

# PawPrint

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Apple Valley Animal Hospital

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## Summer: The Big Noise Season

A warm summer storm rolls in, and with the first rumble of thunder Roscoe dashes for the bedroom, trembling and trying to hide his 75-pound body under the bed. Noise phobias are a common problem for pets. Most often it is characterized by extremely fearful behavior during thunderstorms or fireworks. This behavior can range from trembling to running away in a panic. Fortunately, if your pet suffers from noise phobia, there are several options you can try to help calm or even desensitize them.

If possible, stay home with your pet. July 4<sup>th</sup> and New Year's Eve can be especially stressful times since people often celebrate with fireworks. During any stressful event, remember to stay calm for your pet. Repeating "its ok, its ok" or heavily stroking your pet will only create more stress. Instead, use a low soothing voice combined with hug therapy. If your dog wants to sit in your lap or is comforted by being



hugged, that's ok. A new product, Thunder Shirts, are proving to be very effective in calming pets in many different stress situations. (See [www.thundershirt.com](http://www.thundershirt.com))

When possible, reduce the stimuli. Closing curtains and windows can help significantly. Pets are less fearful if they can't see flashes from lightning or fireworks. White noise can also be helpful. Turning on a television, radio or fan helps by masking the stressful noises.

Counter-conditioning or desensitizing is another method which can help. The goal is to get the pet use to the noises by progressive exposure. Believe it or not, CD's of thunderstorms and fireworks are available for use with this method.

Begin with the volume at a barely audible level. While playing the recording, give your dog their favorite healthy treat or play one of their favorite games. Once the pet no longer seems bothered by the recording, turn the volume up slightly and continue with treats or games. Don't expect to turn the volume up each session. This method is a long term investment. At the earliest hint of a real storm, use your counter-conditioning strategies, i.e. games and healthy treats.

Some owners find their pet needs a little more help. If this is the case, call us. Our doctors will gladly evaluate your pet to see if anti-anxiety drugs are appropriate for their phobia.

 Dawn Surrett, RVT



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### Did you know we offer free dental exams?

We feel strongly about dental care because:

1. Dental disease and injuries hurt.

2. Dental injuries and disease are some of the most common (and fixable) problems we see.

3. Veterinary studies show proper dental care adds an average of two years to a pet's life.



**Call us today to schedule your pets free exam!**

## Meet Our Staff: Teresa Surret

Teresa grew up Western North Carolina and knows the people and area well. She and Richard, her husband of thirty-three years, have built a beautiful working farm in the area. Their pets include two cats, two Great Pyrenees (who watch over their goat herd), and a very spoiled Poodle named Fancy Pants. The Surretts love to travel and have been through most of the fifty states. We are all jealous of their last trip, snowmobiling in Yellowstone. Outside the US, Canada and Costa Rica are favorite destinations.



Teresa & Fancy on a winter walk

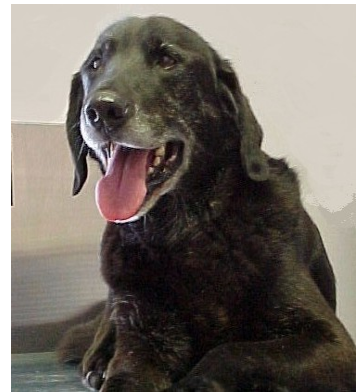
Teresa has an extensive background in veterinary healthcare. She has served as head of Client Services and Staff Trainer in a busy emergency hospital. She assures the smooth flow of patients, records and information through the hospital. Teresa is very knowledgeable and happy to help you with appointments and product information. Call us and nine times out of ten, Teresa will take your call and either answer, or get an answer, to your pet care questions.

## Senior Healthcare At AVAH

Unfortunately, our pets age much faster than we do. Fortunately, advances in veterinary medicine are helping them live longer, healthier lives. Because dogs "age" more quickly than we do, it's important to catch problems as early as possible. The best means of early detection is an informed, observant owner and regular veterinary examinations. We know proper healthcare is integral to our senior patients wellbeing and quality of life. We have worked closely with our associates and suppliers to make our Senior Wellness Exam comprehensive and affordable.

Our Senior Wellness Package includes: A complete physical exam, ophthalmic exam, dental exam, mobility & pain analysis, blood work, urinalysis, fecal analysis and reviews of vaccines, parasite prevention, diet & nutrition and behavior. We also provide topic specific handouts

and access to an online database of senior specific information. All designed to keep our senior patients as healthy as possible for as long as possible. Our Senior Wellness Exam package offers a savings of more than \$63.00. If you have a senior, watch your inbox during July (Please make sure we have your email address). We will be sending information on topics including what to watch for, senior-friendly tips for your home and the special needs of seniors.



## Chester



As many of you know, our clinic cat Chester passed away on June 8th when he succumbed to the condition which initially brought him to us. Chester joined us early in 2010 and quickly became part of the Apple Valley family. Chester enjoyed life; greeting clients and meeting new people and pets. His true passion was swatting and chasing plastic rings from water bottles. His trademark head tilt was the result of a medical condition early in life. But he never let that or his diabetes keep him from a good days work at the hospital. Chester leaves us with great memories and the reminder of how hard it is to lose a pet companion.





## Training Classes: Making A Great Thing Even Better

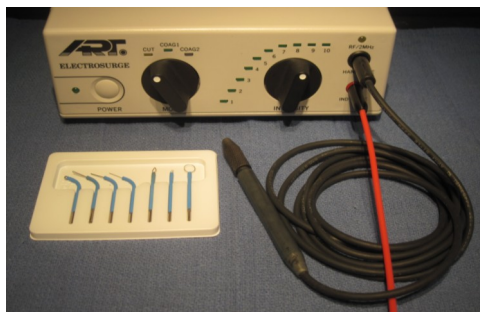
AVAH has teamed with Dean and Cyndi Connolly of Apple Valley Dog Training to offer several levels of training classes. The classes are held on the grounds of Apple Valley Animal Hospital. The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Class is designed to get puppies and their owners off to a good start with socialization and positive ways to use treats and praise for training. The Basic Obedience and Canine Good Citizen Training class is an eight week class designed to help dogs learn the skills and behaviors needed to be reliable, well-behaved members of their families and the community. Canine Agility classes can be a fun for both dogs and owners, providing both physical and mental exercise. For more information, contact Dean or Cyndi Connolly at (828) 702-1555 or [applevalleydogtraining@hotmail.com](mailto:applevalleydogtraining@hotmail.com)



## Technology Spotlight

### ElectroSurgery

Electrosurgery is the application of a high-frequency electric current to tissue as a means to cut or coagulate. The benefit of using this instrument over the traditional scalpel is the surgeon's ability to make precise incision with limited blood loss. While electrosurgery can be used for most soft-tissue procedures it is most often used for oral or dermal procedures. Electrosurgery units have different and interchangeable cutting tips for use in a wider range of procedures. It is often chosen for initial incisions be-



cause of its ability to limit bleeding, providing a dryer surgery field and better view for the surgeon. The doctor spends less time blotting the procedure site and shortens the patient's anesthesia time which is always desirable. During a single procedure the surgeon may use several different means of cutting tissue depending on the patient, tissue and goals of the procedure. The electrosurgery unit is another tool for achieving our goal of providing the highest level of care for our patients.

### Drop-off Appointments: Making Your Life Easier

If your pet needs to be seen but your schedule is full, ask about a drop-off appointment. Rest assured, your pet will be treated like royalty while its here.

Likewise, if our schedule is full and your pet needs to be seen, we may suggest you drop your pet off. The doctor will work with your pet throughout the day. In either case, we will keep you informed and the doctor will call to discuss results and treatment options if any are needed.



### Notable Quotes:

"There's no need for a piece of sculpture in a home that has a cat." -- Wesley Bates

"Dogs come when they are called; cats take a message and get back to you later." -- Mary Bly

"The average dog is a nicer person than the average person." -- Andy Rooney

# Join the Fun: BRHS's Family Picnic for Paws

On Saturday, July 23rd from 11:00am to 3:00pm, the Blue Ridge Humane Society will host the Family Picnic for Paws. The picnic will be located at the Animal Adoption and Rescue Center on 88 Centipede Lane, ten minutes past the Blue Ridge Mall off Highway 64 East (across from the Justice Academy). There is no admission fee to the event. Bring a picnic lunch, lawn chairs or blanket and enjoy some old fashioned fun. There will be games for the kids, fun for your dog (leash required), a canine agility demonstration, the Henderson County Sheriff's Department K-9 unit demonstration, a fire truck from Edneyville Fire Department, a raffle (winners announced at 12:30pm), a dunking booth, a bounce house and much more. Winners of the grade school contest "The funniest thing I ever saw an animal do." will also be announced during the event.



## Maybe Pets Can Talk



Every two seconds a family pet gets lost. And while most shelters and rescue groups scan pets on arrival, many are never reunited with their families because they cannot be identified. That's why we recommend all pets have a microchip. When implanted, the pet may feel the slight "pinch" of the injection. ResQ chips are known nationwide and have a 24/7 hotline to match chip numbers and the owner's contact information. That's peace of mind.

## Summer Pet Hazards

It's getting warm out there! We looked forward to this all winter and now we're enjoying warm breezes and time outside. As days warm up, always provide plenty of fresh water for your pets. If they spend time outdoors, make sure they have access to a cool, shady area. Keep long haired dogs and cats well groomed or trimmed. Never leave a pet unattended in a car. Even on relatively cool days the inside temperatures can reach 120 degrees or more within minutes. Even with the windows cracked. Signs of heat stress include collapse, heavy panting and excessive drooling. If you suspect heat stress or heat stroke contact us immediately.

Other summertime dangers include common flowers and plants- tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, lilies, and Lily of the Valley to name a few. Lawn, garden and household chemicals commonly used this time of year can also be very dangerous to our pets. When using fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and insecticides, take the same precautions you would if children had access to the area. If you suspect your pet has been exposed to any of these products contact us immediately. If possible, have the information from the product label so we know what compounds are involved. Common signs of exposure vary from mild (drooling, vomiting or diarrhea) to severe (lethargy, neurologic signs and convulsions). Remember that poisons used for rodents, snails and slugs are very dangerous to your pet. Don't allow access to areas where these products are used or stored.



## It's A Dog's Life

Many dogs love the water. If you have a pool or spend time around lakes and rivers, keep a close eye on your pets. Dogs tire quickly when swimming and can get into trouble in seconds. Vegetation around lakes and rivers can entangle pets, especially if they are exhausted from a long swim. Pools are especially dangerous because pets may not be able to find the way out if they fall in. And while cats are agile and surefooted, we hear about them falling into pools every season. We have also seen a case of chlorine poisoning in a pet that constantly drank from a pool. Have a great time enjoying the water with your pets but keep a sharp eye on them!