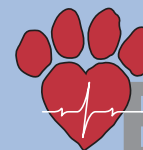




EMERGENCY B·Y·T·E·S



Chicago Veterinary
Emergency Services

ER

Open Nights, Weekends & Holidays

773.281.7110

News and information from the Chicago Veterinary Emergency Services

Summer 2008

Not Just Emergency Services

Chicago Veterinary Emergency Services is not just about emergencies anymore! The services of highly skilled and trained veterinary specialists are available during daytime hours. The independently run offices of Cardiology, Dermatology, and Ophthalmology offer help for pets with more complex medical needs.

Cardiac Consultation and Ultrasound

Eva Sikorska, DVM

Dr. Sikorska is a Diplomate of the ACVIM, specialty of Cardiology. She shares her exceptional cardiac expertise with the referring veterinarian, and her compassionate and friendly manner with the patient and client.

Hours are Wednesdays from 8:30 am–4 pm. Appointments typically run 45–60 minutes and should be made through the Animal Emergency and Referral Center main phone line: (847) 564-5775.

Animal Dermatology Center of Chicago

Cecilia Friberg, DVM, DACVD

The Animal Dermatology staff provides the best possible care for pets with problems such as:

- Allergies
- Ear disease
- Infectious skin diseases
- Itchy skin condition

Hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 am–5 pm, and Wednesday from 8:30 am–Noon. Patients are seen by appointment only, upon referral from the family veterinarian. For more information, please call (773) 281-7522.

Eye Care for Animals

Paul Gerding, DVM, DACVO Dr. Amy Thompson, DVM
Nancy Park, DVM Dr. Jason Clark, DVM

Eye Care provides specialized ophthalmic care, providing the highest level of treatment, education, and understanding to the patients of our referring veterinarians.

Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 am–5 pm, and Wednesday from 8 am–12 pm. Patients are seen by appointment only. For a referral and to schedule your pet's appointment, please contact Eye Care for Animals directly at (773) 388-3937.

CVES In Your Community!

See Us at WESTFEST: August 9–10, Noon–10 pm



WESTFEST will take place on Chicago Avenue between Damen and Wood. Please join us for this fun event. Learn how your dog can become a lifesaving blood donor, and take home some special treats.

Administrating Emergency Care

CVES is proud to welcome our new practice administrator, Dr. Gene Mueller. Born and raised in Chicago, Dr. Mueller is no stranger to the animals of this city and their many needs.

Dr. Mueller began working with animals when he was a teenager, spending summers working as a ranch hand in Wyoming. Unsure whether he would be able to become a veterinarian, Dr. Mueller worked at a veterinary hospital during his undergraduate studies. His mentor at the hospital, Dr. Alan Smithe, convinced him that a veterinary degree was indeed attainable and provided assistance to reach that goal. Dr. Mueller began his undergraduate studies at Northeastern Illinois University, but soon transferred to the University of Illinois at Urbana to pursue his veterinary dream. There he received both his BS and his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to his DVM, Dr. Mueller studied public health and received a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology.

While working as an epidemiologist for the City of Chicago, he was offered the opportunity to become the Director of Environmental Health (the division of the city's public health department which handles the regulation of restaurants). During this assignment, Dr. Mueller realized, that as an individual, his ability to create change was limited. But as an administrator he could coordinate, focus, and support a group of many people to make a substantial impact.

Continued next page

CVES Offers Bereavement Counseling

CVES is pleased to offer bereavement counseling for those who are coping with the loss of a beloved pet. Our group meets on the second Sunday of each month from 10–11:30 am, and is conducted by Dr. Larson, a licensed psychologist and teacher. For more information please call 773-281-7110 ext. 69.



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Emergency Bytes is published by Chicago Veterinary Emergency Services (CVES). The only after-hours animal emergency facility in Chicago, we provide the highest quality emergency medical and surgical care when your regular veterinarian is closed. Fully staffed with veterinarians and technicians who are specially trained and experienced in handling animal emergencies, we are just a phone call away!

EMERGENCY B·Y·T·E·S

Administering Emergency Care, cont. from page 1



Dr. Gene Mueller

Having worked first as a shelter veterinarian, then as Executive Director of Chicago Animal Care and Control, and finally at The Anti-Cruelty Society, Dr. Mueller has seen firsthand the care

and professionalism CVES gives to animals in need. It is this quality of care that made him want to be a part of the CVES team.

Dr. Mueller sees his role as practice administrator as an opportunity to support the CVES team in whatever way necessary to ensure the successful treatment of every patient. “During a busy Sunday afternoon one is able to get a great perspective on how the CVES team works,” he says. “The

employees receive, triage, treat, suture, bandage, and care for pets. The employees also educate, listen, console, and care for clients. And all while, they are managing the medical and surgical cases referred to them by other hospitals, ensuring continuity of care for seriously ill pets.”

Dr. Mueller finds the most difficult part of his job is making sure the technology necessary for caring for sick pets is available at all times. He is amazed by the amount of technology necessary to treat these cases—from paperless medical records, to digital radiographs, to computerized ECG diagnostics—which are used on a daily basis at CVES. This technology helps keep CVES at the forefront of emergency medicine and quality veterinary care, so one can imagine the pressure of keeping that technology up and running.

As technology expands and new leaders emerge, Dr. Mueller looks forward to the time

when CVES will become a 24-hour critical care and multiple specialty center. This center will work with the family veterinarian in order to provide complete, thorough, round-the-clock, state-of-the-art veterinary care to Chicago’s pets and their owners.

It is no surprise then that Dr. Mueller considers his greatest professional achievement the sustained growth and progress of each of the organizations that have been under his direction.

In his spare time, Dr. Mueller enjoys reading, working with computers, playing electronic games, doing home repairs, working on old automobiles, and taking long walks with his wife Angela and their dog daughter, Myrtle. He feels his greatest personal achievement is raising his three sons.

Dr. Mueller believes some might be surprised to learn that while he prefers opera and classical music, especially Mozart, he truly enjoys the hip hop mixes his son creates.



Summer Petcare Tips

Heartworm and flea season is here! Speak with your regular veterinarian about testing and prevention.

Never leave your pet in a car for any amount of time. Cars heat up quickly in the summer, and hyperthermia (overheating) can rapidly develop. Stay alert for signs of overheating, which include excessive panting and drooling, mild weakness, along with an elevated body temperature.

The right time for taking your pet for a walk or outside for playtime is in the cool of the early morning or evening. When walking your dog, steer clear of areas you suspect have been sprayed with insecticides or other chemicals.

When the temperature is very high, don’t let your dog stand on hot asphalt. His or her body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn.

Fireworks and loud noises can be terrifying to pets. Remember to keep your pet in a comfortable place, away from windows and doors. Mask the sound with music or television.

Provide fresh water and plenty of shade for animals kept outdoors; a properly constructed doghouse serves best. Bring your dog or cat inside during the heat of the day to rest in a cool part of the house.

Be especially sensitive to older and overweight animals in hot weather. Brachycephalic (snub-nosed) dogs such as Bulldogs, Pugs, Boston Terriers, Lhasa Apsos and Shih Tzus, as well as those with heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air conditioned rooms as much as possible.

Proper grooming can stave off summer skin problems, especially for dogs with heavy coats. Shaving the hair to a one-inch length—never down to the skin—helps prevent overheating. Cats should be brushed often.

Unless labeled specifically for use on animals, no sunscreen or insect repellents should be applied to your pet.

Always keep matches, lighter fluid, citronella candles and insect coils out of pets’ reach.

Make sure that there are no open, unscreened windows or doors in your home through which animals can fall or jump.

Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool. Try not to let your dog drink pool water, which contains chlorine and other chemicals that could cause GI upset.

Make sure all pets wear flotation devices on boats.



A day at the beach may not be safe, unless you can guarantee a shaded spot and plenty of fresh water for your companion. Dogs should be rinsed off after swimming in the ocean or lakes.

Dogs should not be allowed to ride with their heads out of a car window. When travelling in a car, pets should be kept in a crate or restrained with a specially-designed seat belt harness.

Pets traveling in pickup trucks should ride in the cab or in a secured crate in the bed of the truck, not in the truck’s open bed. If your dog rides in the back of the truck and you stop suddenly, swerve, or are hit by another car, it could be thrown from the truck and into traffic.

Remember to keep tags on your pet for easy identification in the event of escape.

With people and dogs spending more time outside, dog bites are likely to increase in the summer months. If not already done, consider spaying or neutering your pet. This surgery reduces the likelihood that he/she will bite or roam, and also provides many other health benefits.