

Newsletter Spring ~ 2009



Tyler Herlein
(Read Tyler's
story inside)

Staff Highlights



Krista Larson is our Office Manager. She joined Summer Street Animal Clinic in June of 2008. Her background includes many years in customer service and most recently event planning at a private college. She and her husband Brad have two children, Clayton and Chloe. Their family also has a Golden Retriever named Lily and a Chihuahua named Jake. In her spare time, her favorite things include attending her kids' sporting events and bicycling.

Valerie Huss joined our Veterinary Technician team in late 2008. She is a graduate of Dallas City High School and the Veterinary Technician program at Coastal Carolina College in Jacksonville, North Carolina. She and her husband Joshua live outside of Dallas City, IL and have three sons: Dakota, Dustin and Drake as well as dogs, cats and horses as family pets. Their family enjoys motorcycle riding, boating and camping.



Katie Bryant is our part-time kennel assistant. Katie is a senior at Burlington High School. She has 2 dogs: Lucky, a blue tick hound and Ben, a Shi-Poo. Katie enjoys her job and quickly makes friends with pets who are boarding at Summer Street Animal Clinic. Katie enjoys being outdoors and sports.

Cover Photo

Front Row (L to R): Dr. Merlin Van Zee, Valerie Huss, Misty Bertlshofer, Rachel Hoelzen, Trisha Gerst, Cindy Orth, Dr. Heath Hillyard

Back Row (L to R): Krista Larson, Wendy Herlein, Chrissie Kienol-Berlett, Emily Shuey, Hanna Roth, Sue Menke

(Not Pictured: Kelli Schulz and Katie Bryant)

You're Invited . . .

To Visit Our Website!!!



<http://www.summerstreetanimalclinic.com>

Just some of what's waiting there for you? . . .

- Virtual tour of our hospital and facilities
- Baby pictures of new patients
- [On-Line Appointment](#) request
- [On-Line Prescription Refill](#) request
- Contact Email – [Questions](#) or [Comments](#)
- Doctors and staff pictures and bio's
- Services available at Summer Street Animal Clinic
- Helpful pet care guidelines
- Advice for caring for senior pets
- All forms . . . print and complete or [submit on-line](#)
 - ***New Client**
 - ***New Patient**
- Our most recent newsletter
- Directions to our hospital from ANYWHERE (just plug in your address)
- Useful links

Why Spay or Neuter?

Each year, millions of cats and dogs are euthanized simply because there are not enough homes for them all. As a responsible pet owner, you can make a difference and drastically reduce this number simply by spaying or neutering your pet. Spaying a female animal prior to her first heat cycle not only eliminates the potential for unwanted pregnancies, it also reduces her chances of developing breast, uterine and ovarian cancers, as well as serious infections later in life.

Neutering male animals reduces the risk of testicular and prostate cancer. It also reduces dominant and aggressive behaviors, as well as unwanted marking. Spaying or neutering not only helps the overpopulation of pets, it also helps our pets live longer and healthier lives!



It's Not Just The Shots!

You've just received a reminder from our clinic that your pet's annual vaccinations are due. You understand why your pet needs to be vaccinated for Rabies, but what about Leptosporosis? Bordetella? And, you've noticed your dog has been scratching an awful lot. Is it fleas? Allergies? Some type of infection? What should you do?

Indeed, your pet's yearly vaccination appointment is a great time to address these issues with your veterinarian. Our clinic tailors your pet's vaccines to their specific needs, and with your help, our doctors can diagnose and treat your pet's potential health problems early. You see, it's not just about the shots – it's also about your pet's annual physical exam and diagnostic testing that help your pet live a longer, healthier and happier life!

Tyler's Story . . .

Receiving the news that a loved one has just been diagnosed with cancer is devastating. The news is just as terrifying if the one being diagnosed with cancer is your beloved family pet.

In November 2007, Wendy was brushing her then five year old Golden Retriever, Tyler, when she noticed some unusual lumps on both sides of his neck and shoulders. The next day, Wendy took Tyler to the clinic to be examined by Dr. Van Zee. Dr. Van Zee conducted fine needle aspirates of the lumps and sent the cell samples to Iowa State University to be read in their laboratory. Shortly thereafter, Wendy received Tyler's diagnosis – cancer.

Tyler was diagnosed with a common, and fortunately treatable, form of cancer: lymphoma. Shortly after Tyler's diagnosis, Tyler began canine chemotherapy. Tyler began following the Wisconsin-Madison Chemotherapy Protocol in December 2007. His chemotherapy treatments were based on a time schedule that alternated the use of three different chemotherapy drugs that had to be administered through an IV catheter. Prior to each treatment, a sample of Tyler's blood was drawn to make sure his white blood cell count was in a safe enough range for him to undergo his treatments.

Sometimes, his white blood cell count would not be favorable, and his chemotherapy treatments would have to be put on hold for another week, prolonging his original treatment schedule.

Thus, Tyler became a "regular" at the clinic, often accompanying Wendy to work for his blood draws or his treatments. He often had to spend all day at the clinic, and soon became one of our favorite patients, as he was a kind and gentle friend to everyone who met him. Even after suffering through some unpleasant side effects from his chemotherapy – nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea – Tyler was the best patient, sitting patiently through his blood draws or while his chemotherapy drugs were being administered.



Our lives have been enriched by Tyler's presence and his brave fight against lymphoma is inspiring. We have all been rewarded as Tyler's cancer has been in remission since we began his chemotherapy treatment. Dogs diagnosed with lymphoma that go untreated often have only a few weeks to a few months to live, but now – over one year later – Tyler continues to be his same loving self. He still comes to the clinic with Wendy from time to

time – tail wagging and tongue lolling. He always seems happy to see us and we couldn't be happier to see him still doing so well!



Creepy Crawlies

Fleas – It is important to remember that with fleas, what you see is not all that you get! Although you may only spot a few adult fleas on your pet, those few fleas have the potential to lay several hundred flea eggs both on your pet and in your pet's environment! You may think that giving your pet regular flea baths or using a flea dip will resolve your problem, or that your pet will be protected by wearing a flea collar, but this is simply not true. You should also be wary of purchasing over-the-counter spot-on flea treatments to fight fleas as many are not only ineffective, but also contain harmful toxins that can even be deadly! Fortunately, there are several safe and much more effective products at your veterinary clinic to help combat flea problems. Topical products such as Vectra 3D, Frontline and Revolution, as well as the chewable Comfortis for dogs, kill fleas and protect your pet from flea infestation for one month. It is also important to remember that there is often no "quick fix" when it comes to eliminating fleas. Due to the flea's long and complex life cycle, it is often necessary to treat your pet for at least six months to eliminate fleas from the environment.

Ticks – Although you may think your pet can only pick up ticks in wooded areas, be aware that ticks can also make their way into your own backyard! Like fleas, they can also infest your pet and lead to some serious health risks. Not only are they unsightly, they also carry diseases such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme Disease. Many of the same products offered at your veterinary clinic that protect against fleas – Vectra 3D and Frontline for example, also protect your pet against ticks. For dogs, the Preventic Collar is another safe and effective form of protection against ticks.

Heartworms – If you are not familiar with heartworms, you should be. They are much more common in our area than you might think! Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. Thus, your pet is more likely to be infested with heartworms during the warm summer months. However, your pet can become infected with heartworms any time of the year. Thus, year round heartworm prevention is a must! Although heartworm disease can be treated if detected early enough, it is much more cost-effective to *prevent* heartworms rather than to treat heartworms. Heartworm medication can only be purchased from your veterinarian, and requires a simple blood test to be sure your pet has not already contracted the disease. You can purchase monthly heartworm prevention at your veterinary clinic in the form of Heartgard's meaty chews, or as a flavor tablet offered by Interceptor and Sentinel. Revolution is also labeled to protect your feline friends against heartworms.

Internal Parasites – The good news about internal parasites is that if you protect your pet against heartworms, you are also protecting your pet against some of the more common types of internal parasites such as roundworms, hookworms and whipworms. However, there are other internal parasites like tapeworms, giardia, and coccidia that heartworm prevention does not protect against. Thus, providing your veterinary clinic with a stool sample from your pet is an effective way of determining whether or not your pet is infected with internal parasites, and if necessary, what type of medication can be prescribed to eliminate the parasites.

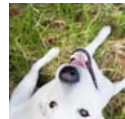


We are VERY excited!



Yes, I'm going to need more facts.

Huh? Why?



The new Burlington Dog Park is coming soon . . .

I'm gonna run SO fast!



And play ball!



And roll in the grass!



WHO: People with dogs of all shapes and sizes may use the dog park. Because it will be neutral territory, dogs will enjoy each other's company rather than exhibit territorial behavior.

WHAT: A desirable spot where dog owners can take their pets for the purposes of exercise and socializing, resulting in physical and social/behavioral health. The vast number of communities, which already have dog parks, have discovered that, although not the original intent, it also tends to become a place for pet owners to socialize.

WHEN: Late Spring—2009

WHERE: The City Council has authorized the location of a dog park in Dankwardt Park, across from the city pool (the location of the former BMX track).

- The Dog Park will be governed and maintained by the Burlington Parks & Recreation Dept.
- There will be a registration requirement of being in compliance with Burlington's required vaccinations for a dog license. There will also be a nominal yearly fee to belong—\$5.00.
- FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact: **Phil Collier** at (319) 753-8117.

