



PVPC Newsletter

December 2023 Issue

Welcome to our first Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic newsletter! As we come to a close of the year, we want to thank each one of our wonderful clients for entrusting us with the care of your pets. It's such an honor for all of us here at PVPC to have an opportunity to do what we love every single day while being able to offer our services to our close-knit community.

Our goal is to release a monthly issue of this newsletter to share fun facts about pet health and veterinary medicine, introduce our old and new team members, and keep all of you in the loop about events taking place within our hospital. Our hope is this will help bring us all closer together and continue to build trust between us and you.

For now, we hope this holiday season brings everyone health and happiness!



The Ever So Dreaded Wait...

You may find yourself sitting in the exam room staring at the wall or at your phone. Or maybe you haven't made it to the exam room yet! Watching the time tick by, you get a little stir crazy, "How much longer is this going to take?"

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Staff Member of the Month!

We are excited to introduce one of our newest faces, Dr. Nicole Darr, BVMS!



Many of you may recognize Dr. Darr as she was born and raised right here in Placerville, CA. She graduated 2017 from Washington State University with a bachelor's degree in animal science and recently graduated this year overseas from University of Glasgow Veterinary Science. Traveling for her education allowed her to gain a lot of experience caring for many different species of animals to build her skills and knowledge. Since then, Dr. Darr has been settling back into her home here in El Dorado County. Prior to her studies and exploration in Scotland, Dr. Darr has worked in our hospital on and off since 2012 so she's already well loved by us here at PVPC.

Dr. Darr is currently not seeing her own appointments yet as she is still working closely with our doctors to finish her training. Don't fret! She'll gladly start seeing your lovely pets sometime in the middle of 2024. For now, please help us give her a warm welcome to our team!

First, we do want to acknowledge that we realize you all have lives outside of our hospital and we understand it can be stressful when it seems like you're waiting FOREVER on us to provide care for your pets. Secondly, we hate when you have to wait as much as you do! It's not only stressful for you, but for us because if your appointment is taking longer than expected or we are running behind it means the other 20 to 30 appointments on that same day are going to wait, too. This chain reaction of running behind often means longer workdays for the doctors and staff with little or no breaks at all. Now you may be thinking, "Why don't you manage your schedule better?" Well, our schedule is well managed, but we are often discredited for the number of services we provide for you and your pets right here in our clinic.

When you go to your human doctor for any type of service, it's common that after the exam you're referred to a lab for diagnostics, a surgeon for a procedure, or a specialist for conditions your regular doctor doesn't treat, and in urgent situations we all go to the emergency room at a hospital to wait sometimes hours to be seen. In veterinary medicine, all these similar services are often provided in the same building by the same doctor physically examining their patients. Sometimes you will be waiting past your appointment time because the doctor is seeing an emergency that just walked in or the appointment prior to yours ended up being more extensive than expected. Sometimes it will be expected of you to wait while we run blood work and/or do x-rays in house. Yes, this can take up to an hour or more, but we pride ourselves on the convenience that we're able to provide our clients with answers that same day. Answers aren't often something we leave our own doctor's office with right away.

Being a small-town general practice, we strive for the relationships we have built over the years and continue to build with our wonderful community. All we ask of our clients is patience and understanding because all of us at PVPC are here solely for you and your pets.



Noodle's Notes

Noodle here! I've been PVPC's mischievous hospital cat since I was a tiny baby. In the last 7 years of calling the clinic my home, I have seen some pretty crazy things happen around here. With the holiday season in full effect I want to remind you all to be cautious of where your goodies, toys, and gift wrapping supplies get left. I see more silly dogs these days coming in because they ate that yummy chocolate and my team has to make them vomit. Trust me, it's not as appetizing coming back up as it is going down! The doctors here also keep having to do surgery to find strange items like children's toys, socks, and even bones in the intestines of some of our patients. Let me tell ya, these emergency surgeries are really getting in the way of my beauty sleep. I always thought that stuff only happened to the dogs that may be missing parts of their brains, but believe it or not, it happens to cats, too! Anyway, keep a close eye on your pets to avoid an emergency pit stop by our hospital this year. Happy Pawliday's Everyone!





“Mysterious” Canine Respiratory Disease

We know there’s been word on the street about the “new” Canine Respiratory Disease that’s been plaguing dogs, and you must be wondering how you can prevent your own dog from becoming sick. Rest assured, we’re here to help!

To clarify, this respiratory disease isn’t necessarily a new sickness that’s being spread amongst our canine friends. It’s the cause of this respiratory disease that’s unknown to us at this time; however, based on past canine respiratory infections we know some safety precautions you can take. At this time, we advise that you isolate your dog from others which includes avoiding visits to dog parks, grooming facilities, and boarding facilities. Avoiding exposure may not always be possible and isolation is out of the question for some so now is the time to make sure your dog is up-to-date on the vaccines that reduce the risk of infection. Keep in mind that the safest vaccines are not purchased at the feed stores and always given under the supervision of a veterinarian.

The following vaccines are recommended by veterinarians to have current at this time:

- DA2PP (distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza, parvovirus) (Core Vaccine)
 - **Protects against canine parainfluenza** (cause of canine respiratory disease)
 - Highly recommended for all dogs regardless of their exposure to other dogs

- Bordetella (Core Vaccine)
 - **Protects against Bordetella bronchiseptica** (cause of canine respiratory disease)
 - Highly recommended for dogs that go out in public and/or visit boarding/grooming facilities.
- Influenza (Not a Core Vaccine)
 - **Protects against canine influenza virus** (cause of canine respiratory disease)
 - Highly recommended for dogs that go out in public and/or visit boarding/grooming facilities

Since all precautions aren’t 100% effective, it’s still possible for them to contract the respiratory infection. Below is a list of symptoms you can be on the lookout for. If you notice your dog experiencing any of these symptoms, it’s highly advised that you seek medical attention from your veterinarian rather than seeking medical advice from Google and/or social media. Relying on these sources puts you at risk for receiving false information/diagnosis.

Symptoms may include:

- Coughing, wheezing, difficulty and/or rapid breathing
- Sneezing and/or nasal whistling
- Nasal and/or eye discharge
- Dehydration
- Exercise intolerance/lethargy
- Fever
- Decreased appetite



Coming Next Month... Tune in for a brief meet up with another one of our staff members, a few tips for Train Your Dog Month, and to see what Noodle has to offer.