



Circle L Animal Hospital

TLC The Way It Should Be

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2009

Circle L Welcomes Dr. Charletta Begaye



Dr. Charletta Begaye is the newest associate veterinarian at the Circle L Animal Hospital. Dr. Begaye grew up in the rural community of Chinle, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation. She has always had a strong interest in science, medicine, and the care of animals including small

ruminants and camelids. Growing up on the reservation, Dr. Begaye has worked with sheep, cattle, horses, dogs, and cats.

Dr. Begaye graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree (with a major in Veterinary Science) from the University of Arizona and attended business and law training at Northern Arizona University. She received her Doctorate of veterinary medicine at Colorado State University in May, 2003. Dr. Begaye had been practicing small animal veterinary medicine in Tucson, Arizona for the past five years and is looking forward to working in a small community.

Dr. Begaye has relocated to Chino Valley with her husband Charles, son Dakota, and dog Lola. She enjoys spending time with her son, drawing and painting, and taking evening jogs with Lola.

In Appreciation

By Leonda Armstrong, DVM

We would like to formally thank Dr. Mark Muchna for all his hard work and dedication to the profession of Veterinary Medicine. He came to our hospital as a temporary relief Dr. but became a permanent fixture for the last year. We could not have made it through all these months without him.

Many of our clients have grown to respect, love and request Dr. Mark and I know we will all be sad to see him go. We are blessed that our hospital is growing to the point of needing a 4th full time veterinarian and we are pleased to have found Dr. Charletta Begaye who joined us March 23rd.

This growth is bitter sweet as we are very sad to see Dr Mark go as he has become an important part of our family, but we are glad to welcome a new member to our family as well.

We will miss Dr. Mark but have hopes and plans for him to come and visit on occasion to help fill in where needed. Thank you Dr. Mark for your love of animals and your dedication to the field.

THANK YOU

By Jim David and Leonda Armstrong

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a very special thank you. My mom (Lonna) recently under went open heart surgery at the Mayo Hospital.

After a very difficult 2 1/2 weeks, she is home, recovering and getting stronger everyday. To my "top notch" staff and doctors, thank you so much for your support, for "taking care of business" and, most of all, for the positive thoughts and prayers. We could not have gotten through this time with out all of you.

Last but certainly not least we want to say thank you to our friends, clients and family, who were all very supportive and understanding during my absence. We have an amazing community and area.

Thank you to one and all for your support, prayers, thoughts and kindness.

Circle L wins first place at the Chino Valley Hometown Christmas 2008

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring..... Except everyone at Circle L Animal Hospital. We sure hope you were able to see Chino Valley's Hometown Christmas displays last December. We had a good time putting our display together. There were a lot of business and organizations that put in time and effort in their displays to give something back to the community.

If you missed it, you really should try to come out this next Christmas season and enjoy the

beautiful displays. Hey, put up your own tree display to share with the community.

We keep adding to ours a little each year. Our theme was "It's a Critter Christmas", we had a fireplace, rocker and of course the tree, But the real topper was the live dog and two little girls sitting at the feet of Mrs. Claus. Michol one of our Vet Tech's was Mrs. Claus along with her little dog, Katie. Katrina our Head Tech's little girl Keirsten and her niece Kelsey, were our little darlings. They enjoyed themselves and looked adorable.

I guess that's what put us over the top as we won first place! We are already starting to plan for 2009's Hometown Christmas, hope to see you there! In the mean time have a wonderful year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15th – OFA Hip/Elbow Clinic

May 16th – CERF/CARDIO Clinic

May 16th – PAWS-4-FUN Event



BREEDING AND WHELPING (Birth)

by Monica Ellis, DVM

Breeding dogs and cats can be a very rewarding, exciting and exhausting experience and usually it entails some aspects of each.

The gestation period of the dog is 60-63 days, in the cat it is 63-66 days. Between days 28 – 35 of gestation an ultrasound should be performed to see if indeed pregnant and to check puppy heartbeats.

At 45 to 55 days of gestation a radiograph (x-ray) should be performed so the number of offspring to be delivered is known. When the animal is approaching parturition (birthing process), the temperature falls 1 to 2 degrees below the normal temperature of 99.5-101.5 and remains down for 12 to 24 hours prior to delivery.

The normal birthing process happens in 3 stages, the first stage lasts for 6-12 hours, the animal may appear uncomfortable, restless, nervous, and they may shiver, pant, vomit, stop eating or pace. Most will seek a place to “nest” near the end of this stage. Cats tend to vocalize initially and then purr as delivery approaches.

Stage 2 entails delivery of the puppy/kittens. There will be obvious contractions and the time between the initiation of stage 2 and delivery of the first offspring varies but should be no longer than 3 hours. The time interval between subsequent young also varies and can be 30-60 minutes if hard labor is involved, if quiet and not actively pushing it can be from 2-3 hours in the dog.

Once each offspring have been delivered stage 3 begins and ends with the passage of the placenta, stage 2 and 3 will alternate as the offspring are delivered.

Dystocia is a difficult birthing process and can be caused by many different factors: a small or abnormal birth canal, infant size or uterine weakness (insufficient uterine force to propel the fetus through the birth canal).

Other risk factors include age, brachycephalic and toy breed, Persians and Himalayan cats, obesity, changes in environment and history of previous problems. Below is a list of the signs of Dystocia and impending need to contact your veterinarian.

Signs of Dystocia:

- 30 minutes of persistent, strong, abdominal contractions without expulsion of an offspring.
- More than 30 hours after onset of first stage of labor.
- More than 203 hours between puppies (as long as we do not see hard contractions)
- Failure to deliver a puppy within 24 hours of a consistent temperature drop below 99 degrees F.
- Mother displays signs of pain and is constantly licking vulvae area when delivering.
- Gestation period over 68 days from the first mating or over 59 days from the end of estrus (heat).

If any of the above issues arise during the whelping/queening (birthing) process, please contact your veterinarian. Bloodwork, radiographs and examination will be needed to determine the next step in the process.

A caesarean section (C-section) is often the final step in a difficult dystocia, this entails surgical removal of the offspring. We can do this with or without spaying the dog. A c-section can be an expensive final phase of the breeding process.

Brutus

By Roger Yuhas

This is a story of love wrapped in 5 pounds of fur named Brutus. He's a little Pomeranian with a bundle of attitude & a will to live that has been inspirational to be a part of.

In recent years, along with other health issues, he's been treated for pancreatitis and the prednisone had gradually taken its toll as his fur had become sparse and he spent more time sleeping. We thought his decline was maybe a combination of the pancreas & his age.

A couple of months before his 14th birthday, although never one to shy away from a meal, his interest in food started to decline and he began to decline and he began to occasionally throw up. The x-ray Dr. Schaible suggested revealed that little Brutus at some undetermined time in the past had swallowed a rock which was now lodged in his stomach ... What to do? Consider his age of 14 and weakened condition, did we want to put him through an operation would involve?

It's been said that when you face death your life flashes in front of you... Well, I think the same thing can happen when a loved one (including a dog), is at that point. I thought of all the times over those 4 years that little Brutus looked to us for love and support and never failed to return the same... in only a way he could. The way he would play with only one toy, a little fuzzy squeak toy with a tail on it. If it wasn't in his box, he would search all over the house till he found it and bring it to you to squeak and throw... He waited for me to do my thing in the bathroom and would sit and watch me combing my hair and brush my teeth, tilting his head while trying to understand the many one-way conversations we had, the rides in the truck with the wind in his face. The nights he would curl up



by my ear and sometimes won the snoring title. The times I'd hold him and he would look up and we would communicate in a way only a dog person would understand.

The vet said there was a chance Brutus could survive the stomach surgery and resume a quality of life, but for how long? After all, he was almost 14. Anyway, Dr. Armstrong did the surgery in the middle of August and the last half of the month was a stressful rollercoaster ride of one step forward and 2 steps back, but slowly the little guys will to live prevailed.

As I write this, Christmas is one week away and Little Brutus is sitting on my lap without a clue as to what an important part in my life he's been. As his sight and hearing are rapidly failing him, he still enjoys life even though he'll bring his cat toy only once instead of playing till you get tired. So, whether or not he'll have a 15th birthday is known only by his Creator...we will enjoy him as long as we can.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Jackie is our Employee for the 4th quarter of 2008! Jackie originally started with Circle L in September

Of 1997. She has been our Smiling greeter and Receptionist. You may have seen our "dog" Spot, Well that's our Jackie dressed up in costume. She has helped out at many events dressed as Spot. Children just love it and so do we. We are proud to have Jackie out front representing us.

PAWS-4-FUN

We are happy to announce our 3rd annual "Paws-4-Fun" appreciation day. This will be held on May 16th and we invite all clients and the community to join us for music, food and fun. Bring your furry friends along to visit with local vendors and area animal adoption agencies. There will be raffles, a pet costume contests, games, and food, all to raise money for local pet charities and to say "Thanks" to our clients.

We are going to also have CERF and CARDO OFA clearance scheduled for that day. For additional information and to sign up please contact Debbie at Circle L Animal Hospital as space is limited.

Any interest in helping with "Paws-4-Fun" as a volunteer or a vendor, please contact Robin at Circle L Animal Hospital, or by e-mailing

Debbie@circlelvet.com

Hope to see everyone for a wonderful time!

WELLNESS CHALLENGE

Circle L Animal Hospital has started something new among the employees wherein we will see which employee(s) can provide wellness information and services to the most clients.

From March through June 2009 our wellness education will be on Rattlesnake Vaccinations; Frontline Plus; CET Dental Chews; Anal Gland Expression; Ear Cleaning; and Bloodwork.

So when you come in for your next appointment or schedule an appointment ask your favorite employee for information and how you and your pet can benefit from the above items.

Hey, mine are totally going for the CET Dental Chews!

Did you Know?



When a domestic cat goes after mice, about one pounce in three results in a catch.

The moonrat is not really a rat but part of the hedgehog family.

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

The world's smallest mammal is the bumblebee bat of Thailand, weighing less than a penny.

ARE ALL X-RAYS CREATED EQUAL?

By Leonda Armstrong, DVM

X-ray is defined as a form of electromagnetic radiation. X-rays are produced when charged particles are slowed down or stopped by the atoms of the target area which occurs inside the x-ray tube to create an x-ray beam. The beam is then focused on a target area with film below that then allows us to create an invisible image that is developed by different chemicals in a processor. This then results in a "film" that is viewable on an x-ray viewer.

The latest wave of the future is digital radiography. **Digital radiography** is a form of x-ray imaging, where digital X-ray sensors are used instead of traditional photographic film. Advantages include time efficiency through bypassing chemical processing and the ability to digitally transfer and enhance images. Also less radiation can be used to produce an image of similar contrast to conventional radiography, thus making safer than the traditional x-rays. One of the largest benefits is that there is less stress to the patient because the picture is generated within seconds. There are many types of digital x-ray machines out there and different types of processing for the digital x-rays. We won't delve into all of the specifics today, but will say that we are discussing true "DR" digital radiography when we are discussing our cases below.

We are often asked "are all x-rays the same?" We believe the answer is no! Allow me to set the stage for you. Imagine if you will, entering your favorite veterinary hospital with your beloved "4 legged" friend who is having difficulty breathing and feeling tired all of the time. Your doctor says that they can hear a heart murmur and wants to take x-rays, and you agree, as you want to know exactly what is going on. They take your friend back for x-rays. Here is where we develop 2 scenarios. The first is a hospital that has plain film x-rays and the second is one that has digital x-

rays. In the first situation they take your furry friend back for x-rays. 30 minutes later they arrive back in the room to report that all went well and the Dr. will be in. In the second situation our pet returns to the room in under 10 minutes with a report the Dr. will be right in. Now in both situations the Dr. arrives to review the x-rays. The film X-rays are reviewed on the large viewer box and unfortunately what you see is what you get, but the digital x-rays are viewed on a large computer screen. With the digital x-rays you can make them larger, smaller, darker or lighter and even measure the area desired right on the screen. With a magnifying glass you can view an area that may otherwise be distorted if enlarged or an area that you want to compare to the opposite side. In either scenario your friend will be cared for and receive appropriate care, but in the second you may see less time at the doc's office and more time doing what is needed in your busy everyday life.

We frequently hear how wonderful it is to have the ability to take your x-rays and view them on your home computer or take them to a specialty hospital. Even better yet it gives us the ability to email the films to the specialists. Gone are the days of "snail" mail. In today's society we feel that it is important that we keep up with the changing times in medicine and technology. The detail that is allowed by digital radiography provides a much better view of the overall workings of the body from soft tissue to bone.

It is not the answer to everything and we still are unable to visualize all soft tissue areas. It is important that we are able to combine multiple diagnostic techniques to get the best picture of your pet's health overall. This may involve ultrasound, MRI, or CT scans. Don't hesitate to speak to your regular veterinarian to be certain that the tests that are needed are being done for your family friend.

Protecting Your Dogs From Rattlesnakes

By Dr. Megan Schaible

“Approximately 300,000 dogs and cats are bitten by venomous snakes each year in the United States.”

The currently available rattlesnake vaccine is manufactured by Red Rock Biologicals. This vaccination protects against the Western Diamondback and snakes with similar venom. These snakes include Western Rattlesnake (including the Prairie, Great



Basin, Northern and Southern Pacific Rattlesnakes), Sidewinder, Timber Rattlesnake, Massasauga and the Copperhead. It also provides partial protection against the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake.

The first year of vaccinations patient less

than 25 pounds and greater than 100 pounds receive 3 vaccinations spaced 1 month apart. Dogs between 26 pounds and 99 pounds receive 2 vaccinations again spaced 1 month apart. Subsequently, all dogs receive yearly booster vaccinations to keep their immunity at adequate levels.

Our recommended timing for you dog to receive its rattlesnake vaccine is in the spring at least one month prior to snake season. Even if in the past your dog received its vaccination at a different time of the year it will be safe and is highly suggested to re-booster in the spring. This provides your dogs with the highest possible protection during the time of highest risk.

The vaccination works by stimulating your dog's immune system to make protective antibodies that will neutralize the venom when bit. Patients that have been vaccinated should experience less pain and less permanent injury if bitten by a snake. Any dog bitten by a venomous snake should always receive emer-

gency care and follow the treatment recommendations provided by our doctors. Dogs that are vaccinated may require less or have no need for antivenom and decreased treatment cost.

For more information please contact our office, visit our website, and Red Rock Biologicals website <http://www.redrockbiologics.com/index.html>.

Employee of the Year Katrina Tobin



This is our very first Employee of the Year. This award was based on many criteria and we feel the person that was selected fits all of these and many more.

We are looking for the employee that puts in tremendous effort and heart into every day of work. A person that exemplifies Circle L's purpose and goals as well as see's our vision and works diligently towards helping us to fulfill this dream.

Katrina Tobin has been an employee of Circle L long before the change in April of 2007. She has continued to be a very valuable asset to the hospital as our new Technician Manager. She is often at the clinic after hours with no complaint, is the first to volunteer to help where needed, makes certain all tasks are completed no matter how long that might take and always puts the patients care first.

We are proud of the growth and maturity that we have seen in Katrina over the last 2 years and are excited to see her and our practice grow for many years to come. Congratulations, Katrina this honor is well deserved.

Young Faces at Circle L Animal Hospital

Please help us welcome two of our high school students who have joined our team to obtain experience in the veterinary field.

Here is a little about them: Alanna Mays is a senior at Chino Valley High School. Has been working for Circle L Animal Hospital for approximately 2 months through the NACOG program and is working as a hospital assistant. Alanna says she has always loved animals and when she was very young she thought being a vet would be awesome. Alanna felt it would be very easy and would love playing with animals all day, but then she soon found out that veterinarians don't just get to play with the animals. She said this made her think twice about being a vet. Alanna soon realized that saving an animals life would be personally beneficial and more important than just playing with the animal.

Alanna loves spending time with animals because she doesn't really get to at home. She also loves that she doesn't have to beg her foster mom for a dog because now she gets to spend time with them every day. "This is really awesome!" What she likes the most is that she gets to help out the animals whether they are just getting shots; if it's an operation; or, that she gets to have the honor to prepare the surgical packs. She couldn't say it enough how much she enjoys all of it. Alanna loves working with all the people at Circle L Animal Hospital, working with the animals, and loves learning so much.

Amber Krueger is a 15 year old junior at Chino Valley High School. Amber has been around animals all of her life including volunteering at the Yavapai Humane Society, being involved in 4-H, FFA, and, showing her rabbits, textiles, genie pigs, horses, dogs, chickens and pigeons. Amber



Alanna Mays and Amber Krueger

has wanted to be a veterinarian since she was eight years old, and she has since tried to obtain as much information and experience as possible to accomplish her future goal of being a veterinarian.

Amber started working for a veterinarian's office walking dogs and was able to watch the veterinarians at work first hand. Amber says this even made her want to be a veterinarian even more as she was able to see all aspects of the veterinarian field. Amber has joined Circle L Animal Hospital to work at the front desk and truly enjoys the people who work here, working with the animals, and loves learning and growing so she can meet her ultimate goal of being a veterinarian.



CIRCLE L Animal Hospital
TLC The Way it Should Be

CERF CLINIC

Location:	Circle L Animal Hospital		
Date:	Saturday, May 16, 2009	CERF: Dr Lisa Felchle	\$40.00
Time:	Noon until 2:00 p.m.	CARDIO: Dr Whitt Church	\$45.00
Doctor:	Eye Care for Animals	Microchip:	\$35.00

1. All testing by appointment only. All appointments will be made directly with Circle L Animal Hospital.
2. Services must be paid for in advance – **NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATIONS.**
3. Remember to bring your AKC registration and microchip number
4. Please download the appropriate forms and fill them out ahead of time at <http://www.offa.org> to help us stay on schedule. We must have a valid (non-blocked) e-mail address and telephone number - this is how you will receive your appointment times!

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT:

5. Fill out the attached registration form. Mail the completed registration form and the OFA form along with your check to **CIRCLE L ANIMAL HOSPITAL c/o Debbie Lipely, 845 S Hwy 89, Chino Valley, AZ 86323.** Please fill out the forms completely, including your telephone number and e-mail address. We will not hold the checks, but will deposit them as they are received.
6. We will send you an appointment time by e-mail, and will call you with any questions. You may contact us with any questions at Debbie@circlelvet.com.

****PLEASE ARRIVE ½ HOUR PRIOR TO YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT TIME FOR EYE DROPS.** If you are more than 20 minutes late, we might not be able to work you back into the schedule.

Please fill out the following information **COMPLETELY** for each dog and return with your payment to **CIRCLE L ANIMAL HOSPITAL**, c/o Debbie Lipely, 845 S Hwy 89, Chino Valley, AZ 86323. **Check service: CERF:_____ CARDIO_____ MICROCHIP_____**

NAME:_____ TELEPHONE:(_____)_____

ADDRESS:_____ CITY:_____ ZIP:_____

E-MAIL ADDRESS:_____

Dogs Name:_____ Check for total amount \$_____ is enclosed.