



# THE EVF TIMES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

EGLINTON VETERINARY FACILITIES

DECEMBER 2011

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

The team at Eglinton Vet is pleased to announce the launch of a clinic newsletter. Our clinic has been helping people and pets in Toronto for over 80 years, which is a history we are very proud of. We would like to continue that tradition by expanding the ways that we can reach our clients and help their pets.



Join us on Facebook   
[www.facebook.com/  
EglintonVeterinaryFacilities](http://www.facebook.com/EglintonVeterinaryFacilities)

We have designed this newsletter with a number of goals in mind. We hope to use it to:

- Update our clients on clinic news
- Familiarize our clients with the clinic team, our philosophies & services
- Educate our clients
- Provide timely and important information

This newsletter is one part of a new commitment to broaden our communication with clients. Other new initiatives include:

- An update to our clinic website, where we will provide new information on a regular basis.
- The addition of forms to our website so that our clients can now make appointment requests and

food or medication refill requests from the website.

- A new Facebook page, where we will also post regular things of interest about animals, pet health and veterinary medicine. [Please visit our Facebook page and “like” us if you find the information useful or fun \(accessible from \[www.eglintonvet.com\]\(http://www.eglintonvet.com\)\).](#)
- Follow up e-mails to clients following a visit to the clinic with information pertinent to their own pet and issues that have been discussed with our doctors or technicians.
- A change to clinic information service, broadcasted via our reception area television.

We would love your feedback! Please feel free to contact us at [info@eglintonvet.com](mailto:info@eglintonvet.com).

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

#### *NEW ON-LINE FORMS*

[www.eglintonvet.com](http://www.eglintonvet.com)

*BOOK an appointment*

*FOOD / MEDICATION orders*

*Register as a NEW CLIENT*

*Don't forget to ask our staff about:*

*LAPAROSCOPIC spays and other procedures*

#### *HOLIDAY HOURS 2011*

*The clinic will be closed:*

*Mon. Dec 26, 2011*

*Tues. Dec 27, 2011*

*Mon. Jan 2, 2011*

*We will be open regular hours on all other dates.*

## HOLIDAY HAZARDS (CONTINUED ON PG 2)

As we approach the holiday season, we want to remind our pet owners of some of the hazards associated with this time of year. Holiday festivities, decorations, and food items can wreak havoc on undiscerning pets that love to taste-test everything that appears new and interesting.

Holiday season plants that your pets should avoid:

**Lilies** found in flower arrangements can be deadly, causing acute kidney failure in cats. Many types of lilies are on this list.

**Holly** ingestion can cause vomiting, nausea & diarrhea.



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## HOLIDAY HAZARDS—FROM PAGE 1

**Mistletoe** can have a toxic effect on the cardiovascular system (heart and blood vessels), although its ingestion usually causes only gastrointestinal upset.

**Poinsettias** are often the first thought of on this list, however, generally have low toxicity. If ingested, poinsettias may irritate the mouth and stomach, causing mild vomiting or nausea.



If you bring a Christmas tree into your home, it can be associated with some risks:

**Christmas tree water often contains fertilizers**, that, if ingested, cause stomach upsets. **Stagnant tree water** can have extremely high bacterial content, which can cause vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea. **Electric cords** should be hidden or covered safely. If chewed, they can electrocute your pet.

Please be safe and enjoy  
the holiday season!

When preparing gifts for friends and family, we would recommend that you watch your pets closely around the wrapping materials.

Cats are especially at risk around items such as **ribbons and tinsel**. If they swallow a strand, there is a good chance of it becoming entangled inside the small intestine. This is a life-threatening problem, requiring emergency surgery.



Holiday time with family will include special meals. Remember that access to 'people foods' can be bad for your pets, especially special holiday treats. We would recommend that you avoid the temptation of giving treats to your pets, and watch them closely around the holiday table.

**Bones** can cause obstruction of the bowels and irritation. **Table scraps**, even in small amounts, can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and pancreatitis. Holiday candies are also often made of **chocolate**, which can be potentially toxic.

## DVM CORNER: LAPAROSCOPIC SPAYS ~DR. PAUL HODGES

In April 2011, EVF proudly announced the introduction of laparoscopic procedures to our hospital. Since that time we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our clients (both 2 and 4 legged)! Laparoscopic surgery involves introducing a small camera and specialized instruments into the body through a very small skin incision (approx. 11mm). Using this small camera and instruments we are able to perform numerous surgeries that would otherwise require much larger incisions. In other words, we have made many surgeries less invasive and **much** less painful..... an improvement we can

appreciate with every laparoscopic surgery we do. In fact, a recent study in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association showed that **laparoscopic spays are associated with up to 65% less pain than traditional spays.**

Some of the benefits of laparoscopic surgery include:

- Less pain
- Much faster recovery time (often back in the park in 2-3 days vs. 7 days with traditional spays)
- Now a day surgery (vs. Overnight hospital stay with traditional spays)
- No E-collar (lamp shade)

during recovery period

-Ability to perform preventive surgeries that were previously considered too invasive to be beneficial (eg: gastropexies/stomach tacks to prevent "bloat")

Examples of laparoscopic procedures currently being offered include:

- Spays
- Cryptorchid neuters (for retained testicles)
- Gastropexies (to prevent gastric dilation and volvulus or "bloat")
- Liver biopsies
- Small intestinal biopsy
- Some foreign body removals



Dr. Paul Hodges

Please feel free to contact the hospital with any questions regarding the exciting use of laparoscopy for your pet. For additional information please visit our website at [www.eglintonvet.com](http://www.eglintonvet.com)

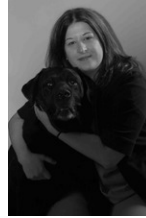
## TECH TALK

In future issues of the newsletter we will use this space for messages from our team of veterinary technicians. However, it seemed appropriate to first use it to introduce you to our technician team and what they do for our patients and clients. A veterinary technician is essentially the “right hand man” for a veterinary doctor. Just like medical doctors work with nurses, our veterinarians count on our technicians to help us with a variety of things. We are proud to say that all of our technicians have graduated from accredited college programs and every one of them has more than 10 years of experience working with animals.

Our technicians have a range of responsibilities, but their common duties include:

- Collection & preparation of samples for lab analysis
- Patient restraint
- Dental care such as dental cleanings & dental x-rays.
- Induction & monitoring of anesthesia
- Surgery preparation & assistance
- General nursing duties, including feeding, IV fluid therapy & medication administration
- Maintaining patient comfort & monitoring vitals signs/pain
- Radiography (taking/developing X-rays)
- Office work

- Dressing wounds, applying bandages
- Cleaning (cages, instruments, patients)
- Obtaining information for records /case information
- Client education



Sandra, Blair, Jessica & Nancy



### *I AM A VET TECH*

*I AM an anesthesiologist, an x-ray technician, a surgery assistant, a loving hand, a pharmacist, a teacher, a shoulder to cry on, friend to cry with, a sucker for a furry face, a face to lick, a dental hygienist... I AM a vet's best friend, a pet's best friend, a playmate, a chew toy, a protector... I CAN make the pain go away, save a life, see what's wrong, ease a mind, fill a drug order, show the right way, end suffering, give kisses, get kisses, clean teeth, cried with a stranger, a big heart, a thoughtful mind, the strength to do the right thing even when it hurts, the ability to fall in love in seconds, and the deepest love for all creatures.*

## CLINICAL INFO: PANCREATITIS

We have seen an unusual number of cases of a problem called pancreatitis in the past few weeks, affecting both dogs and cats.

**What is pancreatitis?** The pancreas is an organ tucked alongside the stomach and small intestine. It is responsible for: (a) releasing enzymes needed to digest food and (b) producing hormones such as insulin, which is responsible for the regulation of an animal's blood sugar levels. When the pancreas is inflamed, the condition is called *pancreatitis*.

**What do pets with pancreatitis look like?** Pancreatic inflammation can be mild, moderate or severe,

and can also occur as an acute problem or as a chronic, low-grade problem. This means that there are many presentations of pancreatitis. Our doctors see dogs with pancreatitis who have very mild clinical signs barely recognizable to the owner, and other cases in which signs are severe and life threatening. Cats most commonly have the chronic form, and present with very subtle clinical signs, therefore, pancreatitis can be difficult to diagnose and manage in a cat.

**Why does this occur?** In the majority of cases of pancreatitis, the cause is unknown. Certain breeds of dogs (e.g. Schnauzers) are prone to developing

pancreatitis, and dogs that ingest anything abnormal (especially something high in fat) or animals that have underlying intestinal or hormonal diseases (such as diabetes mellitus) are at risk.

### **How is pancreatitis diagnosed and treated?**

Our doctors will recommend blood testing for pancreatitis in any dog or cat that presents with signs of gastrointestinal illness such as a decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea or signs of abdominal pain.

The treatment plan for an animal suffering from pancreatitis will be tailored to that animal and depend on the suspected cause, the extent of illness and the existence of other underlying disease. All pets who have suffered one bout of pancreatitis are at risk of another at any time, and we will suggest that they eat a diet very low in fat for the remainder of their life.

Please visit our [website](#) to meet some of our pancreatitis patients (case studies) and our [Facebook page](#) for access to more information on pancreatitis.



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HEALTHY PETS  
ARE  
HAPPY PETS

## FEATURED PRODUCT: PAW GUARD

A unique combination of plant-based oils, lanolin and unbleached beeswax.

This water-resistant stick provides a safe barrier between the harsh elements of winter and your dog's foot pads without using any petroleum or paraben based ingredients.

Specially formulated, this product will not stain carpets or floors, is not harmful if ingested, and is supplied in a

convenient and portable stick applicator.

This ultimate paw protector is very affordable and prevents burning from ice and snow. It also prevents the build up of snow and sleet between the pads.

This is a must have for any active dogs arsenal of protection. Happy Winter !



## CLINIC HISTORY

Our site has housed a veterinary clinic since the 1930s and we are thrilled to be able to continue helping people and pets from North Toronto and beyond.

Eglinton Vet's current veterinary team all grew up in the neighbourhood, attended local schools and have moved back to the area as adults. Our goal is to run a family veterinary practice true to our roots. We hope that our history will give you a little insight into where we have come from and how that shapes the way that we care for your pets today.

The history of Eglinton Veterinary Facilities began with a single veterinarian, Dr. Leroy McGillvray, who began practicing here in the mid 1930's. At that time Eglinton Veterinary was one of only 3 completely small animal clinics in Toronto.

Dr. McGillvray was followed by a Dr. Gordon McKay (who practiced until 1955), and Dr Tom DeGeer, who arrived in 1954 following his graduation from the Ontario Veterinary

College. Some of our current clients can remember coming with their parents to see Dr. DeGeer and he is remembered fondly.

Dr. Gord Whiteside arrived on the scene in 1967 and Dr. Chip Coombs in 1978. Dr. DeGeer sold his share of the partnership to Drs. Chip Coombs and Gord Whiteside in 1984 and they were joined in partnership a few years later by Dr. Bob Watson.

Although Drs. Whiteside and Coombs are now retired (retiring in 2000 and 2010 respectively), Dr. Watson has remained on as the senior veterinarian in the practice, having worked at Eglinton Vet since his graduation from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1984. Dr. Bob's smile and infectious personality has not changed one bit in the 25+ years that he has worked at Eglinton Vet!

Drs. Bev Bateman and Jen Hodges both began working at the practice as high school students, developing a passion for the profession and eventually attending the Ontario

Veterinary College. Both joined the veterinary team immediately upon their graduation from OVC (Dr. Bateman in 2001 and Dr. Hodges in 2006). Most veterinarians do not stay at one clinic for their whole career, and we are proud to have a team so dedicated to our practice.

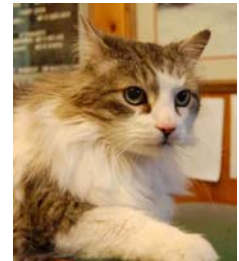
In order to fill out our veterinary team upon Dr. Coombs' retirement, we looked towards our extended family and hired "the other Dr. Hodges". Dr. Paul Hodges joined our team as a veterinarian in 2009, five years after his graduation from OVC. At the same time, Dr. Bateman became partners with Dr. Watson in ownership of the clinic and the modern era of Eglinton Vet began!

Our veterinary team has strong ties to each other, works well together, and compliments each other's strengths. Together, our goal is to run a caring, professional, high-quality veterinary practice, where we get to know each and every one of our clients and their pets by name.

## Curtis Counter

### Have you met Curtis?

Eglinton Vet has a resident cat who we adopted in 2010. At that time, he was obese, weighing in at over 30 lbs!



He now weighs less than 20 lbs, has lost another 1.1 lbs in November and is getting closer to his target weight!

*Please ask us to meet Curtis if you would like.*

