

the Snoot Report



Snoot Snyder,
Vetcetera Spokesdog

News for Pet Owners from Vetcetera Pet Healthcare Centre

Special
Autumn
Edition



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Vetcetera Welcomes New Associate Vet

A Message from Julie Buzby Snyder

As our Vetcetera family has grown over these past five years, so has the Snyder family. I am blessed to have three precious children and a career that I am passionate about. Interaction with my staff, clients and patients is one of the highlights of my days.

In order to balance family needs, continued time with current clients and yet still grow the practice, we are excited to announce the addition of a second doctor to Vetcetera. We will welcome Dr. Colin Chaves, our first associate, to the practice in November.

While having a colleague to confer with has been a dream of mine for a long time, the right person seemed to have come to us this fall, almost miraculously. Dr. Chaves and I share a like passion for veterinary medicine, love for animals, philosophy on client care and vision for Vetcetera.

It is very important to me that our clients always feel loved and welcomed at Vetcetera. We hope you think of us as a family you can count on to take care of your four-legged family members. We appreciate the trust and confidence that you have placed in us.

I intend this transition to a two-doctor practice to improve both the level of care we can provide your pets and the degree of satisfaction we provide to you.

About Dr. Colin Chaves

Some of Colin's earliest memories are of watching with wonder the antics of Orange, his black cat. Since those early days, Colin has done many things, yet has always held a sense of awe toward animals, particularly dogs and cats.

After high school, Colin served four years in the military. He then enrolled in The George Washington University and graduated with a BS in Biology, summa cum laude.

After receiving his bachelor's degree he spent nine months traveling all over Europe, three of which were spent working on a horse farm in Norway. Upon his return to the U.S., Colin studied at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia, where he received his DVM.

Since then he has taken great pleasure in serving as a small animal practitioner in Jefferson, Maryland.

Since 1993, Colin has visited and worked in a number of veterinary



Dr. Colin Chaves, Max and Marley.

practices as an assistant, technician, student and veterinarian. From the moment he saw Vetcetera, he recognized it was a very special place.

Colin has never lost that sense of wonder for animals he had as a child. He lives with wife Niki, newborn son Aaron, and their pets – two dogs and four cats.



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Dog Flu: Rumors and Reality

Now confirmed in canine pet populations in Florida, New York and California, the newly emerging canine influenza virus will likely soon become a concern for dog owners in Schuylkill County.

The virus causes acute respiratory illness and seems to distress pets in two ways. The most common sign of the infection is a mild cough that may last for one to three weeks. The more severe cases are characterized by high fever, nasal discharge and pneumonia. One to ten percent of dogs developing pneumonia will not survive the disease.

Canine flu was first identified in Florida's racing greyhounds. Then more cases broke out at dog tracks all over the country.

This mutation of the flu virus is thought to have jumped from horses to dogs. It is a highly unusual phenomenon sparking joint research from several U.S. veterinary colleges and the Center for Disease Control Influenza Branch. The risk of transmission to humans is unknown but thought to be unlikely at this time, according to experts.

Since this is a viral infection, similar to a person suffering from the flu or a cold, there is no specific treatment. Veterinarians are treating critical patients with intravenous fluids, antibiotics for secondary bacterial infections and some doctors advocate the use of antiviral agents, though they are not licensed for use in dogs.



Because the canine population has no immunity to this virus, virtually all dogs that are exposed will become infected. About 80 percent will show some signs of infection.

From exposure, it will take a dog from two to five days to begin coughing and then the virus will run its course for up to 10 days. Coughing dogs should be strictly quarantined while sick and for a couple weeks after they stop coughing.

About 20 percent of dogs will not develop clinical signs after exposure to this virus yet will still be contagious to other dogs. Since one dog in five will display no symptoms the spread of this flu will be difficult if not impossible to control.

The virus is thought to spread in the same manner as the human flu, meaning that contaminated objects and even people may carry the virus between dogs.

One of the lead researchers, Dr. Cynda Crawford of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine says, "Once dogs have recovered from the infection, as the vast majority do, they have protective immunity for at least 18 months."

Canine flu symptoms can look like kennel cough – another infectious, highly contagious respiratory syndrome in dogs. The vaccination for kennel cough will not protect against canine influenza.

Given the start of indoor showing/training season, as well as pet movement due to recent hurricanes and the upcoming holiday boarding season, increased reports of outbreaks are expected all across the nation. A common sense approach with regard to germ transmission should be used whenever dogs are placed in close company.

Development of a vaccination for canine flu is currently underway.

For more information, log on to www.vetcetera.com and click the link to Canine Influenza FAQs.



Veterinary Video Otoscopy Comes To Schuylkill County

Have you ever wondered what problem veterinarians see most?

Ear disease is the most common predicament in veterinary medicine. Approximately twenty percent of canine patients and seven percent of feline patients suffer from ear problems. Otitis can be extremely painful for the pet and frustrating for both owner and veterinarian. Yet proper diagnosis, evaluation of underlying causes and appropriate treatment will satisfactorily resolve most cases.

The video otoscope, an exciting development in diagnostic capability, was first introduced in 1997. Vetcetera recently invested in this equipment and their staff veterinarians have attended advanced training in otitis to maximize patient care.

Dr. Julie feels, "Our mission is to provide high quality diagnostics for our patients and education for our clients. This is an excellent tool for our practice."

With a docking station in each exam



continued on next page

Video Otoscopy continued from page 2

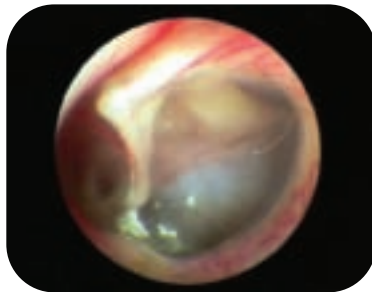
room, veterinarians can pass a small tapered probe into a patient's ear canal and have the image magnified 27 times onto a screen for examination. The fiber optic probe provides 150 watts of light at the tip, offering a much clearer view of the ear drum and deep ear canal than can be achieved with a standard otoscope. Pet owners can also view the picture on the exam room video screen and better appreciate the diagnosis and recommendations made by the veterinarian.

Not only is the scope used in diagnosing ear pathology, it is unparalleled in what it offers in treatment accuracy and precision.

Connected to a device called the "Earigator," the instrument allows for deep flushing and drying of the ear canal, while watching a clear real time image on a video monitor. Often the ear drum cannot be



Polyp in cat's ear canal.



Healthy ear drum.

evaluated until a deep ear flush to remove wax and debris has been performed.

Within the probe is a 2 mm working channel so instruments can be inserted into the canal. The scope can be used in the ear canal to remove a foreign object, curette out a wax ball, biopsy a tumor or flush and culture the middle ear. Pictures can be taken and downloaded

into a patient's file or the procedure can even be saved as a video.

The purchase of this equipment was inspired by the loss of one of Vetcetera's patients, whose owners gave a monetary gift in his memory for equipment to be purchased that would help other patients.

At present Vetcetera is the only practice offering this technology in Schuylkill County.

For more information, visit www.vetcetera.com



Top 10 Reasons Why Pet Owners Call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center

1. Failure to keep medications in a secured area away from pets.
2. Confusing their pet's medication with their own medication or another pet's medication, or administering medications to animals without veterinary directions.
3. Allowing pets access to areas where herbicides and fertilizers have recently been applied and/or storing such products in areas that are accessible to pets.
4. Failures to store pesticides such as ant and roach traps, rat baits, or snail bait in secured areas, out of pet's reach.
5. Lack of awareness of poisonous plants in their home or in their pet's environment (e.g. bouquets with lilies).
6. Improper or inappropriate use of flea and tick products on pets or in the home.
7. Failure to clean up automotive products such as antifreeze/coolant leaks or storing such containers in areas that are accessible to pets.
8. Pets getting in to cleaning products or licking areas where cleaning products are in use or have been spilled.
9. Leaving out candies, including Easter baskets, Valentine's Day hearts, Halloween treat baskets, trays of brownies or fudge and candies wrapped as presents under the Christmas tree.
10. Dogs getting in to the garbage can and eating spoiled and rotten foods, coffee grounds and medications that the owner have thrown away.

As the premier animal-oriented poison control center in North America, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is the best resource for any animal poison-related emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 888-4ANI-HELP

For more information, go to www.apcc.aspc.org.





Reminder

Vetcetera will observe regular office hours during the Christmas to New Year's Day holiday period.



THANK YOU!



*Thank you for entrusting Vetcetera with your pet's health needs. We love what we do and hope that is clearly evident to you and your pets! We would like to express sincere appreciation for the referral of your friends and family to our practice. Nearly all of our new clients hear about us from one of you! According to the Book of Proverbs "a good name is worth far more than great riches." **Thank you for speaking so highly of us .***



The "Snoot Report" is published for friends and clients of Vetcetera Pet Healthcare Centre. We welcome your comments. Call us at 570-345-3250.

Caleb Isaiah Snyder entered this world on August 12, 2005 at 12:15 AM.

Newest Addition To Vetcetera Family



DEVOTED TO
PETS AND
THEIR PEOPLE

35 Browns Road
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Pet Healthcare Centre



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