



PVPC Newsletter

April 2025 Issue

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This Just In!



Surprise, surprise! We here at PVPC have yet another new doctor on the loose. Let's welcome Dr. Tish Starr to the team! Dr. Starr has a deep passion for animals as they have been a central focus for her entire life. She was born in Texas, but grew up in Nebraska where her family bred and raised champion field trial golden retrievers. Her experience at a young age with this breed instilled a deep love and sense of responsibility for them. When Dr. Starr was in her teens, her family lived in Nevada where she bought and cared for her first horse. She has great memories of exploring the desert trails and nearby mountains every summer

with this little quarter horse. While in undergraduate school in San Francisco, Dr. Starr worked as a bellhop in a hotel on Fisherman's Wharf as well as worked as a driver for a pet taxi service. After finishing her undergraduate, she went to UC Davis where she graduated veterinary school and since then has gained a wide range of experience in veterinary medicine including running a veterinary house call practice in Sacramento as well as owning and operating Camino Animal Hospital several years ago. When she is not practicing medicine, Dr. Starr spends her free time at home with her husband, three dogs, four cats, chicken, and horse. Dr. Starr is thrilled to be working back in the foothills and is looking forward to meeting PVPC's beloved clients and their pets. Please join us as we welcome her to the PVPC family!



Limited Time Offer!

In celebration of our new doctors, we are currently offering discounted exams. Please call (530)644-2424 to reserve your spot today! Be sure to request Dr. Miranda, Dr. Claire, or Dr. Starr to get your discount.

To Cut or Not to Cut



Surgery, say what?! Yep, that's right! We're here to talk about the always avoided surgery and why it is essential to maintaining proper health in all pets.

In veterinary medicine we encounter many situations where we recommend placing a pet under anesthesia and performing a surgical operation on them. Oftentimes these surgery recommendations turn into pet owners opting out of having their pet undergo a procedure. The reasons for not proceeding with a surgery can vary from fear of anesthesia to fear of the cost of the procedure. And both of these fears are very understandable! All scariness aside; however, there are many benefits to allowing pets to undergo a surgery as long as a veterinarian has recommended the surgery and deemed the pet healthy for the anesthesia.

Spaying and neutering pets are both considered "routine" surgeries and therefore are often seen as unnecessary and not worth the risk of anesthesia by some pet owners. Although it is correct to say they are routine surgeries, it's incredibly pertinent to understand that spaying and neutering pets is just as important as performing a life saving surgery. The number one benefit to spaying and neutering pets is population control. Participating in maintaining population control allows the reduction in unwanted litters of both cats and dogs. Unfortunately, these unplanned litters often lead to the overflow of animals being placed in shelters and rescue organizations. Another benefit to altering both cats and dogs, is that it can help correct misbehaviors such as wandering off, inappropriate spraying and marking, and even aggression. Lastly, spaying and neutering pets provides a boost in an

animal's overall health. In female dogs and cats, spaying them can reduce the risk of developing uterine and mammary cancers as well as reduce the risk of an infected uterus called a pyometra. In males, neutering assists in reducing the chances of prostate problems in dogs later on in life as well as developing testicular cancers. With that being said, eliminating the risk of developing reproductive health related issues can allow both dogs and cats to have longer lives.

Spaying and neutering are not the only surgeries that provide health benefits. Lumpectomies, the surgical removal of lumps, are also considered very important procedures that pet owners should consider pursuing when recommended. Commonly, a veterinarian will recommend a lumpectomy if they suspect that the mass has cancerous cells. In these situations, it is strongly urged to pursue the surgical removal of these lumps because they typically turn into bigger problems such as the cancer cells metastasizing (spreading) throughout the entire body. In other situations, lumps will appear on exam as fatty or cyst-like which do not usually contain cancerous cells. A veterinarian may or may not recommend the surgical removal of these cancer free lumps and bumps, but it's always a good idea to consider surgery as an option. Although these masses don't put the pets at risk for developing cancers, they can still reduce the length of a patient's life as they often can increase in size. As masses grow in size, it increases the difficulty of surgical removal and often adds hassle to the recovery from surgery. In other cases, lumps that get too big then become unable to be surgically removed and can continue to grow, affecting a pet's



quality of life. All in all, a general rule of thumb to consider for lumps is to remove them when they are small or first noticed regardless if they are cancerous or not. Doing so can certainly reduce a lot of trouble for the patient later!

Even after knowing the health benefits of pursuing surgery and you still feel uneasy about allowing your pets to undergo anesthesia, it's always highly recommended that you seek the support of your regular veterinary office. The veterinarians as well as the medical staff are trained and educated to help address the concerns you as a pet owner may have regarding surgery. We are all in total understanding that the risks that come with anesthesia can be really off putting and scary, and we hope we can help calm your nerves.



Spring into Surgery Savings!

This just in! PVPC is offering a limited time 20% discount on all spays and neuters for the Spring season. Did we just say discounts? Yes, you read that right! Now hurry and call (530)644-2424 to book your spot today! (Exams and pre-anesthetic blood work are not included in this offer)

Noodle's Notes



What's up, all? Welcome back to the more important column of this newsletter! Oops, I mean... Shh, don't tell my PVPC peeps I said that... Anywho, I just wanted to take a moment to cover a couple important vet med awareness dates that come up this month. Firstly, the entire month of April is used to bring upon the awareness of heartworm disease and the importance of using heartworm prevention. I know, I know... We've talked about this before, but positive heartworm tests STILL come up. So, all I wanna do is just throw out another little reminder to keep those furry friends of yours up to date on their preventatives as well as keeping up on those annual tests to make sure those medicines are doing their jobs.



Secondly, I want to let ya'll know that the week of April 21st through April 27th is Veterinary Receptionist Week! The front office staff play an essential role in the veterinary team and the rest of the staff wouldn't be able to focus on the patients if the receptionists weren't here to do what they do best. So, please take a moment during this week to thank a veterinary receptionist team member for all of the hard work that they do. That's all for now folks! See ya'll next month!

Contact Denise by phone call or email to reserve your spot today!



**DOG
TRAINING CLASS**
Taught Right Here at
Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic



BEGINNING OBEDIENCE w/INTRO TO RALLY

- Saturdays at 9:00 am for 1 hour
- Class Dates Apr 19th, 26th, May 10th, 17th
- Classes will cover sit, down, stand, stay and come on leash & Intro to Rally Obedience
- 4 Sessions for \$80 total
- More advanced dogs can train as well and I will augment your exercises
- All ages welcome!
- Take a pic of this flyer - contact me to sign up!

Denise Paquette attended a CA State Accredited School for Dog Trainers in 1991. She uses a balanced approach of positive reinforcement with as few corrections as possible. Bring small cookies or kibble to class and whatever collars you have with a 4 to 6 ft leash (no chain or retractable leashes). Call, text or email to sign up!

**In case of heavy rain - classes will be pushed to the next weekend, (I make phone calls/texts to cancel)-I will send out an email with instructions the week before class starts. Cash, Paypal or checks are accepted on the first day of class.

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