



The Pet Gazette

Winter 2010

Beth Saldivia, DVM
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Employee Spotlight

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Dental Health Month!

Dental health month is back again. This means that for the entire month of February, you will get 10 % off the cost of anesthesia and cleaning of your pets teeth. Remember, keeping you pets teeth clean is vital for a healthy life! Please call soon to set up a time to bring your pet in.



This is Jolais, one of Dr. Pair's dogs. She is used by Dr. Saldivia to teach children how to act around animals.

Hello everyone! Once again we are going to start off with something new. Each newsletter, we are going to do an employee spotlight. We will be highlighting a different employee, so that you can get to know each one of us a little better.

Dr. Beth Saldivia will be starting us off. She is a native of Michigan, having grown up in the Lansing area. She went to the University of Michigan for her undergraduate work and then went on to earn her degree at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She also earned her an undergraduate degree from MSU in Animal Science.

She has been a veterinarian for 20 years. She has practiced in different areas of the state until she came to us in 1993. She purchased the clinic from Dr. Conkey in 1996. Her special interests at the clinic include veterinary dentistry, surgery, and practice management.

She has been married for 25 years and has four children. She has 1 in college, high school, middle school, and elementary school. As you can imagine, they keep her very busy. Along with enjoying shuffling her kids from place to place, Dr. Saldivia also enjoys running, eating

good foods, and reading.

As far as pets go, Dr. Saldivia has 3. She has 2



black cats, Leo and Mona. She also has a Yorkie-poo named Ellie, who is shown in the picture.

Rabies on the Rise!

Rabies is a viral disease that can infect mammals and causes inflammation of the brain. Once symptoms of rabies begin, there is no treatment and it is always fatal. There has been a recent rise in the number of rabies positive animals in Michigan.

Transmission of rabies is typically spread by the bite of an infected animal via saliva. It is also

transmitted if saliva from an infected animal gets into an open wound or onto a mucous membrane such as the eyes, nose, or mouth.

Nationwide, rabies commonly occurs in bats, skunks, the fox, coyotes, raccoons, and a wide variety of other wildlife species. In Michigan rabies occurs most commonly in bats and a small number of skunks.

It is important to be a responsible pet owner and to avoid contact with unfamiliar animals. All pets should be vaccinated and kept up to date for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Do not keep wild animals as pets and try to prevent bats from entering living quarters. Also, teach children to never handle unfamiliar animals.

Keep Your Pet Fit This Winter!

Keeping your pet at a proper weight is one of the best ways to ensure a long and healthy life. Pets that are overweight are prone to a variety of health problems. These could include, but not limited to diabetes, musculoskeletal problems (joint, ligament, and tendon injuries), or cardiovascular disease.

Assessing body condition is an important step in determining if your pet is overweight. In an ideal pet, you should be able to feel individual ribs easily, but not see them. They should have a tuck in their abdomen and dogs should have a visible waist behind their ribs.

Now you may be asking yourself how do I get my pet to lose weight? What needs to be done to effectively lose weight is to decrease the calories our pets take in as well as increase their exercise. Weight loss is achieved by taking in less calories than they are using.

As far as their food intake goes, the first thing we recommend is putting them on a high quality food. Foods we recommend are Science Diet, Purina One, Innova, Iams, and Eukanuba.

Sometimes a prescription diet food is needed when owners are not seeing any improvements and all the criteria for weight loss are being met. Though typically, weight loss is often achieved by decreasing the amount of food, changing our habits on treats, and increasing their amount of exercise.

Sometimes pets don't lose weight even though everything is being done correctly. If we are consistently seeing

weight gain or no change in weight, we may want to evaluate other aspects of your pet's health. This might include an exam, blood work, or checking your pet's thyroid levels.

Another important step in achieving weight loss is to measure your pet's food. By doing this you will know exactly how much they are eating per

day. Feeding them in small meals two to three times a day, will also help control your pet's hunger. Make sure you also limit the amount of treats your pet gets and you should also avoid giving people food. If you are one that likes to give snacks, switch to a low calorie treat. You can also give them carrots, green beans, rice cakes, apples, and bananas.

Now to tell if you are on the right track, weigh your pet once a month. You can bring your pet here any time we are open and check their weight. We will also put their weight in their medical record to keep track of your progress. You also want to make sure that your pet does not lose weight too quickly. This too can cause health problems, especially in cats. A gradual weight loss is what you're looking for.

Let us be a part of this journey with you. We can help you every step of the way. From telling you how much weight your pet should lose to the amount of food you should be feeding. We do have a weight management program and if you are interested in this or if you have any questions regarding weight loss, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Fun Ways to Exercise!

Dogs

- **Go hiking, swimming, jogging, biking, or rollerblading**
- **Play fetch, hide and seek, or frisbee**

Cats

- **Chase the light from a laser pointer up and down the stairs**
- **Empty boxes and paper bags for them to play in**
- **"Kitty trees" to climb**

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