



Paw Talk

A professional publication for the clients of East Valley Animal Clinic

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Cheyenne and Laura

Laura

Since 2002, the patients at East Valley Animal Clinic have been fortunate to have Laura caring for them. A certified veterinary technician, Laura brings to work every day years of experience, along with compassion and caring that extends to both her patients and their owners. Laura enjoys educating clients and is very thorough when explaining treatments and helping owners.

Laura is a self-proclaimed health nut! In her spare time, she is an assistant coach with the Northfield USA Olympic weight lifting team, and finds weight lifting to be one of her

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The Story of Lola

Once upon a time there was a beautiful little Pomeranian puppy named Lola. She lived in a busy household in Apple Valley, Minnesota, where her mistress ran a home-based business. At twelve weeks old, Lola was still adjusting to her new home because she had been there only three weeks.

Like many homes in Apple Valley, Lola's home was filled with the fun and excitement (and chaos) of little children. Little children sometimes make big mistakes when they are around cute little dogs. One sad day in June, poor Lola took a big tumble down a long flight of stairs with the encouragement of a two-year-old child.

Everybody felt real bad; poor Lola could not use her front leg and she was very uncomfortable. Lola's new owners rushed her to East Valley Animal Clinic, where Dr. Heidi Hammel checked her out. Dr. Hammel took an x-ray of Lola's leg, where she found a bad break involving the bones of the foreleg. Lola was going to need surgery to help her leg mend properly. It would be a difficult surgery because Lola was only 5.3 pounds!



surgery. They travel to many of the metropolitan area veterinary clinics to perform the more challenging and difficult surgeries. For Lola's foreleg to heal properly, it would require a metal plate to stabilize the bone, and that would require a highly skilled orthopedic surgeon from VSS.

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Dr. Hammel

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Dr. Heidi Hammel called VSS and spoke to Dr. Scott Hammel—yes, they are married! Dr. Scott Hammel, who is known as “Mr. Dr. Hammel” by EVAC staff, came to East Valley Animal Clinic that same day to repair the fracture of Lola’s front leg. Lola was able to go home to her family the very next day!

Lola had to stay quiet for several weeks after her surgery. This was tough because she felt like she was ready to play again soon after she went home. Her owners were careful about it though, and after six weeks, another x-ray assured us that Lola’s leg had healed.

Lola is now almost six-months-old. She runs and plays as if nothing bad ever happened that day back in June. Lola, her family, and all of us at East Valley Animal Clinic are happy to have the expertise and skills of the surgeons at VSS available to us for these special problems.

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biggest passions. She tries, sometimes unsuccessfully, to get the staff to eat better and exercise. She loves the outdoors and is a member of the Ducks Unlimited chapter for women, an advocate of waterfowl conservation.

At the clinic, Laura is our inventory manager, a big job that requires a lot of organization. She shares her life with her significant other, Rob, two black and white cats, S.A. and Scamp, and two dogs; Tia, a black lab and Cheyenne, a Siberian Husky.

Laura loves the feeling of family that the clinic has. “I feel like family with the people I work with. We share in each other’s lives. When someone has a baby, I feel like a new aunt!”

It’s Not Easy (or Cheap) Being Green!

by Dr. Kathy Ranzinger

In today’s world, it is more important than ever to be aware of our impact on the environment. Everything that we dispose of has the possibility of showing up somewhere else—landfills, water sources, even the air we breathe.

Twenty years ago, we didn’t think too much about what we dumped into the garbage or threw down the drain. Those days are over. Businesses and private citizens are encouraged to recycle waste when possible, and hazardous waste has become a phrase almost everyone has heard and many businesses fear.

At East Valley Animal Clinic, we are trying to do our best to avoid creating a negative impact on the environment. We have recycle receptacles placed all over our clinic so that we can recycle the paper, plastic and metal that we use. Batteries, electronics and florescent bulbs are taken to the appropriate facilities to be recycled. Rather than dump all those outdated medications such as antibiotics, hormones and other pharmaceuticals down the drain, they are collected into special containers to be picked up by EPA-licensed agents for disposal in an environmentally safe manner. We even have two certified veterinary technicians receiving additional training specifically for the task of managing the proper disposal of the waste products we generate here at our practice.

As a business owner, I grumble and complain about the costs and inconvenience of managing our hazardous waste. As a human being who drinks the water and breathes the air, I am pleased to see our world becoming more aware of our effect on this earth. Hopefully, if we all embrace the philosophy and practices needed to reduce and recycle waste, we will pass on a healthier planet to our children and grandchildren.



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