

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

WRVC Celebrates 20 years in New London

Special points of

interest:

- where will the clinic go from here as the next five, ten or twenty years come and go?
- products can be picked up at places like Walmart that are not going to be as effective
- A white cat with a black mohawk!
- touch is so important to people

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March 2016 will mark the 20th anniversary of the WRVC being in New London. During that time, the clinic has grown from having a part time doctor and a support staff of three people to a four doctor practice with twenty employees.

The clinic went through two major additions during that time, ultimately growing to its current size of 6,000 square feet, which includes a dental procedure room, an x-ray room with computerized digital x-rays, five exam rooms, a state of the art surgery suite, several animal wards, and office spaces to accommodate the doctors, the office manager, and an inventory manager. The clinic also recently expanded to the Manawa area with a part time satellite clinic.

While change is always going to occur, a few things have stayed the same. Dr. Ziegler, Karen Rodencal (CVT) and Kathleen Nehring (receptionist and animal care coordinator) have all been with the clinic for the duration. There are also quite a number of clients who have been with the clinic for the entire 20 years as well. Most of these are treated more as old friends when they come through our doors. Sadly, many of the clients who helped to initially build the practice are no longer alive, but are fondly remembered in the many memories of the clinic history.



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WRVC celebrates-continued

The big question is where will the clinic go from here as the next five, ten or twenty years come and go? The face of veterinary medicine is changing rapidly as clients prefer to obtain medications online or at big box retailers. Obtaining health care information from “Dr. Google” is very popular and will continue to be so. As I alluded to earlier, most routine procedures (spay, and neuters) are being done by subsidized humane societies who offer a variety of services at low costs. It is hard to say where it will end up but being a veterinarian now is not like it was years ago, and the veterinarian of the future will not be like today’s doctors.

In some capacity however, no matter what the changes are, the WRVC will be here to serve the community. It is always our hope and goal to continue to service the clients the best we can and to do so with compassion, concern, and honesty. This will never change.

To all of our loyal clients, we thank you for making the past twenty years a wonderful experience. We sincerely hope that we have served you well and can continue to do so.

Happy 20th

Anniversary WRVC

A Warm Welcome!

Heidi Jacobson joined WRVC in mid February 2016 as the office manager, taking care of the clinic’s day to day business details. Heidi began her relationship with WRVC about ten years ago as a client. Her dog, Hickory, needed to have salivary gland surgery and thanks to Dr. Ziegler, Hickory had a very successful outcome.

In her spare time, Heidi enjoys being outdoors, gardening, horseback riding and estate sales. Her furry family includes Hickory, two horses, five cats, and a flock of chickens.

Melissa Witterholt joined the WRVC in mid February 2016 as the inventory manager, replenishing our clinic! Melissa and her husband own a dairy farm at Black Creek. She is a mother of 3 children and pet owner to a Bassett hound named Rosebud. She likes to read romance books and enjoys spending her spare time with her family, which includes trips to craft fairs.

Congrats To Moving Forward! -Dr. Weyenberg

The first few months as a veterinarian brings with it a sense of panic and insecurity. Thankfully I was lucky enough to land at Wolf River Veterinary Clinic. Mentorship is key to a new veterinarian's development, and I couldn't have asked for a more knowledgeable and willing group of doctors. Being a larger practice, we have the ability to consult each other on difficult cases, and can provide multiple ideas and experiences. We are also surrounded by a dedicated and experienced support staff, who happily share their skills, knowledge (and patience) with a new doctor.

Just as important as the mentorship are the friendships I've made. Being a newcomer and from Milwaukee, life in New London has been a bit of a culture shock. Between the daily interactions, clinic events and girls' nights out, the staff has become so much more than co-workers. We've celebrated first days, and last days and major life events. I'm proud to call so many here my friends.

We are also blessed to have such a great group of clients. From new puppy exams to saying goodbye, I've gotten to be a part of your journey. I've gotten to know whole families and often see our clients at the grocery, the park or just walking down the street. Not a common occurrence in the city.

This has been a fantastic experience; I just wanted to say congratulations to Wolf River Veterinary Clinic and Dr. Ziegler on your 20 year anniversary, and thank you for all you've done for me, our staff and people and pets we serve.

My First Twenty Years at WRVC-Karen R.

As we are celebrating our 20 years at the Wolf River Vet Clinic; I'm thinking about the many patients and clients I have come to know.

I remember my first patient. Sleepy Whiskers was a white cat with a black mark on his head. He had a skin problem by his ears which we had to shave. He ended up being a white cat with a black mohawk!

In the 20 years, I've seen a couple of generations of puppies and kittens go from babyhood to senior citizen. I've made many friendships with clients that I'll treasure forever.

Then there are the staff members I've had the privilege to work with.

In the 20 years there has been sadness but the joys have far outweighed those moments. It has been a good first 20 years at the Wolf River Vet Clinic!

Where Did Dogs Come From? -Shaunna S.

A question not too many dog owners probably wonder about their pets, but have you ever sat and thought just exactly when and how humans domesticated canines? The origin of the dog is a very persistent mystery. Fossil evidence for domestication dates back as far as 33,000 years, based on ancient DNA analysis. There are quite a few theories to this question, which I often found very intriguing during my college mammology classes.

One theory later tested and proved by Russian experiments on Silver Foxes, is that foxes were trapped and given daily attention and care by humans. As time went on, they were able to learn each of the foxes behaviors and mannerisms. The breeders would select for one main trait and this was called “flight distance” (which was the distance they could approach the foxes before they would run away in fear.) they would then use selective breeding to breed the foxes that were the least aggressive and timid toward humans and with the least amount of flight distance. They would then keep breeding the foxes with least amount of flight distance until they achieved a somewhat domesticated canine. By using selective breeding, over time, the foxes began to show dog-like behaviors such as whining for attention, barking, licking and most importantly, wagging their tails! Then they began to change physically. Ears began to flop downward, tails began to curl, and skulls were narrower with shorter snouts than that of wild foxes.

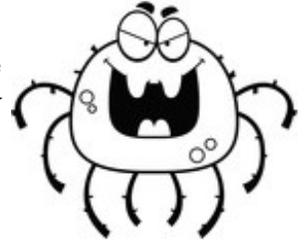


Biologist Raymond Coppinger has another theory. He believes that domesticated dogs came from wolves that domesticated themselves. This process would have started thousands of years ago, when people began to gather and live in villages for a long period of time. Long established villages create a lot of waste, which in turn created a wonderful food source for all sorts of carnivores, including wolves. Coppinger believes that flight distance was crucial to the transformation from the wild wolf to the ancestors of the modern dog. Animals with shorter flight distance will linger and feed while humans are close by. This trait would have been passed on over many years and generations of wolves. Unlike with the Silver Fox, this process would have taken thousands of years without human intervention of selective breeding.

There are over 150 breeds registered with the American Kennel Club, and that doesn't include every breed in the world! (There are hundreds more, not including those that are not yet classified.) Without human intervention, we may have never been able to establish the domestic dogs we all love and cherish today!

The Elusive Tick-Deanna K.

As the days get longer, and the weather gets warmer, we have to start worrying about those pesky ticks again. Not many people know as soon as the snow cover is gone and the temperature goes above freezing, the ticks are out in full force! Fleas unfortunately are always a nuisance since they do not go dormant in the winter, but with ticks they can spread some pretty serious disease. Lyme disease is the most common out of the tick borne diseases that people know about that is spread by the deer tick. There are a few more tick borne diseases in Wisconsin spread by other species of ticks that can hurt our four legged friends. The other diseases spread by ticks are Anaplasmosis that can have the same clinical signs as Lyme (lameness, fever, and inappetence), and Ehrlichia that can show clinical signs of fever and anorexia. In the area that we live, ticks are everywhere as well. Yes they are more prevalent in the wooded areas, but the dogs that just go in the backyard in the middle of town can get ticks on them too.



It can be overwhelming to pick the best product since there are so many flea and tick preventatives out on the market these days. Some of these products can be picked up at places like Walmart that are not going to be as effective as the prevention that is sold through veterinary clinics. The staff at Wolf River Vet Clinic can answer any questions on what prevention would work best for your pets. As a pet owner myself, I always recommend flea and tick prevention to keep everyone healthy and safe throughout the year.

Spring Kittens and Care -Stephanie W.

Spring is here, and with that comes kittens. Your first instinct may be to take them into your home, but there are better options.

Young kittens are best left with their mothers until 6-8 weeks of age. If you feel a litter has been abandoned, do these things first:

- Stand 35 feet or more away, or leave entirely, and watch for the mother to come back (she may be hunting.) This may take a few hours.
- Evaluate for dangers such as bad weather or an unsafe environment. Keep in mind kittens need warmth, so being hot is not typically a concern.
- Are there predators nearby? Dogs and other animals could be a danger to the safety of the litter. Also consider the possibility of kids or adults that may not understand how delicate the kittens are and may accidentally harm them.
- Is their location safe from other dangers? Vehicles, foot traffic and the like may pose a danger to the litter.

If you are concerned for their well being and believe they would be safer in a home environment, monitor them until they are 6-8 weeks of age before taking action. If you do take them in, be prepared for the responsibility of taking care of a litter, as kittens require a lot of work. Make sure you have researched thoroughly and know how to care for the kittens, or contact your local veterinary clinic for advice. Be prepared to care for them yourself as many rescues are unable to take them in. And if they are not in immediate danger and you can not care for them, contact a rescue before taking any action.

Spring Plants To Avoid

Spring has arrived and soon, with full force, those beautiful plants we've all been waiting for will bloom. Flowers and plants are great for livening up a room, but can be deadly to your pets. Here are some plants/flowers to avoid this spring.

Plants/Flowers to avoid:

- Tulips
- Hyacinths
- Daffodils
- Lilies: Easter, Day, Japanese, Rubrum, Casablanca, Tiger, Stargazer, Asiatic
- Crocuses
- Lily Of The Valley



Don't get discouraged!
There are non toxic plants you can have around your pets. Non toxic lilies that you can have around your house include, Calla, Peace and Peruvian lilies. Other plants that are non-toxic include, Snap Dragon, Celosia, Rose, Easter Daisy, Begonia, African Violet, and African Daisy.

Symptoms may include:

- Drooling
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Decreased or increased heart rate
- Seizures

Safe and Non Safe Fertilizers

Attention gardeners! Did you know there are safe fertilizers to have around your pets?

Fertilizers used in gardening can often be overlooked as safe or non-safe. This could potentially lead to a very ill pet. However, pet friendly fertilizers still raise suspicions in whether or not they are really safe for your beloved furry friend. Make sure to look at ingredients and use the proper amount of the fertilizer!

Safer alternatives:

-Blood meal fertilizer: If not used properly may burn plants. *Will* attract unwanted animals, and may also deter moles, squirrels, and deer.

-Bone Meal fertilizer: Crushed up bones in powder form from deceased animals. If ingested in large amounts, this may cause an obstruction/mass in your pet.

More alternatives:

- Manure
- Seaweed (rich in nitrogen)
- Compost
- Grass clippings

So, with that said, it's always important to take precautions when gardening with certain plants or fertilizers.

Hospice- Kathleen N.

Makita and I are now a registered therapy dog team! Makita passed her test with flying colors! I am so proud of her, she really is a great companion! We now have hospice patients to visit and we also visit with other residents at nursing homes. We have had many pleasant visits with the seniors we have met and they are always so grateful for us stopping by. The staff is also glad to see her, she brightens their day. Makita is very comfortable and relaxed during our trips and really seems to enjoy the interaction. Volunteering in this capacity is incredibly rewarding. Often times, our patients are bed-ridden and non-responsive, so we sit with them and provide peaceful presence. There have been times when we read to a patient, help with projects or simply hold hands-touch is so important to people and is often overlooked as a daily part of life. These simple and easy things we provide are vital and bring great joy to the people we visit and to us. People worry that this type of volunteerism is sad or depressing but it isn't. The sad reality is that there are not enough volunteers for all the requests that are made. Everyone deserves to live a life full of love, especially at the end of their life. Just knowing someone cares makes a difference! A stranger and her dog become part of someone's life, even if for just a short time they are not alone. What a wonderful gift to be able to give!



If You Have To Use A Rodent Poison Don't Use Bromethalin-Dr. Baeke

I don't recommend that people with dogs use any rodent poisons around the house. The dogs we see poisoned usually come in with an owner who says "I never thought the dog could get to it". Never underestimate a dog's ability to get into trouble. Dogs are very good at figuring out how to get to something they want. If you do need to use a rodenticide don't get the type that uses bromethalin. The reason is simple. Bromethalin is a neurotoxin and there is no antidote. If your dog gets into it and you don't know it right away it will likely die. If the dog is showing any clinical signs it is likely too late to do anything. At least with the anticoagulant type of rodenticides there is an antidote (vitamin K) and even dogs that are showing signs of bleeding can many times be saved.

The point of not using bromethalin was brought home when I had a client call and say her dog had just eaten some blocks of rat poison at a friend's house. It had just happened and she was on her way in. She was told to bring the package with her. I figured since it was loose blocks it was the anticoagulant type and treatment would be fairly simple (induce vomiting and maybe put on vitamin K). I was shocked when I read that it was bromethalin. A few years ago the government made a law that all bromethalin had to be in child/pet proof containers. Like most dog owners I find it hard to think of a dog proof container but at least it would be very difficult. Apparently even though the container that you set out is child/ pet resistant the refills come in a Ziploc bag. This is the stupidest thing I have seen in a long time. Here you have a toxin that doesn't have an antidote for children or pets and it doesn't have to be in even a child resistant package unless it is in use. So as I say, if you have to use a rodenticide at least use one with an antidote to protect your children and pets from accidents.

Onward! -Jannie N.

As summer approaches, it will mark my 2 years at WRVC. I am honored to be celebrating our first 20 years! It's been a great pleasure to be a part of the clinic. I had moved to WI from WA about 2 years ago, and it has been a learning experience. I have been working as part of the kennel staff for many years (at previous clinics) and WRVC has helped me grow as an employee and person.

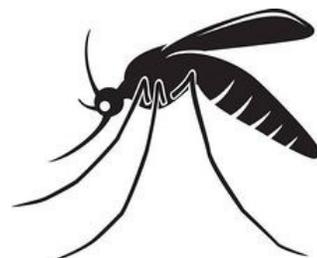
Not only have I learned skills to care for our clients' pets throughout the years but I have also acquired skills with interacting and conversing with clients. I always grew up as a shy person, not talking to many people and being afraid to say the wrong things, however, my coworkers have helped me in that department and I am more than thankful! Clients here have shown me much appreciation, respect and even friendship. For that, I want to thank our clients for giving me this great opportunity!

WRVC has taught me confidence, positivity, and compassion. WRVC is rewarding in many aspects, one in particular, the teamwork. From team building events such as the Warrior Princess Mud Run to wrestling with one hundred pound dogs, the team here at WRVC are very supportive of each other and it shows.

Spring Wellness Heartworm Clinic!

Our annual heartworm clinic will be taking place on April 16th from 10am-1pm at the Wolf River Vet Clinic. We are offering a 5% off discount on our heartworm and flea/tick preventatives! No appointment is necessary for heartworm testing and Lyme vaccines.

*Discount applies only for this day!



Online Store

The WRVC online store is live! Also, our newly updated clinic site has been launched!! Visit us at www.wrvet.com. Changes have included user-friendly interface, easy navigation and updated info. If you have any questions, feel free to call our clinic! (920) 982-2733.