



Circle L Animal Hospital

TLC The Way It Should Be

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FOURTH QUARTER 2008

Dear Circle L Family and Friends,

I can't believe that this year is almost over. It feels like yesterday that we were making plans to buy the hospital, now it is 1 ½ years later with many fulfilling experiences.

Please be patient with us during the current road construction that is slated to last for the next year to year and a half. We are planning on having our parking lot paved as well during this process so that we can provide all with an easy and safe environment. You have likely noticed our upgrades over the last little bit. Part of the parking lot is paved and we have added the digital x-ray along with a new ultrasound machine. One of the things that we are very proud of is the fact that we have been able to make these upgrades without increasing costs to you. We are hoping that you have noticed that prices have not increased since we took over the practice and a few prices actually have come down.

We unfortunately have no control over medications and foods. In these areas we are at the mercy of the market as they dictate the prices, but we do our best to keep our margin low so that the price to each of you is reasonable. Next time in ask about a few of our new products with our private label designed just for us and your pet families.

We have been very active in the community this year as well. Our "Paws for Fun" was a great success for

some of the adoption agencies and local businesses. We are helping to promote the dog park locally in Chino Valley, we participated in the territorial day parade as "Circle L Docs office" where we treated both 2 legged and 4 legged critters in the old west, Dogtoberfest in Prescott was fun filled and found many 4 legged friends new homes and helped us educate the public on the rattlesnake vaccine, and the Halloween tail gate party decorated as "boot hill" with a graveyard, eerie fog and 2 not so handsome cowboy ghosts standing charge, brought smiles, giggles and a few gasps to all who attended. We have plans to enter a tree in the "Home Town Christmas" display at heritage middle school in December. You will have to come see what fun theme we come up with this year. Santa will be coming to Circle L to have Robin take pictures for all of those good pet friends and their 2 legged owners. Please check the current events section for a complete update of dates and times.

Don't forget to keep checking the website (www.circlelvet.com) for complete details on all that is happening at Circle L. You will also find occasional discounts and promotions that we will run through out the months. For example, November and December are our senior care months and we are offering savings on packaged services from 15% to 30% off of the total cost. November has also been dental month which is a 20% savings on dental procedures. Be looking for more promotions in February. Every other month we do a health clinic for all clients that need OFA's done, micro-chipping, blood parasite

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testing (heartworm), and Optigen blood testing.

We are working hard to hold an eye CERF clinic at our hospital as well as Heart CERFS. Keep looking at the website for further information on dates and times if we can make this happen. We are also currently investigating a frozen semen storage unit to have at our hospital for further convenience for our breeder clients.

Yes indeed we are very busy at Circle L not only in the hospital but in the community, helping to support community unity and growth in our area. We truly pride ourselves each and every day on the care and service that we provide to you and your 4 legged family members. If we can help in any way or if you see a way for us to improve we are always open to suggestions, the good, the bad and the ugly! Our motto is to provide "TLC the Way it Should be", so with your help we can be the best hospital, providing uncompromising care, cutting edge technology, and the highest standard of care available today.

Come visit us soon and say hello to your friends and families as you travel through the holidays. We look forward to seeing you, your friends and families (4 legged and 2 legged) soon.



Arriving this February National Pet Dental Health Month

Annually each February the veterinary community observes National Pet Dental Health Month to highlight the importance of dental care for our animal companions and to provide owners with the tools to maintain their pet's oral health. "More than 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by the time they're three years old. This can lead to serious health problems," explained Dr. Brook Niemiec, a board certified specialist in veterinary dentistry.

At Circle L Animal Hospital we are committed to providing oral examinations with annual check-ups, recommending necessary dental procedures, and having modern dental equipment to provide quality care. To promote good dental health during the month of February Circle L Animal Hospital will be providing a 20% discount on all dentals performed during that month.

In 2007, our first year we've offered this discount, we performed 33 dentals during that month. The extra bacteria in the mouth due to poor dental health have been linked to kidney and liver disease and may cause microabscesses on these organs. Please contact our receptionists to schedule your family member for a dental cleaning or a dental examination with doctor recommendations.

Tips to keep your pet's teeth healthy:

- Annual physical examinations to identify any dental issues.
- Professional dental cleanings when your pet has signs of periodontal disease.
- Routine teeth brushing with a pet friendly toothbrush and toothpaste (usually meat flavored).
- Solid textured foods to prevent build-up of tartar, calculus, and bacteria. There are special veterinary diets formulated for dental health, Royal Canin Dental DS or DD.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

My favorite time of year is here again. The changing seasons, the smells, the decorations for the holidays all combine for warm and happy feelings. I know my dogs and cats think

it's a great time too. They enjoy the smells and decorations also and that could be a problem. So, here are a few things to watch out for so you have a safe holiday season.

Here are a few holiday plants to be careful with: poinsettia, mistletoe and Holly. If your pet comes into contact with these plants, it is better to play it safe and call your veterinarian. Many plants cause vomiting and diarrhea; these symptoms might be avoided if treatment for toxicity is started.

Cats love to climb the Christmas tree. I know my cats do. I use a fake tree and deliberately leave the first row of branches off to discourage them from climbing. So far, they just lay on the second row. The problem with cats climbing up the tree is if the tree falls over they could get seriously hurt, plus your ornaments are broken. I leave the lower branches empty of decorations and hope the cats will stay down at the bottom of the tree. So far so good. There is no sure fire way to keep a cat away from the tree except to keep them separated from the tree, unless supervised.

Ornaments and lights are also commonly chewed and/or ingested by dogs and cats. This is very dangerous especially if the pet is electrocuted or develops a foreign body. Foreign body surgery to remove the object is traumatic and costly. This also applies to cats eating ribbons, bows, tinsel, yarn etc. Cats love these items but they can be deadly. These items, if eaten by a cat, can cause the intestine to fold on itself like an accordion and require part of the bowel to be surgically removed. Cats that have ingested any of these items should be seen by a veterinarian

My dogs and cats love the smells coming out of my kitchen during this time of year. However, as much as they beg I know the food is not good for them. It is too rich and can cause GI upset and pancreas, which is inflammation of the pancreatis. Do not let them eat chocolate candy or any candy. It is not good for them and they don't need it. So keep those boxes of candy up out of their reach. If you come home and discover your box of candy has been eaten, call your veterinarian. If you think you may have a problem at all during the holidays, play it safe and call us. We wish all of you and our furry friends a very safe and Happy Holiday Season!



Employee of the Quarter

Our office has a standing tradition. Every quarter one of our employees will be chosen as employee of the quarter. To be chosen that employee must exemplify the utmost in professionalism and teamwork, as well as the drive to go above and beyond what is expected on a daily basis. This month there were three nominees. The Certified Technician chosen has shown each and every day that she will support her fellow staff members, be complete and through no matter how busy we are, always be reliable and complete all tasks that are given. Michol Rodriguez exemplifies what it means to be a strong part of our Circle L Team and family and a leader in our practice. Thank you Michol for being apart of our family.

Leonda



I'm Sable

I have graciously agreed to contribute a small, but meaningful, article to the Circle L Animal Hospital's newsletter. It gives me the opportunity to thank all of my fans and to give some helpful tips to fellow 'friends'.

Most of you have had the privilege of seeing me hard at work, keeping things running smoothly and efficiently at

the hospital. This is a very taxing job and requires a lot of naps. Dr. Armstrong is no doubt forever indebted to me for allowing her to work countless hours, cover all the bills and pay my employees. I have rewarded her recently for her hard work and gave her permission to buy her own digital x-ray equipment and digital ultrasound machine to further help my friends and admirers. This came with the agreement to no longer use me as the "how to pill a cat" demonstrator. I have also cured all employees of attempting to do silly things like test the ECG machine out on me...my heart is just fine, thank you.

As some of you might have noticed, I am now sharing my space with "Missy". She tends to be a little dull and has yet to shred one piece paper...important or not. Thank you Dr. Ellis. However, I still believe if the husband is allergic to cats, you should get rid of the husband.

Last but not least, a few 'thoughts to live by'. Since I am starting my own syndicated advice column this is my chance to share some of my endless knowledge. Any correspondence can be mailed directly to me at Circle L.

- 1. Flatulence will always keep heavy petters at bay.*
- 2. Always groom yourself in public. It shows how incredibly flexible you are and lets anyone who is attempting to have a meaningless conversation with you know that you don't care.*
- 3. No matter how clean the litter box looks, if you dig deep enough you can always find something.*
- 4. Never purr on demand.*
- 5. The food bowl should always be half full.*
- 6. If someone annoys you, hiss at them then bop them in the head.*

Thank you all for your continued support and adoration.

Sable

A Poem About Circle L

By Jim David

There is a special place in Chino
where animals often dwell,
A caring, loving, special place
That we call Circle L

The staff there are fantastic,
The most loving you will find.
They are specialists at what they do,
All big hearted and kind.

At Circle L, the pets come first,
We love them as though they're our own.
With special affection and kindness,
From their birth, until they are grown.

If the best of care is what you want,
There is only one story to tell,
Bring your beloved cats and dogs,
To the best care around, Circle L.

SENIOR WELLNESS PACKAGES

(Available now thru November 30, 2008)

Package #1— \$135.08 (save 20%)
includes Examination; Blood/urine Test;
Toe Nail Trim & Anal Glands

Package #2— \$231.64 (save 25%)
includes Package #1 above, plus with x-
rays (4 views)

Package #3— \$267.30 (save 30%)
Includes both Packages #1 & #2 above
plus, one (1) of the following:
ECG, B.P., or Tonometry

SCHEDULE YOUR SENIOR PETS NOW!

A Dog's Purpose (from a 6-year-old)

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, 'I know why.'

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, 'People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?' The six-year-old continued, 'Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long.'

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.

Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:

- *When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.*
- *Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.*
- *Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.*
- *Take naps.*
- *Stretch before rising. Run, romp, and play daily.*
- *Thrive on attention and let people touch you.*
- *Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.*
- *On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.*
- *On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.*
- *When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.*
- *Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.*
- *Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.*
- *Be loyal. Never pretend to be something you're not.*
- *If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.*
- *When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.*
- *Be always grateful for each new day.*

Today, I wish you a day of ordinary miracles: May joy dance in your soul, may love fill your heart and may peace reign in your home. May GOD bless you and your family from this day on.

Health care for the pet on long term medications

By Robin Mills

You have just visited your veterinarian's office and have been told your beloved pet is to be put on long term medications. He will need regular visits to the doctor and will need routine and regular blood monitoring. At this point I am sure you have many questions. "Just what is long term"? "What type of blood work will need to be done, and how often will I need to bring my pet in for testing"? "Why do I need to do blood work on my pet, he is 15 years old? What is the benefit to that"? "How much is this going to cost"?

The answer to the first question: Long term medications are any medication your pet will be taking on a regular basis for an extended amount of time, be it given for a few months to life time usage. Some examples of such medications are, as follows:

Arthritis medications and/or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory such as Rimadyl, Metacam, and Duramaxx are often prescribed for pain and often are given daily.

Heart medications like enalapril and digoxin are given for life to patients diagnosed with a murmur or other heart related conditions.

Levothyroxine or Soloxine is a thyroid medication.

Phenobarbital and potassium bromide are prescribed to treat seizures.

Vetsulin is insulin for dogs and cats diagnosed with diabetes.

The above is just a brief list of medications prescribed by veterinarians to treat health issues in

your pet.

The type of blood monitoring and how often depends somewhat on the type of medications your pet is on. A complete work up should be done at least yearly. A complete work up consists of a full chemistry panel including liver and kidney enzymes, a complete blood count or CBC, and electrolytes. These levels are important because long term medications, though safe, can cause changes. A baseline profile before starting your pet on medications gives us an understanding of what is normal in your pet or if it is safe to begin drug therapy in the first place. From that point less extensive monitoring should be done every three to six months especially if your pet is seven years or older.

Diabetic cats and dogs need regular blood glucose curves or fructosamine levels to determine if the number of units of insulin they take is keeping your pet's sugars under control. Diabetic pets should also have a yearly complete work up to monitor kidney functions as they are at higher risk for renal disease.

Animals on seizure medications and heart medications, and thyroid medications must have regular drug level testing to ensure they are on adequate levels to control the problem and to make sure they are not being poisoned by the very medication they are being given to help them.

Animals over the age of seven need regular visits and regular blood monitoring more than ever. The older a pet gets the faster the progression of disease can take place. Knowing how the organs are functioning and if there is a change in enzyme levels can help us head problems off at the pass. At the point your veterinarian knows there is a change, he or she can treat the issue at hand. Some problems can be reversed or at least slowed down. According to a study by Dr. Ernest E. Ward at Idexx laboratories, of 2,943

pets on at least one long term medication, 35% of testing done revealed abnormal test results. This should not be taken as a frightening statistic, rather as an informative one. Without the knowledge of abnormalities, your Veterinarian cannot treat secondary disease, or make changes to the treatment of your pet to improve his or her quality of life.

From a professional and legal standpoint, Your veterinarian requires regular check ups and blood work just as your family physician does when you are a patient taking long term medications. No less than the best standard of care should be considered for you pet as he or she is a member of the family. It is our job as veterinary medical staff to provide that care and to educate the clients on what is necessary to keep your pet healthy and feeling well.

From a personal standpoint, I would like to share a story I label as "If I knew then what I know now". Several years ago I had a family member named Shadoe. He was a five to six year old Siberian Husky. Out of the blue he began having seizures. Every test known was done in the beginning of his treatment. He was placed on Phenobarbital to control his seizures. We did not find out why he had seizures other than it is something the breed can exhibit. He did very well on his medication I saw no problems in him. His seizures were under control, he was eating and drinking and acting like a normal dog. I was not aware, having not been educated properly and not having been a vet tech, of how important it was to do Phenobarbital levels or to monitor liver enzymes and complete blood counts. All I knew was these tests were expensive to me at the time, and Hey, my animal was doing just fine. A year passed and one day my dog was not himself. He was lethargic, not eating, not moving. He urinated orange colored urine and his eyes were yellow. After taking him to his veterinarian and doing some blood work he was diagnosed with advanced liver failure. It

was at a point where it was too late to reverse the damage. He died at home behind my husband's chair a day later. All I could do for him was be there for his final breath at the stroke of midnight. That morning all I could think of was that I wished I had kept better track of things. I know now that if caught much earlier, his medications could have been changed to something safer and I would likely still have the best dog I ever knew, with me today had I been as concerned with cost as much as I should have been concerned with effect.

To answer the last question "what is this going to cost me"? Most in hospital panels are anywhere from \$35.00 to \$75.00. More complete panels sent to a reference lab are around \$100.00 to \$120.00. A more accurate cost can be given once your pets needs are determined.

In closing, pets are members of our families. We have the means and capability to provide medical care comparable to what we do for ourselves. The veterinarian has a Hippocratic oath to keep of "Do no Harm". Monitoring the blood work of animals on long term medications helps them keep that promise to your pet.



WEIGHT MANAGEMENT IN OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

Obesity is a very common disorder in domestic animals, it is estimated that over 40 % of dogs and cats are overweight. There are numerous factors that predispose animals to obesity some of these include; genetics, the amount of physical activity, the amount of food given to the animals and the energy content of the food. It has been proven that obesity can have detrimental effects on the health and longevity of our pets. There are many problems associated with obesity in dogs and cats including but not limited to musculoskeletal issues, diabetes, heart disease, heat or exercise intolerance and other organ dysfunctions. Some breeds of dogs are more likely to have weight issues these include Labrador Retrievers, Shetland Sheepdogs, Golden Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Dachshunds, Miniature Schnauzers, Springer Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Basset Hounds and Pugs.

Many people believe that spaying or neutering their pets contributes to weight gain. This has been studied extensively and the reports are now saying that the average time period that we alter our animals corresponds to a natural decrease in the animal's growth rate and energy needs. It is important to note that the transition into adulthood (average 1- 1 ½ years) means the pets nutritional needs decrease. Often the combination of increasing age and altering the animals will decrease the amount of voluntary physical activity as well causing weight gain.

As veterinarians when we see our patients we give them each an individual Body Condition Score, 1-9, 1 being extremely thin and 9 being extremely obese. There are a few things we look for to determine this score, the overall appearance of the animal, the amount of tissue/fat over the rib cage, we should be able to feel the ribs well and we should see a tuck in the abdomen (a waist).

Management of the overweight or obese patient starts with the pet being diagnosed with this disease, although the next important step is for the owner to accept this diagnosis. The primary way we are able to help our patients with this problem is instituting a

diet plan which usually includes increasing exercise, decreasing the amount of food fed to the animal or changing the diet to a low calorie diet.

If you feel that your animal friends may be overweight please make an appointment with one of our veterinarians to discuss a weight loss plan so we can keep all of our pets healthy and happy as long as possible.

Did you Know?



The U.S. is no turkey slouch, raising 272 million gobblers a year. The bird is, after all, a native, domesticated from the feisty wild turkey that Ben Franklin thought should be the national bird.

Americans feast on approximately 535 million pounds of turkey on Thanksgiving. Californians are the biggest turkey eaters in the country. They eat three pounds more turkey than the average American consumer.

“AMAZING GRACIE”

By Sherri Argenti

It was a beautiful Arizona morning, the sun was shining and it was quiet and peaceful at my home in Paulden. My dogs had gone out on the usual morning rounds, feeding the horses with me and then heading off on the daily job of checking all 4 ½ acres for rabbits, toads and “prehistoric monsters” (lizards). The pack was led as always by my two year old Jack Russell terrier “Gracie”. She's a true terrier in every sense of the word and always up for a new adventure!

I left for my job as a veterinary technician at Circle L Animal Hospital thinking all was right with the world but within an hour of my arrival I received a phone call that sent shivers up my spine and tears to my eyes, my mother saw the dogs surrounding my storage shed and upon retrieving them discovered a rattlesnake was underneath. She had gotten the dogs in the house and now Gracie was panting and acting strange, my heart sank as I hung up the phone and headed home. My worst fears were realized when I got home. My mother was holding Gracie who had started to vomit and now was not breathing. I could not find a pulse or any sign that she may still have been alive. Armed with some emergency drugs I began trying to get Gracie breathing again. Suddenly, I remembered some epinephrine I kept in the fridge for my insect allergic horse and I quickly administered it directly into Gracie's heart, something I had only done one other time as a vet tech. I was terrified but knew she had no chance if I didn't do something. Within seconds Gracie began to cough and took a deep breath. We raced back to Circle L Animal Hospital with Gracie choking and gasping the entire drive. The staff dropped everything when we arrived, Dr. Schaible and Dr. Ellis both began administering emergency drugs and placing IV catheters while the veterinary technicians ran blood work and gave her oxygen. All I could do was hold her in disbelief, crying how could this be happening?



Was I going to lose my precious pet? I just watched her laying there, her short little legs taped up with IV catheters, her eyes in a blank stare with no response. As a pet owner I was horrified, as a veterinary technician I was certain this was going to take a miracle.

Things were looking grim when suddenly Gracie picked her head up and looked around wagging her tail when spoken to, maybe she would survive! Dr. Armstrong shouted out some instructions from our surgery unit where she had been operating on a patient when we arrived. Dr. Armstrong was not happy with Gracie's bloodwork and we quickly had to start her on a plasma transfusion, we had already started her on anti-venom and she did not seem to be responding. The venom was attacking the protein in her blood, just when things couldn't look worse, Gracie started to show signs of neurological problems. Her head started to bounce, her body shuttered and she would collapse. Now it started to become clear that this was no ordinary rattlesnake bite. She must have been bitten by a Green Mojave whose venom is a neurotoxin that attacks the system differently. There was no anti-venom and there are usually no survivors.

My heart sank as Dr. Armstrong prepared me for the worst giving her a slim chance of survival but that we would continue to treat her as aggressively

as possible. Gracie came home with me to a make shift ICU I set up in my bedroom, she stared blankly at me as I continued to treat her with IV fluids, steroids, antibiotics and pain medication throughout the night.

Things didn't change much for the next few days, Gracie's heart rate dropped to a mere 60 beats per minute as the neurotoxins attacked her system. She was given potassium which got her heart back to a more normal rate, but her bloodwork looked terrible and I feared the worst. Throughout all of this, my co-workers offered their prayers and concerns for my little dog, checking on her often and speaking kindly to her.

About three (3) days after the bite, Gracie's bloodwork started to look better, she was eating and drinking from a syringe placed in her swollen mouth and she could walk a little.

By the fourth day she was hungry, wagging her tail at everyone and started to move around. By the fifth day, she tried to chase a bird and attended a going away party for our co-worker Kathy!

She continued on antibiotics and subcutaneous fluids for another two weeks. She had survived! Today she is completely back to normal and has gotten a clean bill of health.

Since her ordeal I have made some structure changes on my property, the dogs have less access to snake prone areas and they have all been vaccinated against rattlesnake bites. Although this vaccine would not have helped in Gracie's case, as the Green Mojave neurotoxin cannot be protected against, I have peace of mind knowing that my pets are vaccinated and I will have more time to get them help if they are attacked by one of our more common rattlesnakes.

As a Pet owner I am very lucky, as a veterinary technician I thank God every day that I work at a hospital with doctors and staff skilled and caring enough to have saved my "Amazing Gracie."

PETS AS GIFTS

Holidays are often chosen as the time of the year to give pets as a gift, but animals, particularly puppies and kittens, can become frightened or even injured amid the commotion, plus the animal may already be stressed from being moved to a new home. We recommend that new pet owners plan for an adjustment period in which the pet can experience a quiet, calm environment and that bonding can take place at a gradual pace with special care and attention.

The bonding between the new owner(s) and the pet is a critical component of successful ownership. Too many families are far too busy and don't have the time to spend bonding with the new family member during the hustle and bustle of the season. Giving a pet as a gift during the holidays can be exciting and fun, but these lovable and cuddly creatures bring numerous responsibilities along with the excitement. Before giving a pet, especially as a surprise, the gift giver should be sure the pet will be welcome, well taken care of and loved for the rest of its life.

After the initial thrill, the recipient will need to make a commitment of time and money to care for the new family member. Pets need vaccinations, licenses, veterinary care, food, shelter and adequate space for it. All of which can be costly and a burden for some people. Remember, this is a life time commitment with dogs – twelve years or more, and cats can live eighteen years or longer.

A good gift idea may be a book about that special pet, or supplies like bowls, a bed, training books or maybe a gift certificate from a breeder or the animal shelter, maybe a rescue group for a particular breed, but most importantly, make sure the recipient will be able to make that all important commitment for life.

GINGER HALL

By Debbie Lipley

Working in the veterinary field, you come across a lot of animals that you fall in love with. You just can't help it. Whether it's a cute, fuzzy puppy coming in for their first puppy vaccination or if it's the 14 year old dog that comes in for pain medication.

In my case not only a special animal touched my heart, but it was also her owners. Charlie and Madelyn Hall have been clients of Circle L Animal Hospital for many years. They are not just incredible owners, they are great citizens. Charlie and Madelyn have been active in the Search and Rescue team for over 40 years, saving lives and training dogs to do these great services. Being a part of the Search and Rescue is not an easy task, you not only have to be prepared, but your companion has to be in tip top shape and health. This pair have been the most loving couple, not only to each other, but to their animals as well (Although calling their pets animals is an understatement, because these pets are their family). This is where we met Ginger.

Ginger was an 8 year old Rottweiler who had served as a Search and Rescue dog since she was just a little puppy. Her beauty, strength and willingness made her strive to be the best Search and Rescue dog. Ginger came to us with some lameness and coughing issues. Our initial work up was bloodwork, x-rays of her chest, abdomen and legs. All of the tests were basically normal, only infection was noted. We prescribed antibiotics and medications to make her more comfortable. She improved for a while, but returned to us a few months later, with more concerning symptoms. Now Ginger was lethargic, not wanting to eat and presented to us with a distended belly. We repeated blood work and abdominal x rays. To our dismay, Ginger had a large mass in her abdomen. The doctors confirmed the mass with ultrasound, to see which organs were involved and it was the spleen. Unfortunately, 85% of splenic masses are cancerous and require surgery to remove. Charlie and Madelyn decided to proceed with the surgery, knowing the risks and challenges that faced them and Ginger.

Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Ellis performed the extensive surgery on Ginger, in hopes that the mass was just on the spleen. If the mass had invaded the other organs, the outcome would not be good. Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Ellis removed the spleen with a large mass weighing 9 pounds. There was a small portion of the mass that had adhered to the liver that was also removed. Throughout the surgery Ginger did well, and after surgery Ginger was taken to the



recovery area where she was monitored very closely. Ginger sat up and was able to walk to her kennel where she stayed overnight. Everyone was very excited that she had made it through the night, although we all knew Ginger was not out of the woods yet. Ginger continued to appear very bright and alert in her kennel, but one more night of hospitalization was imperative, to make sure she was able to eat, drink and get around. The next day Charlie and Madelyn Hall got to take their little girl home, knowing that doing the surgery was only buying her some time with them. Ginger was excited to see her mom and dad and off they went to her home sweet home.

Sadly, a few days later Ginger passed away quietly and peacefully at her home. Although Ginger did not make it, she like so many, gave a great fight. Her "mom" and "dad" were dedicated and compassionate fighters as well. Ginger Hall will always be remembered forever at Circle L Animal Hospital. To Charlie, Madelyn and Dudley (their golden retriever and Ginger's best friend) we thank you for caring and being such great parents. To Ginger, we say, you will forever remain in our hearts here at Circle L Animal Hospital. Thank you, for the many search and rescue's you performed during your life in assisting to save the lives of others. Ginger will be in many hearts for the service and love she shared with everyone she had met. We at Circle L Animal Hospital want to thank all of our 4-legged friends for giving back to the community as Ginger did.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chino Valley Hometown Christmas December 12 from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm and December 13 from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, at Heritage Middle School Gymnasium

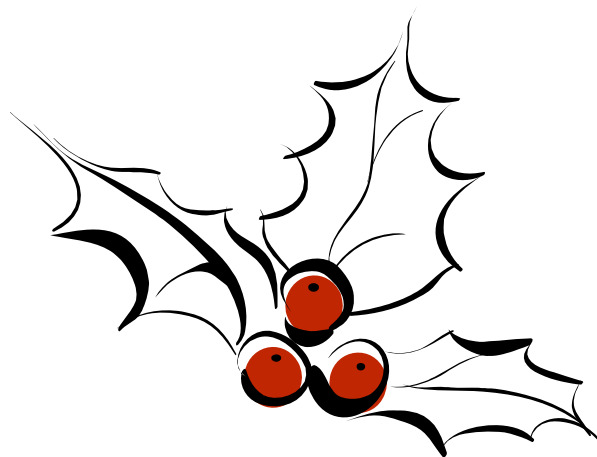
Circle L Animal Hospital Santa Photos December 15 from noon - 2:00 pm, December 17 from noon - 5:00 pm; and, December 20 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Call for more details.

Circle L Animal Hospital is still offering Senior Wellness plans for our senior friends. Call for more details.

Dental Month will be held again in February 2009 , a savings of 20% on dental procedures. Schedule your appointment now for the savings.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic sponsored by Circle L Animal Hospital will be on January 31, 2009 from 1:00 pm - 4 pm and March 28, 2009 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Call for more information.

In May 2009 we will again have our Paws for fun event. Please check with us for further information.



Circle L Animal Hospital

845 So. US Highway 89
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

MAILING LABEL GOES HERE