



Circle L Animal Hospital

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010



LASER THERAPY UPDATE

By Michol Rodriguez

After 6 months of using our Laser Therapy Unit on several animals, we are very pleased with the results. We have seen vast improvement in our patients suffering from arthritis in the spine, hips and elbows as well as improving wound healing.

Clients report many positive successes, for instance "Jake" is able to get up on the couch, even though this is off limits territory. "Scout" continues to be able to jump up the steps on the porch to bask in the sun. "Billy Bob" is acting younger and more active, just to name of few.



The laser has also made a great difference in the way "Pip" can now eat dry food after years of painful gums from stomatitis. "Luke" had remarkable results healing a chronic lick granuloma. In just one treatment, the healing was well underway. "Jackie" had a wound that had no extra skin to close, but the laser helped to start the healing. After a few treatments, the wound was healing beautifully.

We are very pleased that we can offer this valuable healing tool at our hospital to provide a non-painful, non invasive and drug free way to improve our patients quality of life.

Flea, Tick and Heartworm Prevention

By: Dr. Monica Ellis

Flea, Tick, and Heartworm prevention is very important to the overall health of our pets because of the significant diseases they can potentially transmit. Many people believe we don't have a problem in this area with any of these disease transmitters, but this is simply untrue. They may not be as common as in warmer; more moist environments but we still have fleas, ticks and mosquitoes in our area.

Ticks are not just a nuisance to your pet, they can transmit many debilitating diseases such as Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. These diseases are usually associated with lameness, anemia and unexplained fevers. Ticks can also inhabit the ear canal of pets and cause significant ear infections and discomfort.

Fleas also can cause significant disease in our pets. Flea hypersensitivity or allergies, anemias, and tapeworms are all diseases an infestation of fleas can

cause. Skin inflammation and secondary skin infections can also occur with flea infestation. Fleas are capable of jumping from host to host and between host and environment, easily causing problems in multiple pets and the home environment.

It is important to prevent the attachment of the ticks and infestation of fleas through a topical application on the skin between the shoulder blades once monthly with a product such as Frontline (the item of preference by the veterinary staff at Circle L Animal Hospital).

Heartworm disease and prevention has many misconceptions out there as well; many people believe heartworm disease is not prevalent in this area. Although it is true we don't see heartworm positive animals as often as some of the more moist environments do, we do have mosquitoes and all it takes is someone moving into the area with an infected dog. A mosquito can bite the infected pet then in turn bite your pet and infect it with heartworms. Heartworm disease is difficult to treat; it can be a long and painful process for you and your pet. Prevention entails a blood test to determine that the pet doesn't have adult heartworms living in the body already, and if negative, a monthly tablet given by mouth is all it takes to prevent heartworm disease. This monthly tablet also prevents many other intestinal parasites which is just an added bonus and often times the reason owners decide to go ahead with prevention. The product of choice by the veterinary staff at Circle L Animal Hospital is Interceptor. Although there are many products available we use and recommend Interceptor because it can be used on all breeds of dogs unlike other products which have to be used carefully in certain breeds due to ivermectin toxicity. It is a fairly benign product and important to the preventative health of your pet.

Please call the hospital at your convenience to schedule an appointment for a blood parasite test at which time you can pick up a 3, 6, or 12 month supply of heartworm prevention along with flea and tick prevention.

Did you Know?



- Hummingbirds can't walk
- The last of a cat's senses to develop is sight
- The average porcupine has about 30,000 quills
- Dogs are mentioned 14 times in the Bible.
- About 35 percent of world grain is used to feed livestock instead of people

Quote: "Character is doing what's right when nobody's looking"

J.C. Watts Jr.

THE "PRIDE OF PRESCOTT" MARCHING BAND IN LONDON, ENGLAND

By Jim David

In our last newsletter, I wrote an article about the "Pride of Prescott" marching band and their invitation to march in the 2010 New Year's Day Parade in London, England.

Dr. Armstrong and myself were able to join the band on this most prestigious trip and, along with 109 very excited students and 56 parents, we were off on the adventure of a lifetime.

The group actually had a few too many participants, so 116 of us traveled on a direct flight on British Airways and the rest traveled on an American Airlines flight through Chicago to London.

The fund raising itself was a tremendous undertaking that lasted the better part of 15 months. In all, we raised about \$425,000 and the vast majority of it was through donations and several fund raisers that the students participated in. The band had a car raffle, they had "Acker Day" on the square, dining to donate at Texas Roadhouse, just to name a few. The students even had a "countdown" calendar in the band room and it amazed me as to how fast it went from over 365 days to "0"!

But, what is a trip without some last minute excitement! About two weeks prior to our departure date, the threat of an airline strike by British Airways loomed large over us. Thankfully, however, the Union and the Airline were able to come to an agreement and the strike was averted.

December 27th, 2009, the American Airlines flight passengers met at Prescott High School and actually departed for the airport about 4 hours before the British Airways flight. I have to admit, that when you have 109, excited, but very focused students who know that they are embarking on the trip of a lifetime, it is amazing how organized and helpful they can be. I was expecting something along the lines of "herding a bunch of cats", but these students proved me wrong.

The flight was a casual 13 (Thirteen) hours, and along with the 4 hour security delay plus time changes, a little tough on everyone, but we arrived safely in London's Heathrow Airport early the next evening. Gathering luggage, uniforms, instruments and other packages was a little trying, but again, everyone pitched in and it was actually quite a smooth process.

The company that took care of everything for us was "Youth Music of the World" and these people have this down to a science. The coaches and trailers were always on time, the hotel was first class, (The London Hilton, Metropole) and the representatives that they provided for us were first rate.

The weather was rainy and cold (40 degrees) the first three days, but then the sun came out and it got colder (20s to low 30s). But, hey, you were in London, England so you could not let the weather dampen your spirits and these students did not let that happen.

Every day they were up at about 6 a.m., breakfast, tours, lunch, more tours, dinner, practice and/or group time and then to bed by 11p.m. or midnight.

The tours were incredible, Windsor Castle, Parliament Square, Big Ben, The Tower and London Bridges, the London Eye and many, many more. We had fully guided tours for three days and self guided tours the rest of the time. You learned to ride the "tube" (underground rail system), you learned the currency, you learned what to eat and not to eat, and stayed so busy that you did not have time to remember how tired you really were!

The Prescott High School Jazz Ensemble performed in a concert at St. Johns Cathedral in Smith Square on December 30th. This jazz ensemble is very good, but they seemed to step it up a notch this particular night. The jazz band was the last band to perform that evening and played to TWO standing ovations and an encore! The venue was incredible and there were probably 600 to 700 people in attendance that night.

January 1st, 2010, this is what we have truly come to London for. To march in the prestigious New Year's Day Parade in London, England, in front of about 750,000 to 1,000,000 people and have another two to three million watching on worldwide television. The excitement was contagious and as the "Pride of Prescott" played songs like "Hand Jive", the audience joined in. Dr. Armstrong and I were privileged to walk with the band through the historic streets of London. Streets like Picadilly Circus, past Trafalgar Square and ending the parade in Parliament Square right at the base of Big Ben!

The trip was long, it took a lot of effort with the fund raising and planning, the passports, packing, (and making sure you were not over 50 pounds), and making sure that everyone was where they needed to be when they needed to be there. This trip, however, was THE trip of a lifetime for these 109 students and chaperones and it was entirely worth every minute.

If you would like to see the band in London, you can log on to prescottbandboosters.com and check out some of the pictures. You can also find some video clips on utube. Type in Prescott High School Band, and there are four or five video clips of the band in London. You can also google "London Parade 2010" and find the entire parade there.



Missum's Wisdoms

In the year that I have been working at Circle L, I have become a true leader. I have a very "devout" following. I will give you some examples: Every time I lay down in a chair, someone comes and moves me so that they can sit in that chair. Now, if that is not leadership, I don't know what is!

I am constantly lying on desks, holding down very important customer records and, low and behold, someone moves me so that THEY can have the record. Again, it is my leadership that gets this job rolling. I am so well respected here at Circle L, that I never have to open a door, all I have to do is walk near a door and someone jumps up from what they are doing to take care of me.

It is a tough job being such a leader, but someone has to do it. I am absolutely certain that no one here can do this job better than me!!.....well, maybe Sable, but that is only because she has had more experience at it. I guess that leaves me "second in command", but I am sure that with my knowledge of napping, holding charts down on desks, and chair warming, that Circle L will have a banner year! If you ask to see me the next time you come in, I may just let you pat my head, or my stomach for luck.

See you at Circle L!!

Missum



CIRCLE L's NEWEST CVT AND EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

By Jim David

Join me in congratulating our newest Certified Veterinary Technician AND our 2009 Employee of the Year, Jill Tormo.

For those of you who have had the opportunity to meet Jill, you can attest to her constant smile and her incredibly positive attitude. Jill has been working at Circle L now for about ten months and her knowledge, professionalism and positive outlook on life are what make her a client favorite.

Her co-workers also appreciate her as is evident in her "Employee of the Year" award. This award is voted on by her peers and although Jill had some very tight competition for this award, ultimately her co-workers chose her.

Jill was also recently awarded a certificate as a "Certified Veterinary Technician"! To become certified you must prove your knowledge of the veterinary technician field through extensive testing. This exam is not always one that a technician is capable of passing on their first try, but Jill again proved that she has what it takes.

Jill's love of animals is very evident and she will be the first to tell you that "the animals are what she loves most about her job"!

When you come in to Circle L and see Jill, give her a well deserved "pat on the back" and congratulations of jobs well done!

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

By Megan Schaible, DVM

Circle L Animal Hospital held a holiday food drive in December to collect non-perishable food for the local food bank. We recommended a donation of 4 items for an anal gland expression or a nail trim done by our excellent technicians. Our clients and staff were able to collect a large amount of food to donate.

We appreciate everyone who provided a charitable donation and helped our local community. The food was delivered to the Chino/Paulden Ministerial Association (CPMA) who works closely with the Salvation Army. We will hold this event again this year during the holiday season and are considering adding a pet food drive also.

IMHA and "JUDY" the wonder dog!

On September 29, 2009 "Judy" McLandress a 4 ½ year old, female, spayed, Cocker Spaniel arrived at Circle L Animal Hospital for not eating, lethargy and just generally not feeling well. We examined Judy that morning and found her to be jaundice, yellow gums, yellow in the whites of the eyes and yellow tint to the skin, along with a heart murmur that had not been heard previously and petechia (red spots that are caused by bleeding under the skin, commonly noticed on the gums and abdominal area).

We were concerned about poisons, toxins, bacterial infections, bleeding disorders, infectious diseases, autoimmune diseases and worst of all cancer. We immediately ran blood work to determine the cause of the symptoms we were seeing. We discovered that Judy was very anemic with a red blood cell count of 12.8 % (normal is 37-55) she had an overwhelming infection with inflammation and her liver was not working as well as we would like. Judy was immediately hospitalized and began a very intensive medication protocol to correct the red blood cell count and inflammation/infection as quickly as possible.

There were many more tests run to be sure that Judy did not have tick fever, clotting disorders, cancer and last but certainly not least to determine if she had Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA- a disease process common to Cocker Spaniels, where the bodies immune system attacks its own red blood cells and destroys them so quickly that the body can not make enough red blood cells to replenish the ones that are destroyed). The last of the tests did show that she had IMHA. A Very low percentage of animals with IMHA actually recover and survive and those that do often require long term medical therapy.

Judy was young and had been healthy so the owners (Barb and Bob) were okay with treatment. They were given a guarded prognosis for Judy to survive and warned of a long difficult road to remission/ recovery. Judy began to vomit and have bloody diarrhea as well but no masses or internal bleeding were noted on Ultra sound or on digital x-ray. Despite the medications and steroids to depress the immune system, so it would stop attacking its own red blood



cells, Judy's PCV (packed cell volume is used to measure the percentage of red blood cells in the body) continued to drop every hour. By 3pm that day Judy had dropped to 9.5% and now required a transfusion. We retrieved our donor dog and drew his blood to prepare for Judy's transfusion. The blood was filtered and mixed. A transfusion was then performed for Judy over the next 3 hours. She remained hospitalized over night and continued all medications. By the next morning she was a bit brighter and her PCV was at 16%. Hospitalization, intensive care and blood monitoring were continued until October 3, 2009 when Judy took yet another turn for the worse and her PCV had dropped again to 11% meaning that she needed a 2nd transfusion.

This time it had to be typed and cross matched to try and avoid any possible reactions but a second transfusion was very dangerous regardless of all the precautions taken. We referred Judy to ARECA referral

and emergency center in Phoenix for a second transfusion and 24 hour around the clock care. After the second transfusion and continued care on the same medications, Judy's PCV was up to 27 by 10/5/09 and she was feeling better. Judy returned to our care on 10/5/09 for hospitalization and continued hourly monitoring and medications until 10/7/09 when she began daily hospitalization and home with the owners at night to return again in the morning for monitoring and blood tests. By 10/10/09 she was just coming in 2-3 times daily for blood work (PCV checks) She had declined to 18% again but was doing well other wise and the yellow color was beginning to resolve. 10/13/09 was the true turn around day. Judy was over 23% and never dropped back down again. Each day from there she continued to steadily improve and never look back. Judy was on a lot of very strong medications that were dangerous to her liver, but she was a trooper and her liver handled everything very well.

Over the next several months we slowly weaned off the different medications and on 2/22/10 we were able to stop all medications. We all held our breath to see if she would maintain with out the medications. As of today 3/13/10 she has not had to restart medications and her PCV is 44%, there is no audible heart murmur and her liver has returned to normal. She looks great and feels terrific. Judy is the exception to the rule as most IMHA patients do not recover or ever come off long term medication. Her story is truly remarkable and we are so very glad that she has made a tremendous recovery. All of her family at Circle L can not wait to see what the future holds for Judy and the McLandress family. We want to send a very special thank you to them for allowing us to tell her story and we promise to keep you updated quarterly on Judy's continued success.

By Leonda Armstrong

Sable's Musings...



As the last vestiges of winter melt away and spring sneaks in through the open windows I ponder as to what 2010 will bring. Though I am as ageless as ever, it does seem as though life passes by quickly when you nap 18 hours a day!!!

I should like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to everyone who stops by Circle L Animal Hospital just to see me. I enjoy the opportunity to visit with my friends and update them on the newest happenings around the Hospital, such as the laser therapy Dr. Armstrong and I have added to help those with chronic pain and a host of other helpful applications, such as aiding wounds in healing and relieving pain in cats whose mouths are ulcerated from stomatitis.

With spring approaching the puppies and kittens will soon be coming in all ready for their series of vaccinations, which are so very important with the variety of diseases out there in the big world. As the saying goes "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". I must admit it is a little unnerving when the puppies look at me like I am the newest in battery operated pull toys, but I will just have to endure the humiliation along with the kittens that look at me like I am their grandmother.

My "Casanova" has moved on to greener pastures, or should I say more "comfy" surroundings. I have been told he has a king sized bed to sleep on and access to the computer whenever he feels like surfing the web. Whatever.....and good riddance.

Last, after over a decade of warm and heartfelt smiles, a shoulder to cry on and a hug always ready, we have had to say good-bye to Jackie. May your dreams all come true, my friend. You will be missed.

Sable.....

THREE NEW FACES AT CIRCLE L

By Jim David

Please join me in welcoming our newest technician, Denise Rodriguez. Denise is a CVT (Certified Veterinary Technician) with 16 years of experience in the veterinary field. She is married and lives in Mayer with her husband of five years, Ruben. Denise specializes in dental procedures and has been a true asset in that area. Denise and her husband raise American Quarter Horses and Miniature Dachshunds. In addition to 5 dogs and 7 horses, Denise has 2 cats and a cow. She needs to be working here!! We are very happy to have Denise and her knowledge as a part of Circle L. With the addition of Denise, we now have FOUR (4) CVT's working here at Circle L!

Dani Brandenburg is new to our reception staff. She is 23 years young and brings an incredibly positive attitude to the front office. Dani is well known in these parts as she and her fiance Danny Rubenstein have been in this area for quite a while. Her fiance is currently serving in the Air Force and will be deployed to Japan this summer

for a two year stay. We wish him the best of luck with his military career. Dani has spent most of her working life in the hospitality industry, most recently at the Wyndham Hotel in Prescott. Dani has hopes of learning the veterinary technician field and eventually becoming a veterinarian. Dani has a new Chocolate Lab puppy named "Zeke"! Make sure that you make her feel welcome next time you come in to Circle L.

Our third addition also is a receptionist. Denise Ramos-Silvers comes to us with five years of management experience with the Pronghorn Ranch Subdivision. She has an infectious smile and will make you feel right at home from the minute that you walk through the door at Circle L. Denise has been married for 10 years to Shane and they have a seven year old daughter. Denise is an Arizona native who spent some time in Georgia and returned home to Arizona 6 years ago. Denise and Shane have two dogs, Sammy and Harley, (a chihuahua and a pitbull!!) "Mutt and Jeff", I think. Denise also brings a very positive attitude to Circle L and she is very customer service driven. Please join me in welcoming these three new, awesome, Circle L family members.

MONTHLY SPECIALS

April—Buy one—Get one 1/2 off

May—Nutrition

June—Blood Parasite and Microchips

WHERE WE WILL BE

April 17th—** Grand Opening** Warren's Hay-N-More, Chino Valley, AZ

May 15th—Rabies clinic—Olsen's Grain—9:00AM to 12:00 PM

Note: Starting in May we will be at Pet Headquarters, 7485 E Fire St #A, Prescott Valley AZ from 2-5 PM on some Tuesday afternoons. (Watch for exact dates). We will be doing vaccines, Express Exams, Microchipping, heartworm test, checking ears, eyes and skin. Also, feline leukemia testing