extra vitamins and supplements to buy. There is no need to clean and chop foods and no extra time to prepare. Since there is no waste, less volume of food is needed. There are no seed hulls, kitchen mess and less cage mess. After switching to Harrison's Bird Foods you may see an increased life expectancy, enhanced appearance, increased energy and vitality, and increase in quality and quantity of offspring and, most importantly, a healthier and happier bird.

Harrison's Bird foods come in many different formulas. Each one is designed for the different nutritional requirements of different types of birds. They are available for all types of cage birds from finches to macaws.

Before switching your bird's diet, it is important to have it examined by your veterinarian. They can help you determine which formula is best suited for your type of bird. Harrison's Bird Foods are available at Companion Animal Hospital and are highly recommended by our staff. For more information, visit www.harrisonbirdfoods.com.

**Client Appreciation Week
August 3-8, 2009**

Makeover Monday-make an appointment today for a discounted groom, nail trim or deshedding (appointment can be made for another day as long as it is kept)
-discounts on grooming tools

Tooth for Tuesday-discounted dental products including CET chews, toothpaste, tooth brushes and other dental products

Weight Loss Wednesday-bring your pet in to be weighed, also get discounts on Lean Treats, Lite Biscuits, Kibble Nibble and Twist 'n' Treat toys

Thirsty Thursday-discount on travel bags with portable water bowl.

Flea Free Friday-discount on Frontline flea and tick preventative

Safety Saturday-discount on pet tags and microchips

Stop in anytime during our regular business hours this week for treats (both human and pet)! We look forward to seeing you and your furry companions!

Business Hours

Monday-Thursday 7 am-7 pm
Friday 7 am- 6 pm
Saturday 9 am-noon





Companions Animal Hospital
2703 Clearwater Rd
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 252-6700
www.companionsweb.com

Presorted Standard
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Compassionate Care for You and Your Companion

**Puppy Kindergarten has
changed!**

See page 2 for more details

ProHeart 6 injectable
heartworm preventative
is back! Call for more
details.



Companions Animal Hospital Philosophy Statement

We treasure the unique family-pet bond by providing comprehensive high-quality veterinary care with emphasis on exceptional client service and patient care. We promote this level of service by keeping current on medical advances, offering continuing education for our healthcare team, and being compassionate and understanding towards pets and those who love them.