



The Pet Dominion Quarterly

Welcome Dr. Amie Carrier

Dr. Bassett, Dr. Garrison and the whole Pet Dominion staff is excited to have Dr. Amie Carrier join our team. Originally from the small town of Windsor Locks, CT she graduated cum laude from Moravian College in PA and then with honors from University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Carrier moved on to Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, completing an internship in small animal medicine and surgery. Most recently she was a resident in Internal Medicine and Emergency/Critical Care in Gaithersburg, MD.

Dr. Carrier's academic interests include hepatology, urology, endocrinology, dermatology, and infectious diseases. Outside of work Dr. Carrier enjoys cooking, hiking, exercising, reading, writing, medical illustrating and animal rescue. She currently shares her home with Emma a Rottie mix, Tuck a three-legged Tree Walking Coon Hound, Jeannine her kitty, and five foster cats. 🐾

The Value of Diagnostics

In this slow economy it is tempting to skip the extras and just do what your pet 'really needs'. To some that may mean vaccines. To us it includes the diagnostics we run with our Annual and Senior Wellness Programs.

Recently an apparently healthy dog visited us. He was on a diet so his weight loss was unremarkable and his owner thought he was less active due to his age. At first the owner was hesitant to run blood work but it had been some time since his last check so we did. What we found was that the seemingly innocent changes in the dog were actually symptoms of chronic kidney failure.

It cost a little bit more for that visit but what they got was invaluable. Catching and treating diseases early affords us the opportunity to give your friend a longer and higher quality life with you. Ideally we can simply confirm that your pet is healthy inside and out. 🐾

Seasonal Tips From Our Veterinarians



- ♥ Be sure your pet is current on their heartworm and flea prevention medication.
- ♥ Older and very young animals are less heat tolerant. Give them breaks from heat.
- ♥ **Never leave your pet in a hot car.** Minutes could kill them.
- ♥ Watch for hot spots, ear infections and allergy flare-ups.
- ♥ Use Epi-Otic to clean and dry your pet's ears after swimming.



Heartworms Beware

We applaud the majority of you pet owners who use heartworm, flea and tick prevention year round. Your dog or cat's heart is full of many things; love, friendship, playfulness, but heartworms should not be one of them.

Heartworm larvae are transmitted by mosquitoes that bite your pet. You wouldn't think they could get through all the fur but they do. There have even been several cases in which strictly indoor cats have contracted heartworm disease. Mosquitoes are sneaky!

Dogs who are current on heartworm medication have a very low risk of getting the disease. We test them yearly to be sure. The test we use checks for Ehrlichia and Lyme disease which is on the rise in Maryland. If you miss an application it is safe to start again as soon as you remember. It takes six months for the antibody load

to be large enough for the test to be positive. Dogs with heartworm disease show symptoms such as exercise intolerance and fatigue. This is due to the adult worms that clog the heart, eventually causing heart failure.

Heartworm disease in cats is different. They have a heightened immunity and so only have a few adult heartworms in the heart. The immature heartworms that are killed by the cat's immune system migrate to the lungs and cause significant damage there. Because there is no easy in-house test for heartworms in cats it is often thought that undiagnosed positive cats have asthma or respiratory distress. There is no cure for cats with heartworm disease so prevention is critical.

An added bonus to keeping your pet on prevention is that many intestinal parasites as well as fleas, ticks and ear mites are controlled. Heartworm prevention can be started as early as 8 weeks and is for everyone. 🐾

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Celebrate Summer
COUPON

We have everything
your pet needs
right here.

This coupon is redeemable for
\$10 off one physical exam
or
\$5 off one boarding stay or daycare
At Pet Dominion Animal Hospital and Inn
One coupon per household. Valid through 9/30/09



New At Pet Dominion

Everyone at Pet Dominion is overjoyed to bring to you the platinum standard of radiography; we are now 100% digital. What does this mean for you and your pet? Faster x-ray capabilities so that in many cases we can take your friend's images as you wait. Less radiation exposure for your pet due to adjustments in positioning or film exposure. Better for the environment as we say goodbye to the chemicals needed for film development. And the ability to email or burn a CD for you or for any referral center that requires a copy of your pet's images.

We are pleased to add Autumn, RVT to the hospital staff. Originally from CA, she has been in MD for three years. Autumn's career with animals began eleven years ago and has included work at animal shelters, in small animal practice and referral centers. Her main interest is in small animal soft tissue and orthopedic surgery. Her furry family consists of two dogs and two cats.

Congratulations to Inga, our hospital manager, for being selected for Cambridge's Who's Who Registry among Professional Women in the field of Research, Medicine and Healthcare in Gaithersburg, MD. 🐾

Fun Animal Fact

Brought to you by Autumn, RVT

While dogs have 10 vocal sounds, cats have over 100!

Product Spotlight

Medical Technologist and RVT Pam spotlights products that we find helpful and we think you should know about.

Spring is here, the flowers are out and so are the ticks. It's time to get the ticks off with 'Ticked Off'. It is a simple and inexpensive little tool that safely removes the entire tick from your pet. Be careful not to touch the tick as you remove it and place it in rubbing alcohol. Dispose of the tick and clean the scooper with alcohol before storing.



For kitties, spring may be a time of change. A new home, baby or kitten are a few examples of stressful situations for a cat. To help ease the transition we carry and recommend **Feliway® Comfort Zone** products. The natural comfort pheromones produced by cats that help them relax are replicated in **Feliway®** products. The spray can be applied to a carrier prior to travel, even if it's just a visit to the vet. The plug in diffuser can be placed throughout your home to help acclimate your kitty to a new home or ease the transition of bringing a new pet into your home. This should be started a few days before a new addition arrives. 🐾

Favorite Websites

Veterinary technicians Franca and Joana pick their favorite animal websites. Check them out!

For reliable online veterinary information

www.veterinarypartner.com

Handmade animal art & craft shop by our own Inga, RVT

www.dogdaemona.etsy.com

Animal poison control through ASPCA, please visit

www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/

Doggie Daycare

Everyone regrets having to leave their furry canine pal at home by themselves all day. It's hard to explain to them that biscuits just don't grow on trees. Then after work when you're dog tired, your dog is ready to play! We have a solution for you.

Doggie daycare is a fun and rewarding way for your well-socialized canine companion to spend their day. Instead of napping all day they interact with a group of playful dogs and humans, get fed meals if needed, and get treats. In between there's time for rest.

While your dog is at Pet Dominion they can also have a mini day at the spa. We offer baths, brushing, and nail trims. We have a couple new options for daycare to suit your needs:

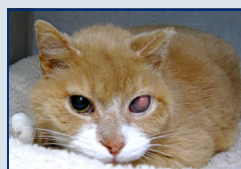
🐾 **Playdate** - A little bit of fun! Up to four hours \$12

🐾 **Daycare** - All day with regular playtimes \$18

🐾 **Deluxe** - Extended play and seasonal water play \$26

Featured Pet

by Inga, Hospital Manager and RVT



Wild Thing does not live up to his name. He's actually quite a muffin. He appeared on his future owner's patio one day with a giant scab on his head. It took her 8 months of feeding before he let himself be touched. He still prefers living outside in his luxurious igloo with heated pet bed.

Wild Thing enjoys sunning himself on the patio. He is the guardian angel and 'seeing eye cat' for Tickles, his owner's blind cat. He escorts Tickles everywhere and always looks both ways for him. Wild Thing has had his own eye problems, his left one often becoming severely ulcerated. Since he will only let himself be caught once in a while for petting and love he has had a few extended stays at Pet Dominion to care for his eye. Wild Thing has decided that love abounds and life is good with us.

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Heartworm, Flea and Tick Prevention Explained

Revolution - Prevents heartworms, kills fleas and ticks. Not good at repelling ticks but comes with a free **Preventic** Collar. Kills many intestinal parasites and mites. Topical application.

Interceptor - Prevents heartworms. Kills intestinal parasites (roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms). Chewable tablet. Use with flea and tick prevention such as **Frontline Plus**.

Sentinel - Prevents heartworms. Kills intestinal parasites (roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms). Also kills one stage of immature fleas. Chewable tablet. Use with flea and tick prevention such as **Frontline Plus**.

We carry these three products and Frontline Plus. If you prefer a different medication your vet will write a prescription for your product of choice. Our prices are competitive with if not better than online pharmacies. Pharmaceutical companies **do not** stand behind products sold through online pet pharmacies, ask us why not.