



Muddy Creek Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2 | Summer 2010

We hope you enjoy the new look and feel of the Muddy Creek newsletter. As IVG and Muddy Creek Animal Care Center rebrands, you will begin to see a number of changes to our materials. What remains unchanged is our dedication and commitment to providing you and your pets with the highest standards of veterinary medical care.

*G. Ames Prentiss
CEO, IVG*

Muddy Creek Animal Care Center

993 Haverhill Street
Rowley, MA 01969
PHONE: 978.948.2345
FAX: 978.948.7840
GROOMING: 978.948.5361

In with the New

Medical Notes

Update on Feline Rabies Vaccination

By Sylvia Reiser, DVM

For public safety reasons, Massachusetts law requires that all dogs, cats and ferrets be current on their rabies vaccine. A very effective vaccine that provides a long-lasting duration of immunity has been available for cats for decades. However, in recent years, it has been discovered that this vaccine carries a risk for felines; it has been associated with an increased incidence of a fibrosarcoma (an invasive skin cancer) at the injection site. This side effect is not unique to rabies vaccinations, but is estimated to occur in roughly one out of every 10,000 rabies vaccine injections, far more frequently than for most other injections.

As a result of these recent findings, a new formulation of the rabies vaccine, known as Purevax® (aka the *canarypox* vaccine) has become available. Developed in the mid 1990's specifically for cats, this vaccine is an effective deterrent of rabies and does not appear to have side effects in excess of any other routine injection. The one major difference is that the State of Massachusetts has not approved this vaccine for more than a one year duration of immunity, so it cannot qualify as a 3 year vaccine. The Purevax® injection also carries a modestly increased cost, on average, approximately \$7 higher than the traditional vaccine.

At this time Muddy Creek offers both options for our feline patients. The most appropriate vaccine depends on your kitty's age, health status and the reason for which the vaccine is being administered. Our veterinarians are very happy to discuss options and to help plan a vaccination regimen that is safe, effective and appropriate for your pet. Feel free to contact our medical personnel if you have more questions about your cat's routine health care.




Muddy Creek Matters

Community Outreach


By Brianna Nordengren

Over the past several years Muddy Creek has participated in many community-based events and projects. 2010 has already brought many new and exciting endeavors. We are proud to work along side Merrimac River Feline Rescue Society (MRFRS) as a *Meet and Greet* adoption site. We regularly have kitties in need of homes staying at Cat Tail Inn. Please stop in and meet them!

In addition, Team MudCats strutted for strays on May 23rd and raised over \$1,000 for the MRFRS. We continue to offer tours and field trips for various organizations and have already had 6 local Brownie and Boy Scout troop visits. In collaboration with local schools, we hosted North Shore Community College Veterinary Technician Students during their surgical rotation in April, and we also provided a job shadow program for Triton Regional High School students. 




School Vacation and Boarding

School vacations are just around the corner! If you are taking a family vacation this summer don't forget your pet's vacation plans. Muddy Creek offers daycare Monday through Friday. If you are planning a day trip and you don't want your best friend to be home alone, sign him/her up for daycare. It's never too early to start thinking about summer plans! Call us to reserve a room today at 978-948-2345. 

Employee Corner

Thank you Krista, Sandy & Heather!


Muddy Creek would like to recognize Krista Nowlan, Sandy Roy and Heather Smith for being Muddy Creek All-Stars! These ladies show their dedication on a regular basis by frequently coming in on their days off and helping fellow co-workers when they are busy. Krista, Heather and Sandy have been with Muddy Creek for over four years and consistently give loving

care to the pets entrusted to us. Krista is often found in the grooming department brushing and bathing all the patients or scheduling grooming appointments. Sandy can be found assisting the doctor in caring for and treating our hospital patients. Heather is the small pet "guru", often found in Cat Tail Inn or Little Paws Loft. If you haven't had a chance to meet them, please stop by and ask for them! Many thanks Krista, Sandy and Heather. 

DOGTOBERFEST 2010

Save the date: Dogtoberfest this year will be on Sunday September 19, 2010!

A rain date is scheduled for Sunday October 17.

While Dogtoberfest had originally been scheduled for Sept. 26, it was brought to our attention that the Salem Animal Rescue League was also hosting a fund raising event on the same day. As good neighbors we have opted to move Dogtoberfest to Sunday Sept. 19. We look forward to seeing you and all of your dogs, kids, friends & family. Now's the time to start planning those costumes! 

In Memoriam

May 1994-April 2010



Hello, I'm Abbey.

I was a camper here at Muddy Creek. I had been coming to visit my friends here at Muddy Creek for almost 10 years! I loved it here! Everyone knew me and looked forward to seeing me as much as I enjoyed seeing them.

My master and mistress named me Westminster Abbey, but most folks just called me Abbey. I have three brothers named Big Ben, Robin Hood, and Sherwood Forest. Quite a band of merry men and women were we! We would charitably distribute love and affection to any and all poor souls in need. And we're all English Springer Spaniels, of course!

In my younger days I would take long walks on the beach and through town. I was a world class ball player, and could chase down a fly ball faster than a Red Sox outfielder. Once I got the ball I would sit until someone took it, and threw it again. And they always did!

I also used to love my Kong toy. It always had a treat hidden inside. My family thought they could trick me, but I always unraveled the puzzle and found the hidden treasure. Either that or I simply chewed through the toy until the treat fell out!

As I grew older, I led a more reflective life. I still took walks on the beach, but they were shorter and more peaceful. My bed was just off the kitchen, where I could survey the activities of the house. It was also close to the back yard door, as I liked to go out a lot! I still enjoyed treats, but preferred them to be less labor intensive. If you handed one to me I would gladly take it!

I led a wonderful life thanks to my loving friends and family, and embraced each day with them. When my family had to travel I always looked forward to seeing my friends at Muddy Creek, they are loving and caring, truly a home away from home.



Summer-time tips from our Groomers

By Louise Cain & Christie Blaine

Grooming



Dogs in Water

Anyone who owns a long-haired dog knows that the dog's coat can easily become matted, especially when wet. One solution is to shave

your dog or to clip his coat to a short "puppy" cut. Many owners find this option especially desirable in the summer months when hot weather is an issue.

Another answer is to thoroughly comb out the dog's coat before any bathing or before a jump in the pond or lake. After a romp in the ocean, you'll need to get the salt out of your dog's coat, so remember to rinse your dog thoroughly.



Tick Season is Here

Muddy Creek's groomers can readily find ticks while washing and blow drying your pet as the coat hairs separate and expose the skin during the process. With or without a bath, you can achieve the same effect by using a hair dryer on the cool setting. When you are blow drying you should even be able to see tiny deer ticks.

We hope these tips help you to have a happy, healthy summer!



Toy Dog Lecture

Presented by Kathryn Wrubel, PhD

Ankle Biter! Napoleon Complex! Little Man's Disease!

Are you the owner of a small breed dog? Have you heard any of these terms used to describe your small, furry lovebug? If you would like to understand your pup better, our Behaviorist, Dr. Kathryn Wrubel, will be giving a lecture for pet-owners on altering problematic small dog behaviors. The one-hour lecture will be given Tuesday, June 22nd at 7 PM. If you are interested, please register online at www.IVGHospitals.com, follow the link for Pet Owner Lecture Series, see a client care coordinator or call us at 978-948-2345. We don't want these small dogs to hear us talking about them, so please note that *dogs will be unable to attend.*

