

InTown Veterinary Group is dedicated to providing clients with an unparalleled range of veterinary care options.

The doctors and staff at Muddy Creek Animal Care Center are always available no matter how seemingly small the question. We care about you and your pets. If you have any concerns please call.

Muddy Creek Animal Care Center
993 Haverhill Street,
Rowley, MA 01969

Phone:
(978) 948-2345

**24-Hr Emergency at
Essex County Veterinary
Referral Hospital:**
(978) 725-5544

www.InTownMuddyCreek.com

Medical Notes

Fun in the Sun!

After a long winter, followed by a cold, damp spring in New England, we all look forward to a warm relaxing summer. This is when we like to spend time outdoors with family, friends & our pets. Yet, with the warm weather come some pet hazards that should be considered to make everyone's summer happy, healthy and safe.



Delilah - ready to go!
Photo Credit: Katherine Bosyk

Pets in the car: Even on comfortable days outdoors, the sun can heat the interior of your car to 120 degrees or higher in a matter of minutes. Leaving the windows open a crack does little to slow the rise in cabin temperature. For quick errands, especially on warm days, please leave your pet at home.

Provide water: Pets need free access to fresh water all year round, but this is especially important during the warmer summer months. Please check your pet's outdoor water supply several times a day, take plenty of water with you on excursions, and make sure there is water indoors after your day's adventures.

Sunblock: While your pet's coat does provide some protection from the sun's rays, it does not offer complete protection. Pets commonly have sparse hair around the tips of the ears, the bridge of the nose, and the belly. Any area of your pet that has been shaved for any reason, will also benefit from a regional application of sunblock. Sunblock should be applied to potentially affected areas every 4-6 hours during outdoor activity. Not all sunscreens are safe for your pets, so please consult your veterinarian before purchasing or applying sunscreen to your pet.

Dog days of summer: Hot and humid days can be especially dangerous for pets. In particular, long haired pets, juveniles and seniors, and any pets with snub noses like Pugs and Bulldogs (brachycephalic) may all be susceptible to complications from seasonal temperatures or overexertion. Overweight pets and pets with thick coats are also at greater risk for heat related problems. During the hottest, most humid days keep your pets indoors, provide access to water and (if possible) make sure there is a breeze, air conditioning or some means by which they can keep cool. Limit outdoor activities to short walks and consider a trip to the vet if breathing



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*For more information, feel free to use the medical index on our website.
www.InTownMuddyCreek.com, then click "Medical Index".*

Boarding

Come One, Come All:

Summertime fun - upcoming events at the Loft!

Class Photos: This summer's Little Paws Loft Photo shoot will be held on **Thursday, June 11th**. The theme is a surprise! A bandanna will be provided for your pet, so please sign up with a Little Paws Loft attendant so we can have enough for everyone!

Hot Dogz BBQ Party:

The first Little Paws Loft holiday party (held in December 2008) was such a success we have decided to also host a summer party! This time we will be outside and it will be a BBQ. Bring your furry friend, a snack and we will provide the burgers, hot dogs and kiddie pools! Mark your calendars, **July 18th from 4:00 - 5:30 pm**. (July 25th is the rain date). Can't wait to see you there!



From Left to Right: Molly, Blakely, Bella, Dazy, Dooney and Happy.



Got Fun?

Muddy Creek prides itself on being a facility that offers top notch dog and cat boarding, and veterinary care. Small dog daycare caters to dogs up to 35lbs and is provided through Little Paws Loft. It has always been a popular service and we continue to provide it to our Little Paws boarders.

In April we officially started our large puppy daycare program. This program is for dogs up to 8 months old who need to work off some excess energy. The dogs spend the day running after balls, running after each other and swimming in kiddie pools (or sitting on top of them once they have been carefully flipped upside down, like Riley pictured here).

Large puppy daycare member, Riley.

If you think your pup could use some socializing or serious play time please talk to one of our client care coordinators! As we all know, a tired dog, is a happy dog! Call today. 🐾



Come Visit Us

Over the past few years Muddy Creek has had the pleasure of meeting some of the brightest young ladies in our local communities. We have had several Brownie and Girlscout Troops tour our three boarding departments, grooming department and spent time with our veterinarians for brief demonstrations on basic animal health.

This year we have had the opportunity to meet Troop 262 of Groveland, Troop 484 of Topsfield and Troop 358 of Georgetown.

Muddy Creek welcomes the opportunity of sharing our knowledge and love of animals with the children in our local community.



We invite your Brownie, Girlscout, Boyscout, Cubscout or any other organized troop to come visit us. If you would like to set up a tour for your troop, please contact Brianna at (978) 948-2345. 🐾

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Pros and Cons of Boarding

A family vacation is something most people look forward to every year. It's usually synonymous with fun, sharing good times and creating life-long memories. However, the important task of finding someone to care for their pets while they're away is a difficult one for many owners. The fear of not finding dependable, reliable and appropriately nurturing care for pets has caused families to cancel vacations.

Owners typically have two choices with regard to pet care: they can get a pet sitter to come to their home or, they can board their pets at an animal care facility. Each option has its advantages and disadvantages.

One option is to have a pet sitter come to your home. This option may help to alleviate a pet's anxiety, as your pet will be in its own environment when you are away. This person can also collect your mail and water your plants, but how much time will they be interacting with your pet(s) during each visit? Will your pet be insured while under their care? If a medical emergency should occur, are they properly trained to handle it? How much animal care knowledge do they really have? These are all questions you should be asking a pet sitter and considering yourself.

However, if you opt to board your pets at Muddy Creek Animal Care Center, you can rest assured that your pets are being cared for by trained professionals. Our staff members have extensive animal care and medical training. Muddy Creek is also a full service veterinary hospital, with services available to your pets six days a



Act Quick!
Spaces are filling up. Please call today to make reservations!

week. Knowing this should provide peace of mind.

In considering your options, it is important to note that Muddy Creek requires that all boarders be up to date on their vaccines and that they have received shots for rabies and distemper, to minimize the potential spread of disease. You will need proof prior to dropping off your pet, so please ask if you have questions.

Feline boarding at the Cat Tail Inn provides each family of cats with an individually ventilated condo. The Cat Tail Inn's environment is calm, soothing and friendly, and many enriching services are available to your cat(s) while you're away, including T.V. Time, Sun Bathing, and Grooming to name a few. We encourage phone calls, so no

matter how near or far you are, inquiring about your pet is always welcome!

Taking that annual, family trip together should be a time of care-free fun. While you are away, your cats will be comfortable in their clean, individual, accommodations, surrounded by their toys and belongings from home.

We want you to thoroughly enjoy that long awaited trip together knowing that your animals are being cared for by an attentive, compassionate staff. So, as you plan your trip, please consider Muddy Creek for your boarding needs; all you have to do is have fun.



In Times of Need (update)

This past February, a three-family home in Lawrence, MA was destroyed by a fire. In the midst of the blaze, Sgt. Cerrillo, one of the fire fighters on the scene that day, found a female tortoise-shell cat, remarkably, still alive, on the second floor. It was estimated that she had been trapped in the burning apartment for approximately 10-15 minutes.

"Pretty Kitty", as she has been affectionately renamed, was treated with oxygen at the scene and then transported to InTown's Essex County Veterinary Referral Hospital. With no where to go, InTown provided Pretty with shelter at Muddy Creek Animal Care Center, until the owners could rebuild their lives & bring her back home.

Pretty is still being cared for by the Animal Care Attendants at the CatTail Inn. They have been attending to her physical needs, while simultaneously, helping her to readjust mentally.

Pretty's family have already suffered and lost so much in the house fire, and in an effort to help them re-establish themselves, Muddy Creek and the Cat Tail Inn staff members have been caring for Pretty at no cost to her family.

We all hope that Ms. Pretty will soon be reunited with her family and that their tragedy will quickly become a distant memory.



Summer Grooming

Spring has sprung, the warm weather is finally here. Unfortunately, along with it come our furry friends' arch enemies, fleas and ticks, as well as the shedding of their winter coats.

The Muddy Creek grooming staff is happy to take care of all your pets grooming needs, as well as evicting those unwanted visitors from your friend's coat. Along with our usual services this season we are offering a complimentary conditioning treatment or oatmeal bath

depending on the type of coat your pet has, with your next grooming.

These treatments will help hydrate your pet's coat and skin after a long drying winter. Please mention our special when booking your next appointment.

We look forward to seeing you and your pet and wish you a safe, enjoyable summer.



Save the Date: Dogtoberfest 2009



Dogtoberfest 2009 will be held on **Sunday October 18th** from 11 am - 3pm. We hope to see you all again with your furry family members!

Please call or stop by to speak to a client care coordinator for details, or keep an eye on the website. New information will be posted soon & regularly at www.InTownVet.com/Dogtoberfest.html.



Strutting their Stuff



Muddy Creek's feline crusaders, the Mud Cats, were at it again in this year's Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society's (MRFRS) annual Strut for Strays.

The MRFRS plays a vital role for Massachusetts and New Hampshire felines, it is one of the largest no-kill shelters in Massachusetts, providing housing, food and medical care for homeless animals, and low-cost micro-chipping for owned cats. The MRFRS' monthly spay/neuter clinics for feral (un-owned) cats have been cited by the American Veterinary Medical Association as a model for other population-control programs nation-wide.



The springtime Strut For Strays has become an important fund-raiser for MRFRS, helping the organization fund its efforts to provide treatment, shelter and place more than 14,000 cats in new homes since the society's inception in 1992. The fourteenth annual event consisted of a 3-mile walk through Historic Newburyport on Sunday, May 17.

Muddy Creek's team of walkers, the Mud Cats, with the help of generous donors, raised \$775 for the MRFRS this year. In 2008, the Mudcats raised over \$500.

To find out more about the MRFRS go online at www.mrfrs.org.



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becomes labored or you notice other changes in your pet's overall health.

Heatstroke: Any pet exposed to seasonal temperatures may develop a serious complication known as heatstroke. Clinical signs of heatstroke may include panting, anxiety, disorientation, rapid heartbeat, vomiting, and collapse. If these signs are observed, or you are concerned about heatstroke please contact Muddy Creek or your local emergency hospital.

By following these simple recommendations and safety tips your entire family will enjoy a happy and healthy summer season.

