



Merrimack Veterinary News

Issue 4

www.merrimackvet.com

Summer 2005

MVH is Growing Again...Adds Three Doctors!

Daniel Baker, DVM



In 1999 Daniel Baker, DVM obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in biology from the University Massachusetts-Amherst. The following year he was one of eighteen students accepted to the East/West marine biology program through Northeastern University. This program allowed him to work in the field of marine biology in three distinct parts of the world including a 4 month stay in Jamaica. Upon finishing this program, Dr. Baker returned to New England where he pursued his dream of becoming part of the National Ski Patrol assisting injured skiers at Mount Snow, Vermont. Dr. Baker graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2003 and attended his clinical year at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Baker's interests in veterinary medicine include but are not limited to emergency and internal medicine. Dr. Baker also works at the Animal Hospital of Southern New Hampshire in Manchester. When not busy at work, Dr. Baker enjoys spending time with

his wife, Shannon Baker, DVM, his three dogs and three cats. He enjoys traveling, skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and rock climbing.

Iris Fischer, MVB



Iris Fischer is a 1994 graduate of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, and a recent graduate of the Veterinary College of Ireland, University College Dublin. She is now back in the United States, where she is looking forward to working with the team at Merrimack Veterinary Hospital. Dr. Fischer has always had a strong interest in the welfare and protection of animals. Before going to veterinary college, she worked as a research associate at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where her research involved marine mammal sensory systems. In particular, she studied the impact that noise pollution in our ocean environments has on marine mammal senses (specifically hearing and echolocation). Though she plans to continue volunteering her time to work with injured wildlife, she

has found that what she enjoys most of all is practicing small animal veterinary medicine.

Jennifer Cornell, DVM



In 2001 Jennifer Cornell, DVM graduated from the Washington State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Cornell worked in private practice for two years in the Pacific Northwest before moving back to her home, New England, in the fall of 2003. Dr. Cornell is thrilled to be back in the area near friends and family. Her interests in veterinary medicine include internal medicine, client education, urology, and dentistry. When not busy at work, Dr. Cornell enjoys spending time with her husband, her pug, and her two cats. She also enjoys travel, photography, rafting, kayaking, playing the flute, and rail trail biking.

Mark
Your
Calendar

Join us for Merrimack Veterinary Hospital's

2nd Annual OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, September 10, 2005

2:00pm—4:00pm

Merrimack Veterinary News

Making the Veterinary Hospital Fun for Pets!



Emma Parsons and "Maggie"

We at MVH were lucky enough to have a wonderful visitor to our hospital. Emma Parsons is a veterinary technician in Shrewsbury, MA. She is also an accomplished dog trainer, president of the New England Obedience Club, and the author of a new book, "Click to Calm: Healing the Aggressive Dog". Emma spoke to us about using clicker training in our veterinary hospital, as well as managing aggression in dogs. Here are some of Emma's suggestions for helping your nervous friends at their next vet visit:

- Bring really yummy treats, the kind your pet can never refuse!
- Reinforce any calm behavior by giving a pat or a treat.

Ignore behavior you don't like or redirect the dog to a behavior you do like.

- Teach your dog to calmly accept restraint at home by having one person hold him and another person feed him yummy treats.
- Teach your dog to love being handled for exams by feeding yummy treats while you look in his mouth, look in his ears, play with his feet, etc.
- If your dog may need a muzzle at the office, make sure to desensitize him to it at home by showing him the muzzle and feeding him, then touching him with the muzzle, then touching the

muzzle to his mouth, then putting it on for a second, and so on. Always make sure to reward any little successes and back up a step if he seems stressed.

- Clicker training can help you communicate with your dog. This is a positive method of training that helps dogs learn to overcome their fears.
- Feel free to bring your dog to visit anytime! These trips for cookies and pats can help your pet realize that not every visit means shots!



OraVet

Poor dental health (gingivitis and periodontitis) are serious disease concerns for your furry companion. Teeth and gum disease can lead to bad breath and pain in addition to serious health problems such as kidney, liver, and heart disease. According to the American Dental Society, more than 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have

periodontal disease by 3 years of age! It is the most common disease condition we see in small animal medicine. What can you do to protect your pet? MVH is proud to introduce OraVet.

What is OraVet?

OraVet is a plaque prevention product that you can apply at

home. As an alternative to brushing, you wipe it on your pet's teeth just *once per week*. OraVet barrier sealant prevents bacteria from attaching to teeth, minimizing gingivitis and tartar accumulation.

Please ask us for more information on OraVet.



Animal Massage Practitioner Sarah Ochal

Massage Therapy for Pets

That's right! Massage is not just for people anymore. You might be asking yourself, "Why would my pet need a massage?" The real question is, "Why not?" Massage has been beneficial for humans for years. Pets can suffer from muscular tightness, stress, and

injuries just like people do. Massage will release muscular constrictions, increase circulation, soothe the nervous system, and decrease recovery time from injury (and those are only a few examples!) By using a variety of strokes from long and soothing, to deep and

stimulating, massage will give your pet an overall sense of well-being. Animal massage is one of the newest and most exciting careers in the animal field today. We are very pleased to be offering it here at MVH!

Expansions in Dog Obedience

In addition to Puppy Pre-school, our in-house trainer, Jessica Janowski is now offering two additional courses. MVH is proud to introduce Advanced Puppy/Adult Intro and a preparation course for those interested in taking the AKC Canine Good Citizen test.

Here a few highlights of each of these courses:

Puppy Pre-school

- Geared to puppies 8-20 weeks of age.
- Focuses on socialization and setting a good foundation.
- Introduces clicker training

and theories of basic obedience behaviors.

Advanced Puppy/Adult Intro

- Any age welcome!
- Working with distractions and real-life situations.
- Covers the basics of sit, down, stay, loose leash walking, eye contact and come.

AKC CGC Class (American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen)

- Prepares for the ten-part CGC test, focusing on a safe

dog with good manners who will be welcomed by the general public.

- This is a challenging test and this class will help owners and dogs prepare for it.

Jessica loves her job and works very hard for each and every one of her students. She is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, and is currently working towards becoming certified (CPDT). If you think you may be interested, please don't hesitate to call the hospital for more information on our classes.



Jess and her dog Maggie



Recommended equipment for obedience training

The "Joint Diet"—Hill's Prescription j/d

If your dog is suffering from joint pain or is predisposed to developing arthritis, you should be asking one of our veterinarians about *Hill's Prescription Diet j/d*.

This is an innovative food that helps with joint pain and improves mobility in dogs.

What makes this diet effective are the *very* high levels of an omega-3 fatty acid that is found in fish oil. The diet also has enhanced levels of glucosamine and chondroitin that help with the maintenance of healthy cartilage. Additionally, *Hill's Prescription j/d* also contains L-carnitine that helps control opti-

mum body weight.

Clinical trials have shown this diet effective at helping dogs enjoy a more active life for a longer time. Please ask for more information on this unique diet for your dog.



Senior Wellness

Did you know that your pet ages up to seven times faster than you do?

As your pet ages, he/she may experience health and behavior problems faster than you think.

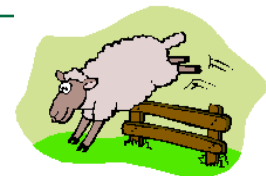
Our pets can even suffer from some of the same problems or ailments that elderly people do such as Arthritis and Alzheimer's. Both of these ail-

ments can be managed if caught early and this is why veterinary care should intensify as your pet ages. Some of the recommendations that we may make are:

- Physical exams every six months
- Annual blood work
- Urinalysis
- Blood pressure

- Dentistry
- Radiography
- Electrocardiography
- Ultrasonography

If your pet is 7 years or older, it is important that they receive a senior wellness exam by one of our veterinarians. Together we can help your old friend have the highest quality of life possible for as long as possible.



We are pleased to announce that our hospital is now seeing pet sheep and goats!



235 Daniel Webster Hwy
Merrimack, NH
603-424-9922
www.merrimackvet.com

PRSR STD MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
MANCHESTER NH

Meet the MVH Staff

Veterinarians

Dr. Dennis Chmiel
Dr. Vicki Dapolito
Dr. Shannon Baker
Dr. Daniel Baker

Dr. Iris Fischer
Dr. Jennifer Cornell

Hospital Management

Denise Bly
(Hospital Manager)
Avis Moller
(Supervisor of Client Services)
Danielle Brown, BS
(Supervisor of Nursing Services)
Danielle Hastings
(Public Relations/Marketing)

Client Services

Jessica Janowski
Laura Harrison
B.J. Labonte

Veterinary Nurses

Nabia Songer
Lisa Frenette
Julie Labrie
Brian Bernasconi
Lauri Gormley
Anita Hearn
Sarah Ochal

Animal Massage Therapy

Kennel / Day care

Alicia Hieken
Megan Early
Laurel Wakefield

Amanda Davis

Ashley Gallant

Grooming

Sherri Goodreau

Dog Obedience

Jessica Janowski

Maintenance/Grounds

Bernie Theberge



Hours of Operation:

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday: 7:30 am-6:00 pm

Tuesday and Thursday:
7:30 am -8:00 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am-1:00 pm