

ANIMAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Lamoille Valley Veterinary Services Newsletter

January 2002

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 ♦ *Veterinary Assistant (in Vocational Training):* Billie Jo Ferland ♦ *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

“Nothing endures but change” (Heraclitus) - Change comes to everything – change is good – in other words ... things are going to be different from now on. This will be the last quarterly LVVS Animal Advocate newsletter. But don't worry – it is not going away completely. We are just shifting to a bi-annual schedule. We anticipate that the “new” newsletter will be just as informative, just as entertaining and even bigger than the current issues. Special announcements and events will be announced in smaller flyers and postcards, and on our website at www.lvvsonline.com. ♦



Meet Our Staff ... Continued

An on-going series to give you a little more information about the people you may only know when they are wearing scrubs.

Robert Cookson, Student Assistant (Veterinary and Administrative)

We have been very fortunate to be able to watch Robert grow up right before our eyes. Starting as an administrative assistant for a summer, he has grown up to be a crosstrained assistant who can do everything from help at the front desk to assist in rooms and work in the kennels. We have literally watched Robert grow up as well – he was shorter than most staff members when he started with us 3 years ago – he now towers over some of us at a height of 5'9”!

When not at LVVS, Robert is a student at People's Academy in Morrisville. An only child (human), his family has two dogs, including a new Pomeranian puppy named Buffy. ♦

PHCP
2002

Announcing PHCP 2002

PHCP
2002

It's like a discount club – for your pets!

LVVS Preventive (and Personalized) Health Care Program 2002

The Preventive Health Care Program entitles your pet to valuable services at LVVS designed to keep them happy, healthy -- and even clean!

LVVS is pleased to unveil PHCP version 2002! After the success of PHCP 2001, PHCP 2002 has been expanded to meet demand!

Full details about the program are included in this issue. Enroll now for the most savings throughout the year. Early Bird Discount of \$5 if you enroll by 3-31-2002!

This program could save you over \$200 a year!

Please contact LVVS with any questions!
888-7911 ♦



Your place or ours?



Did you know LVVS offers House Calls? For your convenience we can send a Doctor and additional staff member to your house. Many clients choose to have us come to them – especially those

families with multiple animals. Please call LVVS at 888-7911 and speak to a receptionist to set up an appointment.

Some types of exams lend themselves to home visits better than others. Annual physical exams, well-health check-overs of litters of puppies or kittens and other similar exam visits work well. Obviously surgery or work-ups of ill animals are not appropriate for house calls. House calls can also work very well for euthanasia, allowing your pet the peace and comfort of being at home.

There is an additional charge for house calls above the cost of the services provided. Call LVVS for more details. ♦

LOW COST SPAY/NEUTER ASSISTANCE

- SPAY DAY USA is celebrating its eighth birthday this year, and once again LVVS is pleased to be involved in our area. Sunday, February 17 will be set aside for LVVS staffers, Doctors and other local veterinarians to volunteer their time to help spay and neuter pets whose families could not normally afford the surgery. If you would like to help, please contact LVVS.



Help can come in many forms! Monetary donations help offset the costs of anesthesia, suture, gauze and the instruments, gowns and gloves used in surgery. Can't afford to give money? How about your time? In past years, LVVS clients and friends have volunteered their time to help walk dogs, clean up after cats, keep laundry moving and more. Filling our hospital with so many extra animals means that extra hands really do make light work!

Having your pet spayed or neutered as a part of the Lamoille Area Spay Day 2002, please ask for an application. Applications will be available at the LVVS Front Desk.

- 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.

Loon Lands in Hyde Park

Lamoille Valley Veterinary Services was the winner of a large loon weathervane as an unexpected result of attending the annual meeting of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS). The larger than life-sized weathervane is mounted on the roof of the LVVS hospital. LVVS has long been involved with VINS, being part of a statewide network of veterinarians and volunteers who provide care for injured wildlife and birds. In addition, LVVS provides educational opportunities for VINS and wildlife rehabilitators, as well as takes advantage of educational opportunities provided by VINS. The loon weathervane was won from a raffle supporting an educational trip for students to Costa Rica. As for loons, our involvement with the VLRP (Vermont Loon Recovery Project) makes the prize feel like an apt one.



Pictured on the last page is a juvenile loon that was iced in at Island Pond last December. The loon was caught by a

◆ continued on last page

Come check out our new I.D. Tag Machine! Engraved tags made while you wait! Heavy duty, attractive tags are available in numerous colors and shapes. Help your pets get home safely – make sure they have id on at all times!

LVVS recently offered a four-week after school class at Hyde Park Elementary School called "Pets, Vets and Kids." We had a lot of fun and learned a lot! Activities included: learning what veterinarians do for animals, a tour of LVVS, Dog Safety and, in the last week, a chance to use art to show what they had learned. The poster to the right, drawn by Carly, illustrates one portion of the lessons we practiced in the classroom about how to be safe around dogs. Congratulations to all the kids who participated – they did a great job and learned a lot about veterinarians, veterinary medicine and especially – that learning can be fun! ◆



❄️ ❄️ ❄️ **Winter Cold and Your Pets** ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

A few quick notes about the winter months and how to keep your pets safe.

Housing – be sure to provide proper shelter for your pets. If yours is an indoor pet, his bed or crate should be in a warm, draft-free area, preferably elevated slightly off the floor. If your pet is kept outdoors, provide a warm insulated pet house or shelter. The house should be elevated enough so that moisture cannot accumulate inside. If possible, provide a “door” (perhaps of canvas) to keep out the winter winds. If your pet is in a pen, you might block the wind and weather with bales of straw and/or stretch canvas over the top of the pen. If the wind chill or other weather conditions become severe, bring your pet inside.

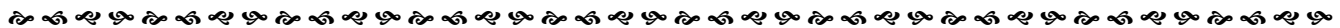
Frostbite – remove ice and snow from your pet’s paws and coat at once. Frostbitten skin may turn reddish, white or gray, and it may be scaly or sloughing. If you suspect frostbite, take your pet to a warm place immediately. Thaw out frostbitten areas slowly by applying warm, moist towels that are changed frequently. Continue until the affected areas become flushed. Contact LVVS as soon as possible as we will want to evaluate the seriousness of the condition.

Snow Removal Salt – some substances produced to melt ice and snow have low to moderate toxicity, depending on the ingredients and amount ingested. Read the labels and take necessary precautions. Keep these products stored in tight containers out of your pet’s and children’s reach and be sure to remove salt from your pet’s paws immediately. LVVS carries an ice melter called SAFEPAWS which the company says is “100% Salt Free, Environmentally Safe” and is “non-toxic” and “safe for paws, eyes and skin.” SAFEPAWS is available at the LVVS Pet Food & Supply Center.

Antifreeze – even a small amount of antifreeze can be fatal. Precautions are necessary with all antifreeze products on the market. Read labels and warnings carefully. Thoroughly clean up spills at once. Keep containers closed tightly and store them where pets can not get to them. SIERRA® brand antifreeze uses different ingredients than traditional antifreeze and as a result, the company claims it is “less toxic and safer for children, pets and wildlife.” For more information, contact the company at 800-289-7234 or www.sierraantifreeze.com.

Food and Water – staying warm requires extra calories, so feed your pet accordingly when the temperature drops. Always have fresh, clean water available for your pet. If your pet is kept outdoors, be sure to check his water frequently since it may freeze.

Call us with any questions – we want to make sure you and your pets have a safe and healthy winter! 888-7911 ❄️ ❄️ ❄️



My Pet is ❤️ - That’s Why We Go To LVVS

A new series about your pets!

Schooner and Annie (Lovingly referred to as the MONSTERS)

All was peaceful and quiet. Schooner the 3 ½ year old Westie (short for West Highland White Terrier) from Maine (hence the name) was content to keep us under his paw: telling us when it was time to come and go in and out, to bed and get up. You all know how that goes. Life was easy, as long as his rules were met, without too much swerving off the straight and narrow.

Then one day, the peace, the serenity, the calm, the encroaching grip of couch-potato-ism was suddenly and irrevocably shattered.

ANNIE ARRIVED!

Like a white tornado, Annie, the 7 month old Westie (also from Maine), whirled into our lives and we have not been the same since. Dancing and prancing, bouncing and barking, woofing and snuggling, she has changed all our lives. And we love her. Cute and cuddly only half describes her. Schooner has been re-juvenated, and now challenges her to a good game of stampede, jumps up on the sofa beside her where as before he would ask permission, and hides his favorite toys in the back recesses of his crate so she won’t find them. Annie started her life as a show puppy, but the breeder’s plans changed, and we were the fortunate ones for that change. She is beautiful as only a Westie can be.

My husband and I have discovered that we can indeed bend again, and some buttons are easier to close! What we once dreaded, as it had been a long time since we had two lively dogs to care for, has become a fun and fulfilling task. Two Westies are indeed better than just one, even if that is hard to believe.

Our first Westie came into our lives 29 years ago and we have only had Westies since then. In a funny coincidence, Annie’s birthday is the same as our first Westie’s, Dugald. You can read more about Schooner and Annie on their own web page, set up by a good cyber friend in Canada. The URL is: <http://bmath.tripod.com/schoonerspage/schooner.html>. All Westies may enter the photo contest, and perhaps win their own page. Read all about it at the above address.



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by LVVS! You provide the
elbow grease!**



...continued from page 2: VLRP biologist and volunteer, and brought to LVVS. After examination, and a snack of fish, the loon was released on Lake Champlain. We feel it a privilege to help with these animals; our mission in treating native wildlife patients

is to provide veterinary evaluation and treatment with the purpose of returning the individual to its natural habitat. If you need help with injured wildlife, you can



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PHCP 2002

Like a discount club for
your pets!
Details inside this issue