

# ANIMAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Lamoille Valley Veterinary Services Newsletter

October 2001

Lamoille Valley Veterinary Services ♦ Owner/Veterinarian: Paula J. Yankauskas ♦ Associate Veterinarians: Valerie A. Yankauskas and Cindy K. Pratt ♦ Veterinary Technicians: Ann Boyea and Freda Pike ♦ Head Receptionist: Claudia Niles ♦ Receptionists: Gayle Thompson-Steele, Stephanie Bernheisel, Becky Hamm and Nicky Tobin ♦ Veterinary Assistants: Carole Younkman, Kati Scott, Crystal Maxham, Lynn Maroot, Wendy Spurr, Owen Durivage and Heather Carey ♦ Student Assistant (Veterinary and Administrative): Robert Cookson ♦ Hospital Manager: Deborah J. Beier ♦ Office Manager: Amanda M. Pough ♦ LVVS Pet Food & Supply: Enid Rosenblum, Sarah Machia, Sharon Anderson and Sarah Martin (stationed in Finland for the year) ♦ Hospital Cats: Luna, Herriot and Rosie

## Autumn Blues

Wildlife is wonderful. However living among wildlife in Vermont can be difficult. Starting late August through the solstice in December many of our patients – your pet cats – disappear. Many of these disappearances are due to coyote activity. Young coyotes start to learn hunting skills in the late summer/fall season. Cats are easy targets and the young coyotes are not skilled enough to hunt wildlife and not wary enough to stay away from our dwellings and even homes in a village setting! Fisher Cats also take a toll but the major portion of missing cats are coyote caused.

One employee has faced this loss in the past. She describes the hardest part as the unknown factor: “A helpless feeling. Are they just missing? Are they injured? Are they dead? Did they suffer? One myth is to let the cat out during the daylight hours. I had a coyote take two of my cats at 11am on a sunny Sunday morning. I was less

*continued on page 2*

## Disaster Relief - How You Can Help

The following organizations are involved in the animal related disaster relief efforts in New York City and Washington, D.C. If you would like to help with these efforts, please contact these organizations. If you send monetary donations, make sure to mark them September 11 Disaster Relief.

### **American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – Member & Donor Services**

424 East 92<sup>nd</sup> Street – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York NY 10128

### **Donations and Supplies for Search & Rescue Dogs:**

New York City Offices  
c/o Search and Response  
61 Chambers St.  
New York NY 10007

### **American Kennel Club/Companion Animal Recovery American Red Cross Fund**

and

### **American Kennel Club/Companion Animal Recovery Pet Disaster Relief Fund**

c/o American Kennel Club  
260 Madison Avenue  
New York NY 10016

## LVVSers ♥ Their Pets!

We are pleased to announce a new column to regularly appear in the “LVVS Animal Health Advocate” – a column about some of the special animals we know and love, written by those who know and love them the best – their owners. The “My Pet is ♥ - That’s Why We Go To LVVS” series will be a regular feature of this newsletter. The brainchild of Gayle, one of our Receptionists, this issue inaugurates this column with an account of Gayle’s own dog Chance. If you would like to see your pet profiled, please submit your pet’s story to LVVS. Winners will be chosen by LVVS Staffers and profiled in upcoming issues. In addition, winners will receive a t-shirt (for the writer of the column!) and a bag of pet food (for the star!). As space allows, photos of the profiled pets will be included too.

The LVVS Animal Health Advocate is posted on our website at [www.lvsonline.com](http://www.lvsonline.com) so your pet’s story will be seen by people far beyond the Lamoille area.

Deadlines for submissions are: December 1 for the January issue, March 1 for the April issue, June 1 for the July issue and September 1 for the October issue. Submissions should be between 300 and 500 words and may be sent to LVVS (ATTN: “My Pet Is ♥”) or emailed to Amanda, the LVVS Office Manager, at [BsnatchBT@aol.com](mailto:BsnatchBT@aol.com).

We are looking forward to your stories, so turn on those computers and pull out your pens and paper! The next deadline is December 1st, 2001!



## LOW COST SPAY/NEUTER ASSISTANCE

North Country Animal League was a recent recipient of a grant from the DJ & T Foundation, founded by Bob Barker of CBS-TV’s *The Price Is Right*. This grant will allow NCAL to offer low cost spays and neuters to owners of pets in the Lamoille Area.

Applications are available at the NCAL Shelter on Garfield Road, the NCAL Office on Route 100 (both in Morrisville) or at the LVVS Front Desk.

## Dog Daughters

Breana Clarke

The long-awaited screen door was installed recently. It completes the renovation of our kitchen. Laura, our chocolate Labrador Retriever, didn't understand the screen door at first. It blocked her from running in and out. She, not meaning harm, pawed two holes in the screen five minutes after the man who installed it had left. I spit verbal fire at her, forcing her to cower.

My voice shocked her, and it hurt her feelings. And it hurt me to see her look. Her brown eyes were like a blowtorch to melt ice cubes. They were full of "I didn't mean to; I didn't understand; I promise I'll never do it again; please don't stop loving me." I was forced to cool my chastisement.

Here was a living, breathing being who was afraid of my anger, who respected my authority and depended upon me for food, shelter and medical care, and I thought to banish her to a holding cell in hell because of a couple of feet of metal screen. I felt bad, but I felt good. I was engaged. I was a mother again. I was wrestling with the hurlyburly of parenthood.

I lost my most important mothering assignment when my son, my only child, died in an accidental fall 12 years ago at the age of 14. Recovering from the shock and pain of this grief is complex. You've trained for a role you're no longer required to fill. It was a role I cherished. What do you do with all those motherhood muscles? Is your heart too encumbered by sadness to take on loving another young human? My dog daughters, Hannah and Laura, have agreed to be cared for and cared about by me and my husband. They're keeping us human while we recover ourselves. They're helping us with the pain.

We got Hannah, our black Lab, several years after our son died. I won't be specific as to exactly when because I'm afraid to count her years. She came when she was 8 weeks old. I took a week's vacation to get her settled in. I spoiled her in the time-honored fashion of Southern mothers. I fed her – scrambled eggs with ground beef, cheese and rice. I loved cooking for her. Before long she had become a furry, black barrel. When I went on a business trip, my husband weaned her to dog food.

The thing these dogs can't replace is the child's function as arrow into the future. They don't look forward and most likely will not outlive us. This is a powerful check on the human tendency to always be planning for tomorrow. These dogs look us in the eyes and say, "Today. Today. Just today."


Little by little my husband and I have stopped mourning for the past and stopped mourning for the future that won't pan out.

*Reprinted with permission from "AKC Gazette," September 2001, Volume 118, No. 9*

### Coming In the January 2002 Issue:

• **PHCP 2002** New & improved for the New Year. Information will be available soon at LVVS – make sure to ask next time you are in!

• **Patient Profile:** ... A series by Dr. Paula Yankauskas. This popular series will be back with a new medical story.

• **My Pet is**  This first story submitted by an LVVS Client about the most important animal they know – one of our patients!

• **Winter Health Care Concerns**

• **Spay Day 2002 Information**

• **The return of Meet Our Staff**

• **And much, much more!**



### Autumn Blues

*continued from page 1*

than 50 feet away and helpless to save them. Coyotes hunt day and night. I have only found a couple of solutions: 1) Move – not feasible for most people. 2) Only have indoor cats. 3) Put up a barrier between the predator and prey. I chose the third option and have a fenced yard with a hot (electric) wire that runs along the top. I may or may not need the hot wire, but in certain situations it keeps the cats in and canines out. I haven't lost a cat to coyotes since erecting a fence. Before that I had lost six cats over four years. I don't advocate a fence for everyone but I would like people to be aware of the danger autumn can pose to our cats."

Since the beginning of September, we have heard of at least a dozen cats who are missing – whereabouts and health unknown. We will continue to keep reports of the missing and continue to hope for the best. We hope this information will help keep your pets safe at home. ♦

## Advances In Animal Medicine Increase Quality Of Life For Older Pets

*After an article from Kansas State University*

If your pet is getting along in years, and you haven't kept up with recent advances in veterinary medicine, you are in for a pleasant surprise. Within the past five to 10 years, veterinary medicine has seen some significant improvements in treatments for the maladies commonly faced by aging cats and dogs.

Dr. Valerie Yankauskas urges pet owners to keep aware of a pet's weight. Be especially aware of any changes in weight because that might be a sign of a problem. There are diseases associated with being overweight, yet some dogs have a tendency to get underweight as well.

For older pets, the annual veterinary exam may not be frequent enough. "If we look at one year in a dog's life to be approximately equal to seven years in a person's, it's like a human going to the doctor once every seven years," Dr. Valerie Yankauskas said. "Older dogs might be better served by an exam every six months."

"We are pleased to be able to focus on Geriatric Pet Health with special health screenings designed for the issues older pets face," said Dr. Paula Yankauskas. "For a limited time (from now until the end of 2001) we are able to offer comprehensive bloodwork screening by Antech Laboratories at a special price as part of our evaluation of aging pets. Combining bloodwork with an exam and blood pressure measurement gives an excellent database for assessing the state of health or for screening the patient for conditions that would lead to a benefit from further testing."

Antech Laboratories has offered the bloodwork package at a reduced cost to encourage routine screening (versus waiting until facing an illness), and it is this savings we are able to pass on to clients. Since some of the blood is sent out, the appointments need to be scheduled in the morning, Monday through Thursday. For accuracy, pets need to be fasted (no food, water okay) for 12 to 15 hours prior to the visit. The cost of the visit is \$99.50 for a dog or a cat (value \$161.00 at current discounted geriatric profile fees).

Scheduling a Geriatric visit is easy, just call Lamoille Valley Veterinary Services at 888-7911. If fasting is a problem, we can admit your pet for an overnight stay and schedule a time to meet with you when you pick him or her up. At that time we can go over preliminary results of the evaluation (bloodwork results are usually back the day after blood is drawn).

"We are offering the client more options instead of dictating to them," Dr. Cindy Pratt said. "Clients today are better informed and more involved in their pet's health care. Together, clients and veterinarians can improve the quality of life for aging pets. The owner is a critical member of the health care team. Being aware of any changes in the pet's body or in its actions will provide key information to helping the animal live a long and healthy life." ♦

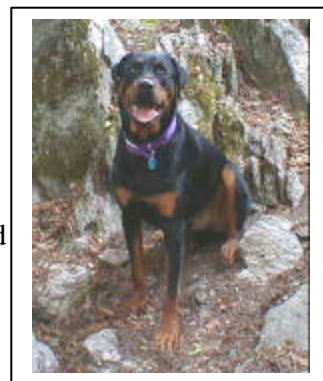


## My Pet is - That's Why We Go To LVVS

*A new series about your pets! See page 1 for information about how to see your pet here!*

Our family consists of two adults, two teenagers (one has recently moved out to seek his fortune with his friends), two cats, two dogs and many different personalities. The two adults are of course "normal" (just ask us!). The one teenager is not! The cats, *Willow* and *Tabby*, have completely different takes on life. *What*, the Collie-Shetland Sheepdog-Something Else Mix, has issues with her name. Then there is *Chance*!

Chance came into our family roughly a year and a half ago and has completely changed our lives. He has taught us to fear nothing, to love unconditionally, that patience is a virtue and that Rottweilers are big, muscular, loyal, loving, intelligent, bed hogs and cover stealers that do not grasp the concept that "down" means "off the bed" not "lay down and go to sleep." We are considering a king-sized bed for him.



What is unusual about Chance is that he is blind. People have kindly praised us for taking on such a load. But from day one Chance has been a complete joy. Chance is not a problem. Within one week he learned to negotiate the stairs (he had to – the bed is upstairs). Within two weeks he knew where the furniture was enough to drive poor *What* crazy chasing her around the house. This form of play has been practiced so much that Chance now, using his keen hearing, can head her off at the pass. We as a family have learned not to move stuff around unless you let Chance know, not to leave stuff where it doesn't belong (I like that!) and that if you are standing in the play area watch your knees. Chance has even learned to play fetch. He listens for the direction then sniffs and circles until he finds whatever we tossed for him.

*continued on page 4*



# LVVS Pet Food & Supply Center

**Eukanuba Foods – Buy 5 Bags, Get the 6<sup>th</sup> Bag FREE!**

You can't find a better deal for food in the area!

**Eukanuba Foods – Now with Tartar Control!**

**The 3 D's of Oral Care: Dentistry**

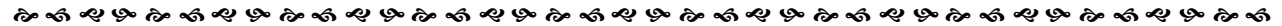
**Daily Brushing**

**Diet**

**Ask us about all three!**



LVVS Pet Food & Supply ♦ IAMS ♦ Eukanuba ♦ ProPlan ♦ Science Diet  
 ♦ California Natural ♦ Friskies & Prescription Diets from Hills, Eukanuba  
 Veterinary Diets, Purina Veterinary Diets and Innovative Veterinary Diets.



"In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him." --D. Bruce, Taiwan

**Is Your Pet "Over 40"? Check out page 3 to learn how to keep your pet happy, healthy & feeling young!**

Is Your Pet "Over 40"?					
Pet's Age	Cat	Dog (in Pounds)			
		0-20	21-50	51-90	>90
5	36	36	37	40	42
6	40	40	42	45	49
7	44	44	47	50	56
8	48	48	51	55	64
9	52	52	56	61	71
10	56	56	60	66	78
11	60	60	65	72	86
12	64	64	69	77	93
13	68	68	74	82	101
14	72	72	78	88	108
15	76	76	83	93	115
16	80	80	87	99	123
17	84	84	92	104	
18	88	88	96	109	
19	92	92	101	115	
20	96	96	105	120	

Relative Age of Your Pet in "Human Years"  
**Senior**      **Geriatric**

*Based on a chart developed by Pfizer Animal Health.*

My Pet is - continued from page 3

We fortunately live in what my husband calls a "Sugarbush." So we live a good distance from the road on a lot of land with a lot of trees (my definition of our place in heaven). Chance is quite afraid of the sound of cars and trucks, and coupled with the fact that we have little traffic on our road, he is pretty safe. Now I have witnessed What running him down the driveway to the road, seemingly hoping for a car to come by, but in the end she has always brought him back home safely. He has wandered into the woods a few times but we have managed to get him home as he follows the sound of our voice.

I could write a page each day about the love, laughs and lessons that Chance provides. He is always overjoyed to share our time. And he is a comfort – warm and simple.

LAMOILLE VALLEY VETERINARY SERVICES  
 278 Vermont Route 15 East ♦ Post Office Box 41  
 Hyde Park VT 05655  
 802-888-7911 ♦ 802-888-7711 Pet Food & Supply Center  
[www.lvsonline.com](http://www.lvsonline.com)  
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PRESORTED  
 STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 HYDE PARK, VT  
 PERMIT NO. 25

RUB-A-DUB-DUB -- your pet in OUR tub!

**Self Service Baths at LVVS**

Call to schedule your apj  
 888-7911

Shampoo, towels, etc. supplied by LVVS! You provide the elbow grease!