



Circle L Animal Hospital

845 So US Highway 89, Chino Valley, AZ 86323
928-636-4421

WINTER 2011

THINK TWICE BEFORE GIVING PETS AS GIFTS

By Lisa Snyder

As the holidays draw near some of you may be thinking of getting a pet for a friend or family member. Many people who purchase pets as gifts have the best intentions. However the new pet may not be received with same enthusiasm by the recipient or their family as the giver. This is unfair to the animal as well as the person receiving it. The holidays are especially stressful for the humans with family and friends coming and going as well the families themselves being gone a lot more. This could leave the new pet alone and frightened resulting in possible illness or injury and property damage. This leaves the new owner needing to rehome the poor animal either to another family member ,to a shelter or???. No one wants to give an unwanted gift especially one that lives and breathes. This type of gift is a life-long commitment.

Here are some tips to help you make sure that a living breathing gift is a good idea.

It is ok to give friends and family a pet as gift BUT NEVER AS A SURPRISE. The recipient may not have the money ,time or knowledge to care for a pet. Ask the recipient up front and honor their wishes. This is for the good of the people and pets.

If you confirm that the recipient wants a pet try the local shelters first. Tell them you will pay the shelter adoption fees in advance . They then can take time to select the perfect pet for themselves. If they decide to not get a pet they still have a tax-deductible donation in their name .

Never act on impulse! Avoid falling into the trap of the box of kittens or puppies in the front of the supermarket. Acting on impulse doesn't give you or the recipient the chance to select a pet by size activity level and personality. You also could be taking on more veterinary bills than the recipient is able to handle.

Do your research. Make sure the recipient has the time to properly train and care for the pet. The main reason pets end up at shelters is behavioral issues.

A better suggestion may be to purchase pet supplies , informational books , food , toys etc.

If you still would like to give a pet as a gift ,perhaps a gift certificate for the price of the pet or go together to look at pets. Another suggestion is a picture of a particular type of pet with the promise that you will purchase the pet after the hustle and bustle of the holidays is over and things are back to normal.



Dreams

By Christa Bowman

In life we have hopes and dreams, but most of us know that you can't wait for it to fall in your lap. Something has to be done to achieve it. Well in order to wrap your arms around becoming a veterinarian you have to start small.

Some questions you would first ask would be... What kind of time would I be able to provide to this dream? What things am I willing to give up in perusing this? How will it effect others in my life as I peruse it, and if I attain it? Do I handle gore/blood well? Do I enjoy animals and desire to increase their well being? Can I make the hard decisions when it is time for a loved one to go?... and I think the most important one is... Can I give wise advice, instruction, and judgment to my co-workers and clients?

Let me briefly say on this last question, that it is so important in this field to have good people skills(for your and their sake) no matter the issue, no matter your day. Can you keep a calm attitude and a head on your shoulders during chaos? The reason I stress this point is because you should not be so worried about the school part of fulfilling your dream.

Yes it will be hard at first, but when you become a vet, the schooling for the most part becomes a second nature. It becomes a new language that you speak daily. That will essentially not be your struggle. Your struggle will be the long days, educating people, the choices you make, and the lives you are effecting. Veterinarians work hard at their jobs and love the work they do. It is a great dream.



Happy Holidays and Happy Boarding

By April Deming
Boarding Manager

We welcome your pet to stay with us year-round and especially during the busy holidays while you are away enjoying your family.

We want to be sure that your dog or cat is being cared for (and/or spoiled) just the way you want them to be.

Feel free to bring that special blanket, T-shirt or toy from home and please be sure to write us a short list of instructions for pampering so that we can do our very best to give the..."TLC the way is should be."

Please also call in advance to schedule your pet's stay with us.

Sincerely,
April Deming
Boarding Manager



FRONTLINE

By Sarah Zornes

Even though the weather is changing toward the cooler side of things, it is still important to keep up on monthly treatments of frontline-flea and tick. Frontline is the number one veterinarian recommended for flea and tick protection all year long. Data showing within 12 hours fleas are killed and ticks within 48 hours of contact.

Many people don't think their treatments are working because they see even more fleas after treatment, but this is not true, it's an indication that the brand is working. It's the product drawing the fleas to the top of the hair coat before dying. What's also great about frontline and the winter month approaching is that frontline is waterproof, including swimming, bathing, and grooming, so you can have fun in the snow this winter and still keep them protected.

Also, regularly remove leaf litter and clear tall grass and brush around homes, and place wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas to keep fleas and ticks away. Vacuuming and/ or steam cleaning the following areas thoroughly: crevices on floors, cushioned furniture, cracks, carpets, and along baseboards also help protect you and your loved ones.

HARMFUL HOLIDAY FOOD

By Katarina Tobin

The Holidays are here we all will be enjoying delicious cooking and baked foods.....Not all of us! Our four legged friends will be enjoying the smell of all the wonderful food being cooked and baked. They may give you the "look" for some of the delicious food but please be very cautious. Rich fatty meals can be very dangerous to your pet and may cause what we call Gastroenteritis or Pancreatitis.

Gastroenteritis is the medical term for vomiting and diarrhea. Pancreatitis is especially dangerous and occurs when your pet is trying to digest a very rich and fatty meal. Symptoms are vomiting and diarrhea (usually bloody) and your pet will become very dehydrated.

On the lines of chocolate candy, dogs are allergic to the caffeine in the chocolate. Never feed your dog any type of chocolate to be safe. After any meal you will want to put the leftovers away in a tight sealed container to keep our furry friends safe.

On the line of baking, be sure to watch what you keep on the counter. Onions and garlic contain thio-sulphate, which damages red blood cells and can cause anemia. If you are making dinner rolls the dough left on the counter can be harmful to you pet. If they digest the dough, it can expand producing gas in the digestive system causing pain and possibly rupture of the stomach and intestines. These are just a few tips to keep our friends feeling good and having a safe and Happy Holidays.

PET TREATS AND TOYS—FRIEND OR FOE?

By ??

Pet Treats and toys enrich our pets lives, however, please choose wisely to ensure a happy situation.

With the holiday season upon us, many pets will receive gifts such as pet treats and toys including chew toys. Each year FDA receives a small number of reports of adverse reactions to treats. Please note your pet's allergies when purchasing treats. Here are some other quick tips and thoughts on how to find the correct treats or toys for your pet.

Pet treats that are meant to be consumed are most digestible if chewed into small pieces. If your pet is the kind to swallow everything whole (a Lab comes to mind) try to stick to treats that are softer and will be digested easily. If your pet is a chewer and likes harder treats, please try to find pre-processed treats like CET chews that mimic rawhides but have already been broken down and then reformed, just incase they swallow the last chunk. Hard bones are a large culprit in causing airway or esophageal obstructions and/or intestinal blockages resulting in costly emergency trips to your veterinarian. Another culprit in airway or esophageal obstructions and/or intestinal blockages is toys. In order to choose a toy wisely, there are a few things to consider-

Does my dog pull stuffing out, and if so does he/she eat the stuffing?

- ◆ Find toys with no stuffing like Crazy Critters

Will my dog swallow a squeaker?

- ◆ Find toys with no squeaker.

If I purchase a hard toy can my dog chew it into pieces?

- ◆ Some dogs will tear apart plastic bones or Kong's.

What size toy is appropriate for my pet?

- ◆ Must be larger than your dog's mouth.

The toy says it's indestructible – is it really?

- ◆ It depends on the dog.

If my dog does swallow the toy will it be visible on radiographs?

- ◆ Some toys are- Kong makes a special line of toys with barium (visible on radiographs) in them.

Should I just give my dog a stuffed animal?

- ◆ No, dogs will eat the plastic eyes and nose and some stuffed animals are filled with pellets that will make for a very messy clean-up and a very unhappy digestive tract.

However, no matter how careful we are at choosing our pets pastimes sometimes they still get themselves into trouble. Here are some signs to watch out for.....

Airway Obstruction

Your pet may not be able to breathe at all or sometimes their breathing patterns will become irregular or make noises with each breath. In this case you may be able to remove the obstruction if it is visible, otherwise call your vet immediately. At the vet's office a radiograph will be taken to locate the object. This will let us know if we can remove the object with or without surgery. If your pet is not breathing at all a tracheotomy can be performed. One memory in particular was a dog who inhaled a ham bone and every time he took a breath he whistled. Even if a small fragment is inhaled this can eventually lead to pneumonia which will require hospitalization to treat.

Esophageal obstruction

Your pet may exhibit drooling and constant swallowing. In this instance a radiograph will be taken also, to locate where the obstruction is. I remember a patient who swallowed a toothbrush shaped treat and the shape on the radiograph tipped us off to what the blockage was. Surgery may be required to remove the obstruction or at least an endoscopy may be required.

Intestinal Obstruction

This will cause no food to be able to pass so your pet will either be unable to defecate or will exhibit very watery diarrhea. Your pet may also vomit undigested food, water and bile. Intestinal obstructions if gone untreated may cause a perforation of the intestines releasing materials into the abdomen resulting in peritonitis. Intestines can lose blood supply or double over on themselves causing the affected portion to die off. Moral of the story please do not ignore these symptoms this can be fatal! Surgery is required to remove the blockage. Many items to also keep out of reach are socks, underwear, corn cobs, kid's toys, kitchen items etc.

If you have any questions regarding these risks, please call Circle L Animal Hospital at 636-4421.

SKIN ISSUES AND ALLERGY TESTING FOR YOUR DOG OR CAT

By Mary Parra

Dogs and cats can suffer from a variety of skin problems. These skin problems can be uncomfortable and sometimes painful. If your pet at home is showing signs of a skin problem, it is hard to see them go through it. We are here to help you find the answers you seek. With a proper diagnosis from your veterinarian and often times different allergy testing, your best friend will be well on their way to healing and relief.

Lets talk about what the function of your pets skin does and what can cause it to be irritated and show signs of a problem that need to be addressed.

An animals skin acts as a barrier to protect the body from infection, unknown viruses that we may not know are lurking around. It also helps protect against ultra violet light, dehydration, overheating, or freezing. The skins health and proper function is dependent on the other organs that make up our pets body.

Causes of a skin problem or disease are can be determined by two categories: outside irritations to the skin and internal issues such as unhealthy organs in the animals body which can directly affect the condition of the skin.

Outside irritations can be caused by an allergic reaction to flea, tick or other insect bites, which break the barrier formed by the skin and allow bacterial infections to occur. Pollens from trees or flowers, dust mites and even mold spores hidden in your house where moisture is common can cause irritation and an allergy to the skin. Another outside skin problem is called a Hot Spot, this is caused from a trauma to the skin and results with an infection because of the dog or cat trying to relive its self from pain or itch by licking or scratching. Internal problems can be autoimmune issues, hyperthyroidism, the animals diet, meaning the food it eats and digests. Food allergies can be a leading cause for a skin problem. Often times skin disease can run in the dog or cats family's blood line as well.

Common signs of skin problems include excessive licking or scratching by the dog or cat, inflammation to the skin and a change in color such as very pink. Flaky or scabbed spots on the skin, hair loss and even small bumps can be signs. If your pet is showing any or these, it is time to consult you veterinarian. A thorough physical examination will be performed, and your veterinarian will review your pets medical history.

Different skin and allergy testing can be done to determine a skin problem or disease. These tests can be samples or swabs of the skin that will be taken and a skin biopsy will be performed to determine the type and cause of the skin irritation. A thyroid problem can affect the skin by causing your pets hair to fall out, so a thyroid blood test can be done (T4 T3 free T4) to help determine if there is a thyroid issue. Intradermal (skin) Tests is where small amounts of materials that can

cause allergies in dogs are injected under the skin. The reaction, if any, is graded, and a determination is made to whether or not a pet is allergic to that specific allergen. A RAST test, or radioallergosorbent test, is a type of blood test that can also be used to test for allergies. A routine blood panel can also give an indication of internal or hormonal problems that might show up as a skin condition.

Not all veterinary clinics do all types of skin allergy testing and your veterinarian might recommend your pet see a veterinarian that specializes in dermatology. Keep in mind that your first step is ultimately a good thorough examination of your pet by your veterinarian. This exam will help give clues and determine what type of skin issues is going on with your loved one, and the next possible steps that may be needed to diagnose the problem such as allergy tests or a visit to a specialist. There is no need to ever feel that your loving pet will forever continue to suffer from a skin irritation, there is help! So make that first step and call your veterinarian and schedule an appointment to have your pet examined, and soon your pet will have the relief it needs.

Sableisms



As the building manager with the most tenure, I have to say that I am extremely happy with the way that things are going now at Circle L! There are a lot of wonderful, loving people here who like nothing more than spoiling me and that is something that I can definitely live with. I have my choice of any

chair and/or desk that I would like and everyone moves aside to make me more comfortable. There is one little problem that I am not real happy with yet and that is Missum! Missum seems to think that she can take any chair and/or desk in the office also and I don't think that is right.

I have been traveling the hallways a lot more lately and again, I like what I am seeing. The hospital is clean and bright, boarding is in great shape and I have noticed that the office staff take great care of clients pets. The staff and a few of you clients are always willing to open doors for me or set me up on the counter and I appreciate all of you spoiling me also.

If any of you have a special occasion coming up in the near future, please feel free to bring in some goodies for me. A can of tuna or a turkey breast would be nice, just don't tell the doctors and technicians about it. You may be able to sneak it around to the back door. Just knock two long knocks and two short knocks so I will know that it is for me.

I hope that the holidays and the upcoming new year are the best ever for all of you.

Thanks,
Sable

THE IMPORTANCE OF NAIL TRIMS

Michol Rodriguez, CVT

We all know how painful it is to wear shoes that are too tight, and how that can make you walk with a limping motion. Or what it feels like when you stub your toe how painful that feels. Well neglecting your pets nails can also have some unexpected serious consequences for them.

The injuries can range from torn nails to infection and arthritis.

A dogs nails curve as they grow out. If not trimmed regularly they can curl under the foot where they can dig into the paw pads and cause pain. The dew claws are more prone to this and can actually grow into the pad causing severe pain and infection.

Dogs walk on their toes and when the toe nails are long it causes them to walk in an unnatural gait which can lead to joint pain and arthritis. If the nail is torn it can be quite painful exposing the inner tissue called the quick, the quick is a fleshy bit of nerve and tissue that grows outward from the bone, and is surrounded by the keratin that forms the claw and nail, the quick inside is easily injured when the nail is torn and is prone to infection that can travel into the paw and into the bloodstream making a trip to the veterinarian a must.

Regular trimming reduces the risks of injury and infection.

THE TWO ENDS OF A LEASH: WHAT A VETERINARY TECHNICIAN Does

Jill Tormo, CVT, RVT

A Veterinary Technician could be compared to a R.N. in the human field of medicine. They are either Licensed, Registered, or Certified, depending on which state they are licensed in. Most states require a 2-year Associate's Degree in Applied Science, which the State of Arizona passed effective this year. A Veterinary Technician must also pass a very difficult State Exam as well as a National Exam before they can be licensed. Here are a few of the tasks that Veterinary Technicians perform:

1. Responsible for taking an accurate and thorough history of the patient by communicating with the owner. This will be very helpful to the Veterinarian in diagnosing an illness..
2. Performing venipuncture on the patient, and running the appropriate laboratory testing requested by the Veterinarian.
3. Taking radiographs on a patient, whether it be the chest, abdomen, or extremities and transferring images to CD's, e-mails and/or for the Veterinarian to go over images with clients and making them available for viewing.
4. Responsible for calculating and administering medications whether it be oral, subcutaneous, intramuscular, or intravenously.
5. Calculating surgical pre-anesthetic and induction drugs for surgery patients, preparing an animal for surgery, monitoring anesthesia during the surgical procedure, and recovering the patient from anesthesia until safely awake.
6. Caring for, and giving comfort to sick, injured, and hospitalized patients, which includes monitoring their vitals closely, intra-

venous fluid monitoring, and medication administration. We also keep in close communication with the doctor, and give updates on their patients as well as keeping the clients informed of their pets' progress.

7. Responsible for doing dental cleanings on patients as well as monitoring the anesthesia and patient while they are under anesthesia.
8. Assisting the doctor when performing euthanasia on a clients' beloved pet, and giving love and comfort to the pet, as well as the owner to make the final moments of their life as peaceful as possible.
9. Educating clients on the importance of the quality of food their pet is being fed, importance of annual exams/vaccines, and how often they should be given, discussing heartworm and prevention, and flea/tick prevention as well as any other general information they may have questions about. Our goal is to keep the owner informed so that their pet is able to live a long, happy, healthy life.

Giving and receiving love from a pet, whether it be a hug, a lick from a fuzzy face, or watching a seriously ill patient you've taken care of get to go home again, is the most rewarding part of our job.

The most important thing to always remember is that the pets' and their owners should always be treated the way you would want yourself and your pet treated. There are always two ends to a leash, the client and their beloved pet. If you take care of both ends, everything else just falls into place.

CANINE BEHAVIOR AND PSYCHOLOGY

By Amy Kady

Your dog sits in front of you, looks up at you and pulls his mouth back into a "smile." You probably figure he's thinking about how much he loves his owner. But wait—what do our pets *really* think about? We must start by considering their perception. Eyes, both dog and human, contain two different types of photoreceptor (light sensitive) cells.

They are called rods and cones. Rods are responsible for the eye's ability to detect movement, while cones detect color. Dogs have about a third less cones than humans have. Studies have shown that dogs can indeed see color, but the color consists mostly of shades of yellow and blue, not the bright magentas, greens and violets that we can see. Birds, however, have about a third more cones than humans... can you even begin to imagine what other colors there are that humans just can't pick up on? On the other hand, dogs have many more rods in their eyes than we do, in addition to the *tapetum lucidum* which is an organ that functions as an extra light-reflecting "mirror" contained within a dog's eye. This is why dogs can see so well in the dark while we see so well in the day.

How about your pet's hyper-sensitive hearing? Humans' ears contain 6 muscles, while dogs' ears have 18. They also have the ability to move their floppy ears to and fro while ours are stationary, pasted against our faces at all times. What that means is that a dog can adjust his ear so that sound is captured more directly. It's no wonder the things that rattle our dogs out of a dead sleep will leave us snoring soundly (at least until they start barking...).

Lastly and most important: the sniffer. A dog's nose is a beautifully working mechanism that can detect things far beyond our perception. Now, we simple homo sapiens can start drooling at the smell of pizza, reminiscing at the scent of grandma's kitchen and cringing at the aroma of last week's garbage.

We do all this using our five to six million olfactory receptors. Are you ready for this? Dogs have about 220 million receptors—and that's average! Some of the more smell-sensitive breeds like bloodhounds have up to 300 million olfactory receptors. Furthermore they have what's called the vomeronasal organ or Jacobson's organ which assists in smell. That's two organs just for scent processing. And think about it: the nose and snout takes up half a dog's entire head, plus the portion of the brain that is dedicated solely to analyzing smells is proportionally 40 times larger than that of a human's. Just imagine the things they can smell. Not only can they pick up on faint smells that are undetectable to us, but they can distinguish things like diseases, hormones and chemicals that most of us probably never even put in the category of “able to be smelled.” Pizza, that's what we can detect. Your dog knows exactly where the pizza is sitting, when it was cooked, how long it's been sitting there, who's touched it or taken a slice and precisely what it's made of—and that's without getting off the couch.

If your dog is afraid of thunderstorms, imagine what he is experiencing. The atmospheric pressure change, the high frequency sounds, the thunder (think about a dog's heightened sense of hearing), the lighting changes at the wrong time of day—it's like a full-out assault on the senses. It's no wonder they get nervous and uptight. Then they look at Mom who's chasing after them going, “It's okay Fido, come here, stop running, FIDO! FIDO! STOP FIDO!” and think, “Whoa, Mom is nervous and barking too... there must really be a problem.” Dogs are like children; they look to their owner or grown-up for support and guidance in uncomfortable situations. Fido doesn't realize that the reason Mom is so upset is because of Fido's own behavior. Realistically, there is no way to communicate this to a dog. We can, however, communicate that everything is okay during a thunderstorm by exhibiting genuine calm, relaxed and positive leadership behavior. When a dog sees that Mom or Dad is in

control and at peace, he will oftentimes cease his erratic behavior. Usually the most difficult aspect of this is getting yourself, as the owner, to a point of total relaxation and trust that Fido is not going to act out. You can sure pretend, but if Fido sees even the slightest pinprick of tension on his leader's face or sense it in his heart, he will run with it.

So next time your mutt is behaving strangely, try to see things from his perspective. Dogs are developmentally and evolutionarily extremely different from humans, but humans tend to see through it because the two species get along so well. It turns out most of the behaviors that seems strange to us actually make a lot of sense when you understand the reasoning.

SCRAPBOOKING COMES TO CIRCLE L *By Alanna Mays*

Circle L Animal Hospital is now starting a scrapbook. All the “kids” are welcome! Bring in any pictures from old to new, puppy and kitten pictures to graying pictures, or just a fun day at the park.

If you would like to make your own page for the scrapbook, just bring it in and drop it off during regular office hours. Although all sizes welcome, 12x12 inch pages will be used first. Bring in all your fun pictures of your pets for Christmas or when they are all dressed up for Halloween. If you would like to bring in loose pictures, just add a special comment about your pet. Bring in all those pictures of camping, hiking, swimming, or just relaxing, and let us turn them into smiles for everyone.

CATS, DOGS, ALPACAS, EVERYONE WELCOME!!!

CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL

By Kayla Inman

The breed is noted for its easy nature and ability to fit into a family structure. The cavalier king charles spaniel is as happy in the house as it is running around outside, they love company and this makes them an ideal family pet. Cavaliers are an excellent choice for seniors. Their loving and gentle nature, their responsiveness and empathy for their owners make them a perfect match. Seniors may wish to opt for an adult Cavalier instead of a puppy. These little darlings have plenty of energy and are bright, alert and playful. They love going for a walk, meeting other dogs and compatible for city or country life.

Three Common health issues in cavaliers...

(1) MVD: leading cause of ckcs deaths Heart mitral valve disease (MVD) is a terminal illness which afflicts over half of all Cavalier King Charles Spaniels by the age of 5 years and nearly all cavaliers by age 10 years. It is CKCSS' leading cause of death.

(2) Syringomyelia (SM) is reported to be "very widespread" in the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel breed. Syringomyelia is a disorder of the brain and spinal cord, which may cause severe head and neck pain and possible paralysis.

(3) Hip dysplasia reportedly afflicts up to one out of every three cavalier king charles spaniels. It is a genetic disease which can cause the dogs pain and debilitation.

Color - Size - Average Life Span

The breed standard recognizes four colours (Blenheim, Tri-colour [black/white/tan], Black and Tan, and Ruby). Average weight is 10 to 18 pounds. The average lifespan for our Cavaliers is 12 - 14 years.

This delightfully affectionate, playful, and intelligent breed is indeed difficult to resist. Cavaliers

make wonderful therapy dogs due to their sweet, gentle natures. Friendly and easy to train, the Cavalier is a trustworthy companion. The coat requires weekly brushing, but no trimming.

The breed is adaptable in their need for exercise, happy with either sleeping on the couch or taking long walks.

Missum's Wisdoms

By Pam Fort



Missum's my name and sleeping's my game. For those of you that have never noticed my presence in the front office, I can usually be found on my

pink pillow bed or perhaps at the chow bowl. I am also know as the "Queen".

The girls that work up here in the reception area and I have an understanding of the importance of my beauty rest. Every now and then you can catch me awake and please feel free to run your fingers through my beautiful coat of hair. Especially around the ears. Ooooooh, I love that most. But be prepared to take home some of that hair. At least until winter arrives and then I can keep my winter coat to myself.

Oh my.....yawn yawn.....I do feel a nap coming on. I do hope to honor each and every one of you with my presence in the near future. My throne awaits me. Ta Ta!!

ADOPTING A PET: CHOOSING THE RIGHT BREED FOR YOUR FAMILY

There's a person giving away a "free" puppy in front of Safeway. The giver says it's a small dog, a Jack Russell Terrier, Chihuahua mix. Mom's walking into Safeway with her three kids, all under 8. The kids are begging, "Please, Mommy. He's little. He won't eat much. We'll take care of him, and the Landlord said we could have a dog in our apartment." Mom admits, he is awfully cute and how much work can he be. After all, the kids are right, he is little and he probably won't eat much (never mind that Mom already knows she'll be taking care of the Little Fella).

But . . . this is what Mom doesn't know: Jack Russells tend to be extremely intelligent, athletic, fearless, and vocal dogs. It is not uncommon for these dogs to become moody or destructive if not properly stimulated and exercised, as they have a tendency to bore easily and will often create their own fun when left alone to entertain themselves.

Obedience classes are also recommended to potential owners, as Jack Russells can be stubborn at times and aggressive towards other animals and humans if not properly socialized. Despite their small size, these dogs are not recommended for the condominium or apartment dweller unless the owner is ready to take on the daunting task of providing the dog with the necessary amount of exercise and stimulation. They have a tremendous amount of energy for their size, a fact which can sometimes lead to trouble involving larger animals. They may seem never to tire and will still be energetic after their owner has called it a day. While socialized members of the breed are friendly towards children, they will not tolerate abuse even if it is unintentional.

Wow, all of a sudden the Little Fella is starting to sound like he may be a problem. Well, wait, he's not all Jack Russell, he's part Chihuahua, so that should help. So, let's find out about the Chihuahua.

A Chihuahua must be chosen with care, as the temperament of its owner can make a difference in the temperament of the pup. Ill-tempered Chihuahuas can be easily provoked to attack, and are therefore generally unsuitable for homes with small children. The breed tends to be fiercely loyal to one particular owner and in some cases may become over protective of the person, especially around other people or animals. They do not always get along with other breeds, and tend to have a "clannish" nature, often preferring the companionship of other Chihuahuas over other dogs. These traits generally make them unsuitable for households with children that are not patient and calm....



Goodness, what happened to that cute little Fella!!! I'm going to stop here with this little story because I think we can all see where it's going.

Adopting this Little Fella would most likely be a BIG mistake in this situation. Unfortunately, this is not an unusual occurrence. Many of us have probably brought an animal into our lives that perhaps was not the "right fit." I know I have. So, what are we supposed to do it to enable us to make the best decision we can.

My first, second and third suggestions would be research, research, research. There are many helpful sites on the internet that give you the opportunity to answer pertinent questions for

adopting a dog. Some issues you may want to consider:

Do you want a puppy or an older dog?

If you adopt a puppy, do you have the time and inclination to housebreak the little one? Do you want to deal with the possibility of having your furniture chewed or woodwork chewed up? If you adopt an older dog, are you able to afford the medical issues that may require treatment, surgery and/or medications? Are you willing to be patient with, and have the time to deal with whatever “baggage” this dog may have due to the treatment or neglect he received at the hands of his previous owner?

Do you want a big dog or a small dog?

Can you afford to feed a Great Dane? Do you mind listening to some of those little dogs who like to bark (I have two Dachshunds-they like to bark, a lot.)

Do you want a dog to hike with you or go running with you?

Then you don't want a Chihuahua. On the other hand, if you like to lounge and take slow, leisurely walks, you don't want a Lab or a Border Collie. Is the size of the dog you want conducive to the size and health of your family members?

You probably don't want an energetic American Bulldog or Great Dane if you have an elderly parent or small children in your family. Running, jumping, playing by these types of dogs can be frightening and dangerous to small children or elderly folks, with no ill intent on the part of the pet.

Do you have allergies?

Do you mind grooming your dog (brushing, bathing, etc.), or can you afford to pay a groomer

for those breeds that need a professional groomer (Poodles, Shih Tzu's, Briards, etc.)?

Do you have time for a pet?

Dogs are pack animals, they feel happiest and most secure with they are with their pack (you and your family). They need your time and attention.

Are you willing to invest in their future with you and your family?

It is important that your dog understand his place in the pack. Are you able to take your pet to obedience classes so you learn to be the alpha dog, and your dog learns you are in charge. Do you have time to go for walks to bond with your pet. Is there time to brush your pet, bath your pet, clip his nails, clean his ears? So much to do-so little time. Where will he fit into your life.

Can you really afford to have a dog (or cat, or bird, or ferret)?

The reality is that there is no such thing as a “free” puppy. Because once they are yours you are responsible for their care, including vaccines, spaying or neutering, a minimum of one visit a year to your veterinarian. As your pet sage there will be health issues, just as with humans, such as arthritis, glaucoma, respiratory issues, diabetes that require additional time and money.

There are many issues to consider when adopting a pet. These are just a few for your consideration. The internet provides unlimited resources to assist you in making an educated and responsible decision about adopting the right pet for your family.

One of my favorite reference guides is book (yes, I'm old fashioned and still like the feeling of a book in my hands) Simon & Schuster's "GUIDE TO DOGS." It is available in paperback, has at



**NOW THAT'S MORE
LIKE IT!**

least 300 dog breeds with great photos. What I most enjoy about this Guide is besides providing the breed standards, such as shoulder height, color, weight and history of the breed Simon & Schuster's "GUIDE TO DOGS" also provides personality information in a very easy-to-read format. Each breed has icons next to the photo indicating if the breed is good with children or if the breed has a proclivity to bite or if it is meant to be a guard dog, or can the breed sleep outside. Important information for making the right choice.

Animal Planet offers a breed selector quiz at <http://animal.discovery.com/breed-selector/dog-breeds.html> which you might find useful and fun. You may be surprised at what breeds fit best into your life.

The right choice of pet can bring you years of laughter, comfort and unconditional love- for you and your family.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

ASHLEY—My name is Ashlee. I started working for Circle L Animal Hospital in the beginning of September. I have loved all animals since I was very young. When I was ten I started begging my mom for a horse, and when I was eleven I started begging for a dog. I didn't get the dog or the horse, but when I was around twelve, I came home from my father's house to find two beautiful kittens, Max and Molly.

Max and I shared a special bond. He would sleep with me over anyone else in the house, and curl up in my lap when I read. In 2009, he was diagnosed with immune mediated hemolytic anemia, IMHA. He had to have a blood transfusion and was kept stable with Prednisolone, but in early 2011 he relapsed and we ended up losing him. He will remain in my heart forever.

Shadow was my grandma's cat. She was a ferocious spitfire. When she decided she was done being touched, you knew it. But even so, she would curl up between my grandmothers feet every single night, and cry for her when she went out of town. She was diagnosed with renal failure at age twelve. We gave her Azodyl, put her on a kidney diet, and gave her subcutaneous fluids every other day. We lost her in late 2010 when we caught a large abdominal mass too late. Every pet owner knows what it feels like to lose a family friend. But we remember them forever, as best friends and children to everyone who knew them.

When I moved to Prescott, I gained two new best friends, my fiancée's two dogs. J.D. (or Bubba) and Riley. J.D. is a three year old male Rottweiler, who couldn't be more of a lover, and Riley is a brindle and white American Bulldog, who couldn't be more of a cuddle bug. It was a dream come true for me, since I've always wanted a dog. Now I have two.

I started working in the veterinary field when a good friend in high school told me that her mother's hospital was hiring. I applied, and was hired right out of high school at Verde Veterinary Hospital in Cottonwood as a receptionist. As anyone in the field would tell you, when you are just starting out there is a lot to learn. It was a five doctor practice, and the employees were like family. I loved working there. Two years later one of our doctors moved to Idaho, and we missed her greatly. VVH became AAHA accredited in 2010, and I left in December after three years employment to move back to Santa Cruz, CA, my hometown. In January of 2011, I was hired at Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital. It is an AAHA accredited, 24 hour emergency/specialty practice, with a general practice as well. There were eleven doctors, so it was quite a shock moving from such a comparatively small practice. It was a wonderful place to work, but I left at the end of August to move to Prescott with my fiancée, Cameron, and was hired at Circle L two weeks later.

When I have the chance, I would love to train as a technician, and go to school to be certified, and I certainly have time to do that. I love animals, I love working in the veterinary field, and I cannot imagine doing anything else in life.

KAYLA—Hello I would like to introduce myself, my name is Kayla. I am new to the Circle L Family working as the Reception Manager since August of this year. I live in Chino Valley with the love of my life Kevin and two dog's Roxy and Zenda. I was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma then moved to Orange County California in 1972. I worked for The Eye Clinic For Animals in Orange County CA. from 1994 until 2003 then started in the Graphic Design Industry until I moved to Chino Valley in July 2011. I enjoy boxing and softball and love animals. Next time your in the hospital ask for me, I would love to meet you and your pet and say hello!

CHRISTINE—My name is Christine Campbell. I was born in Washington DC and attended elementary, intermediate, and high schools in various parts of Northern Virginia. I left for active duty into the US Air Force right out of high school and stayed in for 8 years. I was an Aerospace Physiologist Specialist, which is a student pilot instructor for Phase I and III of Undergraduate Pilot Training. I was stationed at Lackland AFB, TX, Brooks, AFB, TX., Williams AFB, Az, and Randolph AFB, TX. I got out, had a family and now have two boys, Brandon and Christian, aged 11 and 6. We moved from Virginia to Paulden 5 months ago so I could attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and have access to the flight line. I am in my Junior year there now, working on completing my degree in Aeronautical Science so that I can fly helicopters. I also have a degree in Applied Psychology from UOP.



From the entire staff at
Circle L Animal Hospital