



Lakeland

Veterinary Hospital

www.lakelandvet.net



7372 Wolda Road · Baxter, MN 56425 · (218) 829-1709

Spring 2010

4Dx Test Helps Keep Your Dog Healthy

In order to protect the health of your dog in this region, you need to test your dog for parasite infections every year. We use a test called the SNAP 4Dx® that allows us to screen for heartworm disease and tick infections. The lakes area has very high levels of tick infections, including Lyme disease and anaplasmosis. Up to 50% of the dogs in this area have been infected! By testing annually, in less than 10 minutes we can see if your dog has been exposed and what additional steps will help prevent any problems. For more information, visit www.dogsandticks.com to learn how ticks can hurt your four legged family members.

In addition to annual healthcare, each dog in this area needs to be on tick con-

trol. There are many products on the market. We personally use and stock Frontline Plus. In our experience Frontline has the best water resistance and is the safest for your dogs and cats. This is applied monthly to the skin and you should start putting it on once the snow

Protect Your Best Friend

has begun to melt. Ticks come out in March and stick around at least through November. Ticks are tough little bugs and unfortunately no product is 100% perfect. If your tick control isn't working well, we can talk about alternative products or other tips to reduce the number of ticks. Dogs and cats that don't use any tick control are at a high risk of problems.

Is Your Pet Showing Signs Of Aging?

Is your pet less responsive to play? Do they sleep more during the day and wake more at night? Are they having accidents in the house? Do they wander aimlessly, appear confused, or vocalize more than usual?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, it is time to ask your veterinarian about Novifit. Novifit is a new drug for Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS), often called senility in dogs and cats. CDS is a common cause for euthanasia or surrender of pets to shelters. Pets often become less aware of their surroundings, have urine or stool accidents in the house, or change their sleep/wake cycles. These are normal aging changes in the brain. Novifit is a safe and effective way to help reduce the signs of CDS. Results are typically seen within 1 to 2 months.



If you have a senior pet showing signs of CDS, contact one of our veterinarians today to see if Novifit can help your pet.

New Insulin Available for Cats

Diabetes Mellitus (DM) is a condition where the body does not produce enough insulin, resulting in high blood sugar. Symptoms may include increased thirst or urination, increased appetite, weight loss and weakness. Left untreated, it is usually fatal.



DM is a common condition of dogs and cats. Although not curable, it can often be managed successfully. Unlike in people, DM in dogs and cats can

not typically be managed with diet changes alone. Dogs and cats require insulin injections to control their blood sugar.

There are several types of insulin that can be used in dogs. Contrary to popular belief however, cats are not small dogs. Now there is a unique insulin designed just for cats. ProZinc is a veterinary specific insulin designed for use in cats only. ProZinc is a long acting insulin that releases slowly over time to help maintain normal blood sugar levels throughout the day. It is the first long-acting insulin approved by the FDA specifically for cats.

If you have a senior pet or a pet showing any of the symptoms listed above, contact one of our veterinarians today to schedule a physical evaluation.



DON'T FORGET!



Heartworm & tick season is here!



Call for an appointment today! (218) 829-1709

ProHeart 6 is Back Again in 2010

ProHeart 6 is an injectable heartworm preventative that also protects against intestinal hookworm infection. Because ProHeart is an injection given in the hospital by your veterinarian, there are no pills to remember (or forget) to give your dog every month.



There are guidelines established by the FDA for use of ProHeart 6. Not every dog may be a candidate for ProHeart 6.

If you are interested in ProHeart 6 as a heartworm preventative for your dog, please contact our hospital to get more information.

Time for a spring cleanup?

Don't forget Lakeland provides full service grooming! If your dog is shedding all over your house or just dragging in too much mud, our experienced groomers can help.

We groom all breeds of dogs and cats. Short-haired breeds can benefit from a bath and de-shedding. We can also help if your furry friend rolls in something smelly or has an unfortunate meeting with a skunk!

Many times we can combine your grooming with your veterinarian visit or boarding stay for your convenience. Call us for an appointment today; spring is a busy season for us!



New Advances for Chronic Kidney Disease

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a leading cause of death in pets. Often related to aging, CKD is the most common cause of death in older dogs and cats. CKD shows few symptoms in the early stages of the disease. Without blood tests, it frequently goes unnoticed by even the most observant of pet owners. For this reason, we strongly encourage senior blood screening on dogs and cats 7 years and older.

Previously, when we diagnosed early stages of CKD, few options to slow the progression were available to us. The first option is to alter the diet to reduce the stress on the kidneys. Hill's Prescription k/d food is a low protein, low phosphorus diet designed to ease the work load on the kidneys and slow the progression of CKD. Now we also have

Rubenal, a natural substance that helps to reduce damage to the kidneys and protein loss in the urine. A chewable tablet, it is easy to administer to both dogs and cats.

My own dog, Bailey, a 14 year old dachshund was diagnosed with CKD last fall.

He was placed on Hill's Prescription k/d diet to help slow the progression. After 4 months, his kidney values were slowly rising, a typical result of CKD. In January, Rubenal became available at our clinic and he was started on a twice daily dosing with his food. He enjoyed the additional treat each day and today his kidney values have returned to normal.



Deb Piegras, DVM

Lakeland Veterinary Hospital's Staff

Doctors:

Deb Piegras, DVM,
Hospital Director
Matt Eberts, DVM,
Medical Director
Molly Anderson, DVM

Managers:

Kim Erickson, PHR, CVPM
Joyce Brick, Office Manager
Stacy Feters, Boarding Mgr

Technicians & Assistant:

Kathy, CVT, Lead Tech
Roxie, CVT
Gretchen, CVT
Colleen, CVT
Jenni, Assistant
Darla, Assistant

Maintenance:

Glenn

Groomers:

Dianna
Julie
Karen

Boarding Staff:

Jennie, Asst Boarding Mgr
Leilani
Cassandra
Tara
Jessica

Animal Care Attendants:

Kathy
Mary



LVH Welcomes

Dr. Molly Anderson to Team

Dr. Molly Anderson is a new addition to the Lakeland family.

Although raised in Rochester, MN, this 2009 University of MN graduate is happy to return to the Brainerd area where she was born. Her own family consists of a husband, Travis, and a 1 year-old female pit-bull mix named Violet.

Special veterinary interests include dentistry, surgery and client education. When not taking care of patients at the hospital, Dr. Anderson enjoys reading, painting and baking goodies for her Lakeland family.



LVH Partners with Veterinary Specialists

Veterinarians are divided into two broad groups, depending on their level of education. The first group is what we call generalists. Dr. Piepgras, Dr. Eberts, and Dr. Anderson are all generalists. This means they have the training and experience to handle a wide variety of problems, both simple & complicated. Despite the knowledge & skills that our staff maintains, there are situations where your pet will benefit from enhanced skills. This is where the second group, specialists, fit.

Veterinary specialists are vets who have focused their practice on one specific area of veterinary medicine. As part of this focus, specialists attain more education (called a residency), limit the type of cases they handle, and have to pass very difficult tests to prove they are truly experts in their specialty.

We are thrilled to be able to offer two specialty services that work out of our

hospital in Baxter. Up until recently in order to seek specialist care, you had to travel to the Twin Cities. Now your pet can receive both surgical & dermatological care without having to leave the area. This allows us to continue offering the highest level of care right from our doors. We would like to acquaint you with the specialists we work with:

Calvin Kobluk, DVMACVS is a veterinary surgeon who travels to LVH on an as-needed basis. He is based in St. Cloud and has decades of experience in performing surgery on animals in Canada, California and Minnesota. With his vast experience, Dr. Kobluk can perform very difficult surgeries on complicated cases right under our roof. We utilize his services for complex broken bones, TPLO surgery & difficult soft tissue cases. We handle the pre-operative care and anesthesia and he does the surgery. Working

together, we make a post-operative plan that will offer the best possible recovery after surgery. All can be done without the need to drive to the cities. We have worked with Dr. Kobluk for over 2 years and we have been very pleased with the cases he has helped us heal.

The second specialty service we partner with is McKeever Dermatology Clinics. This is a clinic that specializes in diseases of the skin and allergy management. McKeever Dermatology Clinics has three veterinarians (representing decades of experience!) that offer specialized care in the management of skin and ear diseases. On a quarterly basis, they visit our hospital and see cases. We now can provide specialist skin care, including allergy testing, directly out of our hospital.

The team approach of your regular vet combined with a specialist offers the highest quality of care to your pet's skin.

Frequently Asked Questions at LVH

An investment in your pet's veterinary care is an investment in a relationship with a veterinarian that will ensure quality care throughout your pet's lifetime. Every pet owner has different ideas on what is acceptable pet health care. Your veterinarian can guide you through the health options available for your pet.

Why can't veterinarians advise, diagnose and/or prescribe medications over the phone and save me money and time? For legal reasons, veterinarians cannot prescribe medications for pets they have not examined. To provide the highest level of care, provide an accurate diagnosis, and plan a successful course of treatment, your veterinarian needs to physically examine your pet.

Why shouldn't I purchase vaccines and medications from catalogs and over the Internet? A pharmaceutical purchase from your veterinarian is an investment in a business that will provide long-term health care for your pet. No Internet pharmacy cares as much about your pet as your veterinarian. Some online pharmacies and catalogs represent le-

gitimate, reputable pharmacies, but others may be fronts for businesses operating in violation of the law.

Many drugs can be dangerous to your pet if not properly prescribed and monitored by your veterinarian. Most online medications are within 3 to 5% of the cost charged by most veterinarians. The savings are minimal. An additional consideration is that many products purchased through Internet pharmacies are not guaranteed by the pharmacy or the manufacturer.

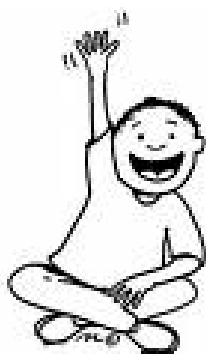
How can I save money on veterinary costs? Avoiding the need for emergency care and being proactive in preventative care can save money over the lifetime of a pet.

- ✓ *Preventative medicine* helps reduce medical costs in both humans and pets.
- ✓ *Regular physical examinations*, current vaccines, and regular parasite control help prevent disease.
- ✓ *Avoiding dangerous situations* through obedience training, leash use, indoor lifestyle, and keeping pets away from

toxic products can help owners avoid significant costs associated with a pet emergency.

Why do prices for the same procedures vary so much among different veterinarians? Each practice has different expenses that fees must cover. These fees do not always reflect the same set of services, though there may be certain basic procedures in common. The cost of pet health care reflects the full range of quality care provided to your pet. Different drugs, anesthetics, and antibiotics affect the cost of services. Also, different techniques may be used, as well as different products, overhead, and philosophies.

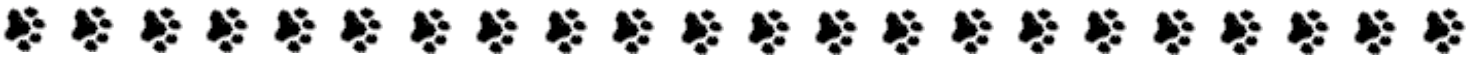
Brought to you by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation. Helping secure the future of the veterinary medical profession in Minnesota by funding scholarships, animal health, public and professional education as well as projects and organizations that promote the health and well being of animals in Minnesota. For the full list of Q&A, go to www.mvma.org and choose "Cost of Compassion".





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Options Available for Heartworm Disease Prevention & Testing

Heartworm disease continues to be a problem in the lakes area. This is a parasite that is spread by mosquitoes and, if left untreated, will kill your dog. The number of heartworm cases we see at Lakeland Veterinary Hospital has been very steady for the past 5 years. Fortunately, we have some great products that can prevent this infection.

The most important step you need to take with your dog is to put them on a heartworm preventative by June 1st. It is vital to use preventative medication because heartworm disease is much easier to prevent than it is to treat. There are 2 great options for protecting your dog from heartworm infection, Heartgard Plus and ProHeart 6. Based on the biology of the heartworm, in this area of the country you only need to give the medication for 6 months to protect your pet. If you travel south during the winter, let us know so we can modify our plans to protect your dog.

Heartgard is a chewable tablet that is given every 30 days from, June 1st through November 1st. Heartgard Plus also kills two of the most common intestinal worms, hookworms and roundworms, so it controls a variety of parasites in addition to heartworms.



ProHeart 6 is an injectable heartworm preventative. A single injection is given in the hospital prior to June 1st and your dog is protected for the entire heartworm season. There is no risk of forgotten or late doses, or risk that your dog vomits up the pill. ProHeart 6 also protects against hookworms, a common intestinal parasite.

The second important step in managing heartworm disease is to test your dog once a year for heartworm infection. By the time heartworm infection causes your dog to show signs, the worms have already caused permanent damage.

Catching infections early allow us to prevent as much damage as possible. In addition to testing for heartworm, the 4DX test screens for 2 common tick infections, Lyme and Anaplasma.

Cats are at risk for heartworm infection, too. In the past we haven't diagnosed heartworm infection in cats, but with each summer getting hotter and longer, the risk is increasing. Cats that are infected with heartworm, often do not show symptoms, but die suddenly from a blockage to the heart. Fortunately, there is a new test that can diagnose heartworm infection in cats. There is also Heartgard for cats available to protect your cat against this deadly infection. Please talk to one of our veterinarians to determine if your cat should be on heartworm prevention as well.

Please don't forget to get your heartworm preventative by June 1st. This will allow us to protect your family's friend from a very serious disease!

Does Your Pet Need Boarding?

Not sure what to do with you pet while the rest of your family is away? Look no further than LVH's boarding facility! We can care for you pet for the day, the weekend or your entire vacation.

The boarding staff at Lakeland is well trained, compassionate & energetic. They truly enjoy getting to know your pets and treat them like family. Our crew makes your pets comfortable with blankets, food & water, as well as treats and toys (as long as they are allowed to have them). We can handle special diet and medication needs as well.

In addition to our awesome boarding staff, you can be assured of professional, high-quality medical care should the need arise. This is an advantage only offered by a facility that operates along with a veterinary hospital.

Next time you're thinking of leaving town, leave your pet with us. We'll handle the details so you can have a great time without worrying about your four-legged family members!