



Your Pet is Safe with Us!



Your pet's safety and health is our number one priority here at Merrimack Veterinary Hospital. It is this reason that we devel-

oped certain requirements for our boarding, day care, and grooming services.

Before your pet can board with us, join his friends in day care, or have a day of pampering, we need you to provide proof of the following:

- Annual physical exam
- Annual fecal – animal must be free of internal parasites
- Current rabies and distemper vaccine.
- Current bordetella vaccine (kennel cough) for dogs

- Annual feline leukemia and feline AIDS test for cats
- All animals must be free of external parasites.

This may sound like a lot to ask, but remember this is for the protection of your pet. All of these diseases and/or parasites are contagious to other animals and we would hate for your companion to be exposed while visiting with us. We kindly ask that you be prepared to have these medical requirements met prior to your ani-

mal's stay with us.

We want to thank you for your compliance and understanding on this important issue. We are proud to offer you and your pet an environment that is clean, safe, and healthy.



Digital Dentistry

Merrimack Veterinary Hospital is continuing to improve patient care by incorporating advanced medical technologies into everyday practice.

If you have been to your dentist recently you may have noticed a quiet but profound technological advancement – the digital dental x-ray. This is where x-ray images of teeth and their surrounding structures are digitized and stored in computer memory. These images can then be enhanced and viewed in ways otherwise impossible with standard film, thus improv-

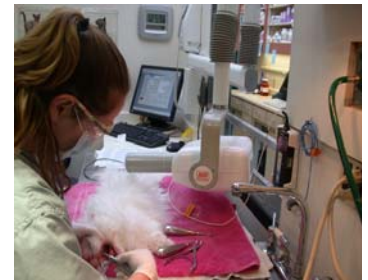
ing the ability to diagnose disease and most importantly, improve treatment plans.

The importance of oral hygiene in the overall wellness of your pet should not be understated. Periodontal disease (disease of the tooth and its surrounding structures) has been linked to kidney, liver, and even heart problems. Furthermore, periodontal disease by itself is painful to your pet and should not be ignored. It has been shown that 70% of all dental abnormalities are missed with oral exams alone but found on dental

radiology. We are proud to bring you and your pet this cutting edge technology.

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Feline Digital Dental Procedure

Merrimack Veterinary News

The FIV Vaccine



Protect your indoor/outdoor cat with the FIV vaccine

Did you know that one in twelve cats in the United States tests positive for Feline AIDS?

What is Feline AIDS you ask?

Feline AIDS is caused by infection with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). This infection causes a potentially fatal viral disease that affects the immune system of a cat. The virus lives in the blood of the infected cat and can be spread through saliva. The most common means of transmission is through bite wounds. It is also possible for mothers to infect their kittens in the uterus.

What are the symptoms of FIV?

Many cats that are infected with FIV never show any initial symptoms and remain healthy for years after transmission. Here are some early symptoms that others may display:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea
- Lethargy
- Swollen lymph nodes

As the disease becomes more progressive, the following symptoms may occur:

- Weight loss

- Sores in and around mouth
- Eye lesions
- Poor hair coat
- Chronic infections

What can you do?

There is now a vaccine available to protect your feline friend against FIV. Cats at highest risk are those that go outdoors. It is also very important for cats that go outdoors be tested annually for this fatal disease in conjunction with Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV). Please talk to our staff for more information on testing and vaccinating your cat against these diseases.



Officer Hardwick and his partner "Zed" at MVH Open House

Open House Celebration

We want to thank all who attended our first annual open house on Sunday, September 12th.

We were lucky to have a beautiful day to enjoy the festivities we had going on here at the hospital. Attendees enjoyed:

- Complete hospital tours
- Discounted microchipping

- Otoscopy demonstrations
- Complimentary nail trims
- Milford Police K-9 demonstration
- Canine Good Citizen Evaluations
- Complimentary Day Care Day for our clients

- Raffles, food, and more!

Our staff enjoyed getting more time to talk to clients and see their pets in this relaxed setting.

We are looking forward to next year's open house and we hope more of our clients can join us!

Grooming Introduces Hydrosurge Technology!



Sheila bathing with the Hydrosurge.

Cutting edge technology is not just for our veterinary hospital! Our grooming salon is proud to have added a new *Hydrosurge* bathing unit.

This is no ordinary bathtub! It also works as a hydrotherapy device that delivers a vigorous,

penetrating, combing action spray of shampoo and water through a hand-held nozzle.

This spray penetrates down to the hair follicle to flush away dirt, dander, and debris while it feels like a soothing massage to the animal.

We are sure that your pet will come home happy, smelling wonderful, and best of all: clean! Next time your pet is scheduled for a grooming appointment, please don't hesitate to ask for more information on the *Hydrosurge* bath.

Puppies, Puppies, Puppies!

Here at Merrimack Veterinary Hospital we are offering discounted spay/neuter services to a unique organization known as **New England Dog Lift**. This 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization rescues puppies from over-run shelters in the southern states such as Virginia, South Carolina, Indiana and Maryland.

Since New England Dog Lift's incorporation three years ago they have adopted out about 300 dogs. When adopting from this organization you should be prepared for the following:

- An application must be completed.
- All existing pets in the home must be spayed/neutered and current with vaccines.
- A home visit will be conducted to ensure the proper environment for the puppy.
- New England Dog Lift will contact your veterinarian to learn more about how you have cared for past pets.

The adoption fee is \$250.00.

This covers travel expenses, spaying/neutering, all necessary vaccines and any medical care that may be needed in addition to one free month of *Frontline* and heartworm preventative.

New England Dog Lift is an all volunteer run organization that completely relies on foster homes to care for the dogs before they are adopted. They are always looking for additional foster homes. Please check out their website for more information at www.newenglanddoglift.com



Shelby—currently up for adoption through New England Dog Lift

“Brain Food”

As your dog ages you may start to notice some changes in his/her behavior. As dogs age, their brain is more vulnerable to free radicals that are naturally produced by the body. The damage that these free radicals inflict on the brain often cause the behavioral changes that you may see in your older dog.

Fortunately, Hill's Prescription Diet has formulated a food that can help improve these signs of aging. *Prescription Diet Canine b/d* is a blend of antioxidants and other nutrients that fight off brain aging. This diet has also been shown to improve the learning ability in older dogs.

If you own a senior dog that is experiencing behavior changes, please speak to our staff about the benefits of feeding *Prescription diet b/d*.



A Huge Thank You to Clients!

We want to take the time to thank all of our kind clients who helped us out with blankets when we needed them. The donations were amazing.

Many clients went shopping and bought us brand new blankets including comfy fleece! A special thank you to Elizabeth Woodrow for her kind monetary donation in memory of her dog

“Molly” for us to purchase blankets.

We also want to offer a big thank you to our client Mary Hermansen for donating two beautiful rabbit cages. Our rabbit patients will be very happy to live in one of these during their day stays!

Also a big thank you to our cli-

ents who continually bring in yummy baked goods, candy, and other great foods for our staff to enjoy.

We are proud to have such great relationships with our clients and their pets. Again, **THANK YOU EVERYONE!**





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Meet the MVH Staff

Veterinarians

Dr. Dennis Chmiel
Dr. Vicki Dapolito
Dr. Carolyn Fletcher
Dr. Shannon Baker

Hospital Management

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

Client Services

Jessica Janowski
Laura Harrison
Kay Comstock
John Boucher

Veterinary Nurses

Nabia Songer
Anita Hearn
Debra St. Laurent
Lisa Brackett
Julie Labrie
Brian Bernasconi

Kennel

Amy Durant (Kennel Coordinator)
Brian Bernasconi
Alicia Hieken
Megan Early
Corey Dupont

Grooming

Sherri Goodreau
Sheila O'Neil

Maintenance/Grounds

Bernie Theberge



Hours of Operation:

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday: 7:30 am-5:30 pm

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

Saturday: 8:30 am-1:00 pm