

Shiloh Veterinary Hospital Newsletter

Fall/Winter

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Shiloh Vet Updates



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Billings Dog Park

Billings Dog Parks and the Park, Recreation and Preservation Foundation is planning to develop 3 securely fenced open areas where owners can let their dogs off leash for exercise, socialization, and fun. So far, High Sierra Park in the Heights and Riverfront Park are going to have a designated area. The third will be on the West End but location had yet to be determined. They are seeking donations from the community to make these parks a reality. You can make a donation or get more information at www.billingsdogparks.com

Construction Chaos

Construction on the length of Shiloh Road is mostly complete from all directions. Please don't hesitate to call for current directions.

Dog Training Classes

Ariel will be starting classes again next spring and can put you and your pup on the list. There are classes for pets of all ages and stages of training so sign up early! Ariel also offers private sessions if the weekly classes don't fit your time schedule.

New Doctor in Town!

Cris Powell joined Yellowstone Valley Vets in August 2009. She is originally from the East Coast and graduated from CSU Veterinary School in 1997. Cris and her husband own a mixed animal (mostly mobile) practice in Wyoming, travelling every week to be with us. Her hobbies include cowboy mounted shooting, horseback riding, camping, swimming, fishing, but most of all...time with family!! Her special interests as a DVM include Emergency Medicine, Surgery and Ultrasound.



Tips to Save Money On Pet Care



With gas and groceries taking an even bigger bite out of family budgets, we are all looking for ways to save, save, save. That means saving on pet care too. You'll want to buy smart while still focusing on prevention and general maintenance. By keeping your animals healthy and avoiding the need for expensive procedures, you can greatly decrease what you spend on your pets without sacrificing their health and happiness.

Keep pets fit and trim! Just like people, our pets' weight is starting to trend upward due to lack of exercise and poor diet. Low-value pet foods (which are high in carbs and grain), table scraps, and too many treats only help to pack on the pounds. To help your pet maintain a normal weight (you should be able to feel the ribs), carefully measure its food, keep treats to a minimum, and be sure to work in daily exercise appropriate to your dog to help prevent diabetes, joint pain, and stress on the heart and other organs.

Learn to do things yourself. Brushing your pets teeth will lengthen the time between expensive dental cleanings. Having clean teeth can add 3 years to your pet's life!

Minimize risk from accidents. Saving the life of a pet after it has been hit by a car or poisoned by hazardous materials can cost thousands of dollars. Keep cats indoors to prevent injuries and exposure to communicable diseases; keep dogs on a leash or in a fenced area; and keep hazards like chemicals and most house plants out of reach.

Be prepared for the worst. Health insurance for pets is a rapidly growing industry for a good reason: People want to know that cost won't dictate decisions when pets need vet care. Do your research before buying to make sure the most common health problems are covered. We can provide you with a list of company websites to view or click on the link on our website.



Meet Our Pet Stylist

Anna Norwood

Anna has grown up in Montana and loves the Montana life. She has been grooming all breeds of dogs and cats for over eight years and loves it. Her love and compassion is with every pet and it shows in her grooming skills. Anna is married to Jim and has two children, Isaac and Ali. She has an Aussie/Shepherd mix, Jazz, a Jack Russell, Rocky, and two cats, Fry and Bobo. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends and riding horses during her free time.

She started working as a groomer at SVH in September 2008 and is happy to be part of the team. If you and your furry friend are in the neighborhood, stop in and meet her.



For an appointment call:
656-1910



Ask Ariel

What is the Canine Good Citizen Test and the STAR Puppy Program?

The Canine Good Citizen Certification Program: This test was designed to reward good manners at home and in the community. Open to both purebred and mix-breed dogs from puppy to adult the program has two parts that stress responsible pet ownership with owners and basic good manners for the dog. All dogs that pass the 10-step test can receive a frame-able certificate from the AKC as well as Canine Good Citizen ID tags and bandannas. The CGC test consists of exercises that ask your dog to know basic commands like “sit”, “down”, “stay” and “come” and to demonstrate good manners like walking nicely on leash, sitting politely for petting and allowing a stranger to gently examine them. The CGC has become the hallmark for good behavior for dogs and animal shelters, pet therapy groups, kennel clubs and 4-H groups across the U.S participate in this program.

The S.T.A.R Puppy Program: S.T.A.R. stands for Socialization Training Activity and Responsibility. For dogs up to 1 year of age the S.T.A.R puppy requires you to attend a minimum of 6 weeks of a basic training class. At the end of the class the instructor administers the S.T.A.R puppy test. Throughout the class and during the test the instructor is watching for the presence or absence of certain behaviors, such as aggression toward the other people or puppies in class. The test asks that your puppy know “sit” and “down” on command (treats can be used to help), will “come” when called from 5 feet away, allows petting by a person other than the owner and be able to walk nicely on leash for a short distance. Puppies that pass the test are eligible to receive a frame-able certificate, a S.T.A.R Puppy medal as a memento and their name is added to AKC’s S.T.A.R puppy records.



We here at Shiloh Vet are proud to offer both CGC and S.T.A.R puppy in our Puppy and Doggie Basics Classes.

Senioritis Signs and Symptoms of Arthritis

Ramona and her 10 ½ year old Labrador retriever, Missy, have made their home in Billings since she rescued the abandoned 6-month-old pup. Ramona brought Missy to our veterinarians recently when she began seeing Missy having a hard time getting up from the floor, her back legs sometimes collapsing under her. She also told the doctors that in the mornings Missy had begun crying, seemingly in pain, before Ramona helped her stand up and get steady on her legs.

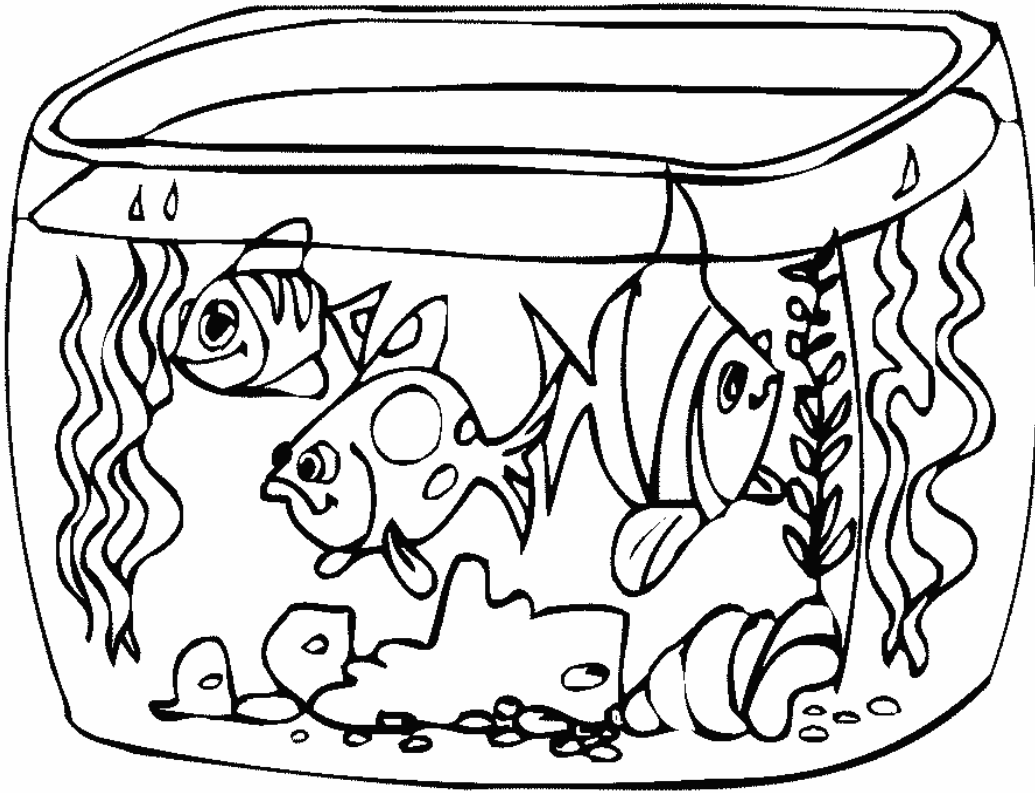
Signs of arthritis in dogs and cats can be sneaky at first but the signs to watch for can be difficulty climbing stairs or standing up from a lying position; decreased ability to jump onto furniture or into the car/truck; “slowing down” on walks, running or playing; morning stiffness; limping or lopsided gait; wincing, crying, or other expressions of pain when attempting to move; not wanting to be brushed or petted, “. Our doctors did a thorough orthopedic exam manipulating all her joints finding some crackling within the joints and some swelling. Radiographs were obtained of Missy’s hips and back which showed some boney ‘bridging’ of

the vertebrae in her lower back. After some monitoring blood work was ran to confirm that Missy’s liver and kidneys were able to metabolize the drug, our doctors were able to prescribe Missy an anti-inflammatory tablet to take daily to relieve most of her symptoms. Ramona is also putting Missy on glucosamine, chondroitin, and MSM, a dietary supplement that’s sometimes helpful for Dogs with arthritis. Acupuncture and



therapeutic massage also may increase Missy’s mobility and provide some added pain relief. Arthritis isn’t just an old dog problem-it can affect cats and dogs of all ages. If you have a pet that is experiencing the effects of arthritis and would like some

options, please call and schedule an appointment to talk to one of our doctors. There are several different types of medications that can be tailored to your pet’s individual needs whether it be a liquid, chewable tablet, or injectable medication. Each can have their own potentially serious side effects if your pet isn’t monitored appropriately. You can become familiar with those side effects by requesting an information sheet on the drug that has been prescribed. Always ask if you have any questions. Check our website for more info!



Write in the missing words in the blanks to find out what things are needed for a new fish tank!

First you need to purchase their house called an _____ (A U R I M U A Q).

Next you need a _____ (D S A T N) to put your aquarium on so it's not on the floor.

Inside the tank on the bottom, pour in your _____ (S R C K O) or gravel.

Put your _____ (P T L A N S) and _____ (C R E O D A O I T N S) in and on the rocks.

Now fill the aquarium with _____ (T A W E R) and install the _____ (L T F I E R).

Don't forget the _____ (E H A T R E) so the fish can stay warm!

An _____ (I R A P P U M) will help the fish breath and add cool bubbles!

On top of the aquarium you can now place the _____ (L G I H T) so you can see your fish.

Finally, after all that, you can add your _____ (F S I H) and enjoy!

Answers: 1) AQUARIUM, 2) STAND, 3) ROCKS, 4) PLANTS, 5) DECORATIONS, 6) WATER, 7) FILTER, 8) HEATER, 9) AIR PUMP, 10) LIGHT, 11) FISH





WHEN *Disaster* STRIKES

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and fires wreak havoc in the lives of all in their paths. While some disasters provide time to evacuate, others take victims by surprise. Prepare yourself and your pets now to give you the best possible chance for survival regardless of the type of disaster you face.

During a disaster, your pet normally is safest when you are together, but some disasters strike when you aren't home or are unable to take your pet with you. Make sure your neighbors know how many and what kind of pets you have so they can help if needed. Also keep a current rescue alert sticker (available free from the [ASPCA](#)) on your doors. The sticker tells first responders how many of what types of pets you have in your house.

We recommend creating a disaster kit for each pet. The kit should include the following:

-One crate per pet. Label each crate with your name, cell phone number and address, as well as your veterinarians name and contact information in case you and your pet are separated.

-Health records. Make sure your pet has a current rabies vaccinations and licenses (if required in your area). Put the health records, your veterinarians contact information, a form authorizing veterinarians to treat your pet in a watertight container.

-Supplies. Keep food/water bowls, at least a weeks worth of food and any medications on hand at all times. You don't

want to be on the last day of your pets required medications when a disaster strikes.

-Toys and Bedding. Having familiar toys, bedding and other items around can keep your pets comfortable and lower their stress levels.

Make a plan! Create a written step-by-step disaster plan including your current pets, contact information and address of where you plan to evacuate to, list of all your pets supplies, list of things to do before evacuating, including boarding up windows, packing valuables and turning off the water or gas to your house. Make sure all family members have a copy of the plan and agree beforehand who will take your pets out.

If you ever have to deal with an impending disaster-**STAY CALM.** If you are nervous or upset, your pets will pick up on your tension and may hide, making it harder to get them to safety. A frightened pet can easily escape, so come up with a plan before disaster strikes. The Humane Society of the United States also encourages evacuees to clearly identify their animals. You might decide to have your pets [microchipped](#) or keep collars with attached up-to-date tags. If you are unable to evacuate with your pet, leave a note on the outside of your home stating how many animals are inside and where they are located. Never attempt to go back into a closed disaster area to retrieve your pets yourself as this puts you and first responders at risk. Instead, call your local animal shelter or veterinarians' office to report your missing pet. Provide a good description of your pets, current photos and the location you last saw your pet. Many pets lost during disasters are reunited with their owners, sometimes months after they're lost!

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