



Mountainview Animal Hospital
Holiday Newsletter



About The Hospital

After more than a year of planning and almost 3 months of construction Mountainview Animal Hospital opened for business on October 9th of this year and has enjoyed a warm reception from the Georgetown community.

Patients to the hospital are cared for by one full time veterinarian/hospital owner, Dr. Stephanie Ewing, a registered veterinary technician, two part-time animal attendants and, for those pets needing a hair cut, a part-time professional groomer.

As a team, we intend to offer the best possible quality of medical and surgical care to companion animals with a focus on compassion, education, warmth and professionalism. We also offer dentistry, radiology, behaviour counseling, a state of the art on site laboratory, 24 hours emergency on call, high quality pet foods and supplies, and boarding.

Open House

On the last Saturday in September, we took advantage of the great fall weather and our last quiet weekend to host an open house. It was a great success. People of all ages came in to experience all this new facility has to offer. We even had some four legged friends stop by to show us a few fantastic tricks. Every one seemed to have a great time.

If you missed our open house and would like to have a tour of the hospital we would love to show it off. Just give us a call so we can set some time aside for you. We would also welcome small groups such as school class tours.

Walk-A-Thon



The following Sunday, our Mountainview Animal Hospital team participated in Georgetown's annual dog walk-a-thon for the Guide Dogs. While the hospital's staff walked the course to collect money for this worthy cause, Dr. Ewing remained at the first aid station for dogs. Fortunately there was only one minor casualty for the day, a Staffordshire Terrier with bleeding nail beds from walking on the trail. The problem was quickly resolved and the enthusiastic pooch returned to the business of play.

About Our Team

Dr. Stephanie Ewing BSc., DVM has been working in veterinary hospitals since the age of 12, initially as a volunteer and then as a paid employee; her life's goal was obvious. Since graduating with honors from the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College in 1994, Dr. Ewing has been practicing companion animal and emergency medicine in the Mississauga and Brampton areas. Dr. Ewing continues to remain current through memberships in the Canadian and Ontario Veterinary Medical Associations and attends various monthly and annual continuing education seminars. She gained the respects of her veterinary colleges as the past vice president and president of the Brampton Veterinary Association and writer of periodic press releases for that association and has been a member of a panel discussion on the future of veterinary medicine for the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association. Most recently, Dr. Ewing has had her work video taped as part of the development of a new course in the curriculum for the Ontario Veterinary College to improve the client-patient-veterinary relationship and human-animal bond. Dr. Ewing's latest challenge of designing, developing and constructing Mountainview Animal Hospital has been a labour of love and she looks forward to becoming an active member of the Georgetown community.

Julie Leach RVT originates from the small agricultural town of Blenheim. In the fall of 1998, she moved to Windsor where she attended St. Clair College and graduated two years later with her diploma as a Veterinary Technician. Julie then wrote and passed her exams upgrading her to a Registered Veterinary Technician. Julie moved to Georgetown in September of this year to work as a Registered Veterinary Technician at Dr. Ewing's new hospital. So far she is enjoying her new home in Georgetown; she has met a lot of very nice people during and after work and looks forward to meeting more.

Lidia Reis ACA/VMR attended Sheridan College in 1998 where she obtained a 1 year certificate in the Animal Care Program, and last year added a second certificate to her name from the Veterinary Medical Receptionist Program at Ridgetown College. Lidia puts her two certificates to good use by working at two veterinary hospitals, she works full time for a hospital in Mississauga and part time here at Mountainview Animal Hospital. As an animal attendant Lidia is responsible for assisting Dr. Ewing and Julie in caring for your pets, in addition to her reception duties.

Janet Dewsbury ACA also obtained a 1 year certificate in the Animal Care Program from Sheridan College and has worked in a couple of different veterinary hospitals over the past few years. Janet and her husband bought their first house here in Georgetown last spring where they live with their son Aidan and their menagerie of pets. Janet's experience with her 2 dogs, 2 cats, guinea pig and assortment of fish certainly comes in handy in her animal attendant position at Mountainview Animal Hospital.

Kristen Holloway completed her training at Bryson Academy of Grooming over a year ago, and was subsequently employed as a professional groomer. This fall she reduced her hours there to join Mountainview Animal Hospital three days a week. Although as humans, we consider a day at the spa a special treat, not all of our dogs are as enthusiastic about the pampering. Kristen's quiet gentle nature quickly gains their trust and puts the nervous pooches at ease.

Our pets are such a significant part of our lives that most of us include them in our family celebrations and traditions. To help make your, and your pets', holiday season enjoyable and trouble free we have included some safety tips and reminders. We hope you find them useful.



Beware of Holiday Hazards to Your Pets



Bones and fat can cause severe gastrointestinal upset. The small bones from turkey or chicken can become lodged in your pet's throat, stomach or intestines. Greasy poultry skin, gravies and sauces may cause vomiting and diarrhea. Watch the hot cooking oil too, it can cause nasty burns when accidentally spilt on nosy pets.

Holiday plants can be a hazard also. Holly and mistletoe are extremely poisonous when eaten. The poinsettia although not toxic can certainly cause gastric distress. It is best to keep these plants out of reach.



Electrical cords are a favorite chew toy for playful puppies and cats but cause quite a shock when bitten. Keep them out of reach or cover them with flexible plastic tubing.

Christmas ornaments are lovely to look at but often not safe to play with. Special caution is required with sharp or breakable ornament and string objects like tinsel.



Candles should never be left unattended, curious pets may burn themselves or even start a fire by knocking the candle over.

Christmas trees should be well secured to the wall so climbing cats and jumping dogs can't knock them down. Preservatives added to the water in a tree stand can be toxic, including the home made kind like aspirin and sugar. Some pine needles can be quite sharp and puncture your pets' intestines if ingested.



Stress and Company not only affects our daily routine but that of our pets' also. Ask your guests to be respectful if your pets retreat to a quiet place in the house. With everyone coming and going, watch out for open doors and sneaky pets; make sure they are wearing collars and tags just in case. Also be mindful of children around pets that are unaccustomed to them. Older pets are particularly sensitive to the fast and unpredictable movements of curious and sometimes over-affectionate kids.

Chocolate is a favorite treat at this time of the year but it is very toxic to our furry friends, so keep them well out of reach.



Antifreeze and windshield washer fluid are extremely toxic, as little as a teaspoon will kill a cat. Keep the bottles well sealed and out of reach and use a funnel when pouring it into the car to avoid spillage. Also keep in mind that freezing felines may climb up under the car engine to keep warm, so it is a good idea to knock on the hood of the car before starting the engine.



Swimming pools can still be a drowning hazard in the winter, many pets have become tangled in pool covers, fallen through the ice or drowned in the water above the liner that accumulates after the spring thaw. If your pool is not fenced off, then your pets should be well supervised when they go outside.

Snow and ice although enjoyed by younger more active pets and people often become more worrisome to the elderly, including the hairier members of our families. Older legs and arthritic joints have difficulty walking through the deeper snow and slip easily on the ice. Shoveling a path for our older friends in the yard will make it easier for them to enjoy some fresh air and do their business. It is also better for their bare paws to sprinkle sand rather than salt on the ice.



Specials



To help include your pets in the holiday celebrations Mountainview Animal Hospital is having a draw for two treat filled stockings. Each stocking is filled with tasty and of course healthy treats, an undercoat brush, a coupon for a free nail trim and a toy. One stocking is designed to please a cat and the other should be fun for a dog. If you would like to enter please fill out the ballot included in this mailing and drop it off to the hospital before the draw takes place on Thursday December 20th. Good luck!

Reminders



The month of February will be dedicated to the promotion of your pets' oral health. One of the most common problems seen by veterinarians today is dental disease. This disease not only causes bad breath, tooth decay, gingivitis and oral pain but it also greatly impacts on your pets' internal organs as well. The bacteria that live in the plaque and tartar can get into the blood stream through your pets' inflamed gums and settle in a variety of internal organs, most significantly the liver, the kidneys and on the valves of the heart where they form tiny abscesses and vegetative growths. Because an animal's body has an incredible ability to tolerate multiple insults over time, we are often not aware that our pets are having trouble until the disease is well advanced. The goal of dental awareness month is to bring this insidious problem to your attention and help you in maintaining a happy and healthy family friend. For younger pets with healthy mouths this may involve training them to accept daily brushing, for older pets that may already have periodontal disease a thorough oral examination and cleaning may be required. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your pets' gums and teeth please do not hesitate to call.

Kris' Klips Dog Grooming



Winter is coming and so is that dirty slush that gets all over your furry friend. This Holiday Season give your pets a day at the spa.

Mountainview Animal Hospital has a professional groomer trained to groom all breeds of dogs. Full services include baths, de-matting, pattern clips, strips, nail trims and ear cleaning.

To make an appointment please call 905-702-8822.

Holiday Hours



December 24 th - Christmas Eve:	9am - 2pm
December 25 th - Christmas Day:	Closed
December 26 th - Boxing Day:	Closed / Emergencies Only
December 31 st - New Years Eve:	9am - 2pm
Jan 1 st - New Years Day:	Closed

Unless otherwise specified above Mountainview Animal Hospital will be open 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 Christmas and New Years, Dr. Ewing can be reached by telephone for advice; however animals requiring hospitalization or surgery may be referred to the Mississauga Veterinary Emergency Hospital at 905-273-9335.

Dr. Ewing, Julie, Lidia, Janet and Kristen would like to wish you and your family a Joyous Holiday Season And a Happy and Healthy New Year

