

Need Help in Keeping your Pet Happy and Healthy ?

It is our philosophy to educate and involve our clients in every aspect of their pet's care. As a result we have had wonderful turn-out at our **FREE Client Education Seminars**. At these seminars, a doctor will discuss, inform and answer questions about a selected topic that you have requested. The topics and dates are listed to the right, so we hope you will find one or more of interest and join us for an evening.

CHFA 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| Date | Event |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday June 4th at 9:00AM | "5th Annual Healthy Paws for a Healthy Cause Family Fun Run/Walk" Benefits the Humane Society of West Michigan |
| Monday July 4th at 9:00AM | "Cascade Township Independence Day Parade and Street Fair" Cascade Hospital for Animals will be closed |
| Wednesday July 20th at 7:00PM | "Pet Nutrition" Presented by Dr. Cherie Anderson |
| Wednesday September 21st At 7:00PM | "Rabbit and Ferret Behavior" Presented by Dr. Amy Hoss And Dr. Tracey Ritzman |
| Wednesday November 2nd at 7:00PM | "Keeping Your Senior Pet Active and Healthy" Presented by Dr. Laura Sullivan |
| Saturday November 12th From 9:00AM - 3:00PM | 2nd Annual Canine Blood Drive Appointments Required |

Cascade Connection Spring 2011



6730 Cascade Road S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-949-0960
www.chfa.net
chfa@chfa.net

5th Annual Healthy Paws for a Healthy Cause Family Fun Run/Walk
Saturday June 4th @ 9AM

Spring 2011

CLIENT INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Cascade Connection

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Welcome Dr. Tracey K. Ritzman, ABVP-Avian & Exotic Companion Mammal



At Cascade Hospital for Animals, our focus is on delivering **Exceptional Medicine with Compassionate Care** to your pets, while building meaningful relationships with you, their guardian. Our veterinary team is made up of a diverse group of professionals who love what they do everyday. They come from all walks of life, and have joined Cascade Hospital for Animals because of their desire to make a difference in the lives of pets and the people who love them.

Cascade Hospital for Animals is now able to offer outstanding care for your avian and exotic pets too, with the addition of Dr. Tracey Ritzman to our health care team.

Dr. Ritzman is board-certified by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP) as a specialist in avian and exotic companion mammal medicine and surgery. She enjoys working with dogs, cats and non-traditional pets such as birds, ferrets, rabbits, rodents, reptiles and fish. Her other interests include endoscopy and nutrition.

Dr. Ritzman supports the veterinary community through teaching in the area of avian and exotic animal medicine.

She is a speaker at both national and international veterinary conferences and also mentors veterinary students and technicians in the areas of her specialty.



Only the Best for your Best Friend!

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is transmitted through the bite of a deer tick. Your dog may not exhibit symptoms until weeks or months after being infected. If you live in or travel to an area where Lyme disease is common, you may want to consider vaccinating your dog. Vaccination can prevent the long-term effects of Lyme disease, including chronic joint problems and kidney damage.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacteria that is primarily **spread by the urine of raccoons, skunks and squirrels.**

Initially your dog may exhibit joint pain and malaise, but eventually it could lead to kidney failure. In some cases it may cause liver damage. Humans can also be infected with the disease and 1/3 of human cases are caused by contact with an infected dog. Leptospirosis has become more common in west Michigan. CHFA is recommending that most dogs be vaccinated against this disease to lower the risk of infection not only to your family dog, but your family as well.

**KITTY
KORNER**



**Avoid
Inappropriate
Litter Box
Behavior!**

By making the right litter box choices now, you can help your cat make the right choices, too!

IMPORTANT: Before assuming your cat has a behavioral problem, have him or her examined by your veterinarian.

Urination outside of the box can indicate an urinary tract infection, which is often mistaken for a behavioral problem. Left untreated urinary tract infections may develop into urethra blockage in the male cats that can be life threatening. Delaying treatment (male or female) in urinary infections may lead to long term behavior issues of inappropriate urination.

The information above are excerpts from a brochure of the same title available at Cascade Hospital for Animals.



Healthy Paws for a Healthy Cause Fun Run/Walk

Summer must be right around the corner, because our **5th Annual Healthy Paws for a Healthy Cause Family Fun Run / Walk** is approaching quickly!

Please join us on Saturday June 4th at 9:00am. All proceeds will benefit the Humane Society of West Michigan.

Over the past four years we have raised over \$9,000 to benefit area rescue organizations. This is in large part thanks to our outstanding sponsors and runners and walkers who continue to support us and the charities we raise money for.

This year we are striving to have over 100 participants! We

invite you to take advantage of early registration discount fees as well! It is a fun time and we raise money for a great cause!

The Race event is held across the street from Cascade Hospital for Animals at:

*Cascade Village Professional Center
6735 Cascade Rd SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546*



5th Annual Family Fun Run / Walk

Proceeds will benefit the Humane Society of West Michigan

Fees: Free for kids 10 and under!*

- On or before May 29th
\$25/person or \$90 for family of four
- May 30th or later
\$30/person or \$110 for family of four

Registration and Packet Pick-up:

- 8 am—8:45 am day of Race

*T-shirt not included

For more information contact us at 949-0960 or email RaceDirector@chfa.net

*Dogs on Leash Welcome!!!
949-0960
www.chfa.net*



Ask The Vet

Q: Why do the cost of the vaccines my pet receives at Cascade cost more than they did at my old veterinarian?

Linda from East Grand Rapids

A: Great question Linda--the short answer is quality and safety. We choose vaccines based on their safety and efficacy, not their price. Many newer vaccines, especially genetically engineered (recombinant) vaccines are more expensive than the older vaccine options, but offer unparalleled safety, reflected in reduced side-effects. These side-effects may be simply reduced pain or fever for our patients, but in some cases may be as serious as reducing tumor formation that was associated occasionally with the older vaccines (as in the case of feline vaccine-associated sarcomas).

When we assess vaccines, we are interested in reducing the total number of vaccines administered, providing maximum protection to the patient,

and reducing unwanted side effects. So, we look at duration of immunity studies, efficacy studies and safety data. We



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were one of the first veterinary hospitals in Michigan to reduce vaccine intervals on rabies, distemper-parvo and the feline respiratory complex vaccines to every three years rather than the annual schedule still used by many clinics. We also emphasize recombinant vaccine technology in cats to avoid the vaccine-associated sarcoma

issue. One of our latest changes is the addition of a new Bordetella vaccine in dogs to give us better and longer lasting immunity against the so-called Kennel Cough disease complex.

We vaccinate based on a pet's lifestyle (risk of exposure). Not all patients require the same vaccines. We base our decision to administer a specific vaccination on the pet's age, health considerations and life style. The patient's life style often determines their potential exposure to different disease entities. If a pet does not need a vaccine, it should not be administered, but it is equally as important to make sure your pet is protected against those diseases they are at risk of encountering.

Vaccines are often falsely assumed to be the same no matter where you get them or who administers them. We focus on the long-term health of young pets and base vaccine recommendations on what is best for them.

Meet The Vet:



Dr. Ryan T. Keane
Associate Veterinarian

Dr. Keane joined our practice in September 2010 after working in Kalamazoo for the past five years. He is an Ohio native, and graduated from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2001. Dr. Keane's professional interests include ultrasound, cardiology, and anesthesia/pain control.

He shares his home with his wife Rebecca, two dogs: Benny and Lucy; and two cats: Clyde and Chelsea. Dr. Keane enjoys camping, fly fishing, fly tying, downhill skiing and most outdoor pursuits.



Exceptional Medicine...Compassionate Care