



## Watertown Animal Hospital Newsletter

Our newsletter features:

- **Practice Updates:** Find out about new services, equipment additions, and meet the newest members of our dedicated staff.
- **Pet Health Tips & Helpful Information:** Receive expert guidance on general wellness, seasonal concerns, preventative care, and nutrition to ensure your pets are thriving.
- **Special Offers & Current Promotions:** Get all the details on our latest discounts for products, services, and seasonal packages.

### Current Promotions

- Buy one Aloe & Oatmeal Shampoo — get a FREE conditioner!
- Buy 1 Dose of Bravecto® Chewable for pets under 18 months of age, Get \$20 Instant Rebate - Graduating puppy promotion!
- 2025 Bravecto® 1-Month for pets under 6 months of age, Get \$10 Instant Rebate
  - Buy 12 Doses of Sentinel® Brand Products, Get \$20 Instant Rebate
  - Buy 6 Doses of Sentinel® Brand Products, Get \$5 Instant Rebate
  - Buy 4 Doses of Bravecto® Brand Products, Get \$45 Instant Rebate
  - Buy 2 Doses of Bravecto® Brand Products, Get \$20 Instant Rebate
- Buy 2 Doses of Bravecto® and 6 Doses of Sentinel® Brand Products, Get \$40 Instant Rebate

- **Buy 4 Doses of Bravecto® and 12 Doses of Sentinel® Brand Products, Get \$100 Instant Rebate**
- **Receive a FREE dental health kit and a sample of Hill's T/D food when your pet has a dental visit. Offer valid while supplies last!**

*Ask our front desk for details. Promotions valid while supplies last.*

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## Practice Updates

### Out with the old - in with the new!

We have exciting news! We recently upgraded our blood machines to the state-of-the-art Catalyst Ones. This enhancement means we can now perform more comprehensive and extensive diagnostics for your pets, all while making your visits quicker and more efficient.

### Introducing the New Petcare App!



Imagine having your pet's medical records, invoices, and payment options right on your phone. How about requesting medication refills without making a phone call?

We're excited to announce that we are exploring the new Petcare App! This app seamlessly connects with our PIMS software, Daysmart, offering you an unprecedented level of convenience.

#### **With the Petcare App, you would be able to:**

- View your pet's complete medical history.
- Easily request medication refills.
- Access and pay invoices directly through the app.

Are you interested in utilizing this new service?

Please let us know by replying: **"Yes, I would be interested in using the Petcare app!"**

**Your feedback is incredibly valuable to us!**

## Pet Health Tips and Helpful Information

### Are antibiotics always the answer?



Many people immediately assume a quick 7-day course of antibiotics is the solution, but this isn't always true. The increasing problem of antibiotic resistance is often caused by using these medications without a clear diagnosis or objective. Assuming various illnesses can be treated with antibiotics just adds more unnecessary complications.

For a better understanding of why healthcare professionals may not immediately prescribe antibiotics, please refer to the helpful articles below.

#### **AVMA - Antimicrobial use and Antimicrobial Resistance**

- <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/one-health/antimicrobial-use-and-antimicrobial-resistance/antimicrobial-use-and-antimicrobial-resistance-pet-owner-faq>

Veterinary Partner - When you need antibiotics for your pet, and when you don't

- <https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&catId=102903&id=11206802>

## Tips for Stress-Free Vet Visits

To help reduce your pet's anxiety about coming to the vet, we recommend the following strategies:

### For Cats: Carrier Training is Key

- **Year-Round Comfort:** Keep your cat's carrier out all the time so they see it as a familiar "safe cave," not just something that appears right before a trip.
- **Positive Association:** Encourage your cat to go inside by feeding them treats or even full meals in the carrier.
- **Practice Runs:** Get them used to movement by doing very short practice carries and car rides, always ending with a reward. *AAHA and leading cat welfare organizations emphasize this preparation.*

### For All Pets: "Happy Visits"

- Schedule brief, low-pressure drop-ins just for fun. Your pet can come in, get lots of treats, perhaps step on the scale, and then leave immediately without any procedures. This builds positive memories.

### On the Day of the Appointment

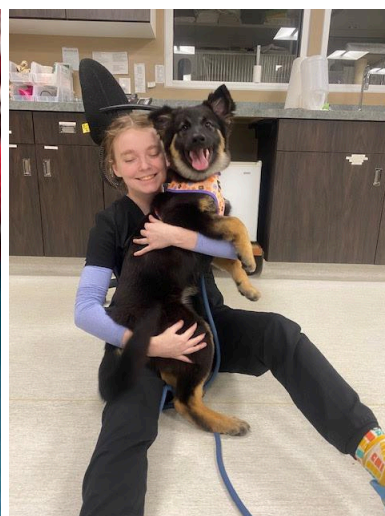
- **Bring the Best Bait:** Have your pet's absolute favorite high-value treats (or a special toy) ready.
- **Cat Carriers:** In the waiting area, cover the carrier with a towel to reduce visual stress, and be sure to keep the carrier level and secure while transporting it.
- **Medication Options:** If your pet experiences extreme panic or fear, speak to your veterinarian about options for pre-visit calming medication, which can be prescribed for their individual needs.

## 12 Senior Pet Tips for Owners

1. **Twice-a-year wellness visits:** Senior pets (dogs >7, cats >10) change fast. Catch issues early with 6-month exams.
2. **Baseline bloodwork:** Labs (CBC, chemistry, thyroid, etc.) spot quiet illnesses. Normal results are the baseline for future changes.
3. **Watch for subtle pain:** Look for behavior changes (e.g., stiffness, reluctance to jump, irritability, nighttime restlessness), not just limping. Treat pain proactively.
4. **Make home joint-friendly:** Use non-slip mats/rugs, ramps/steps, orthopedic beds, and keep essentials on one level.
5. **Protect muscle:** Track muscle condition (not just weight). Take monthly photos and learn to check ribs/waist/muscle.
6. **Gentle, consistent exercise:** Opt for shorter, frequent walks and low-impact play (sniffing, slow fetch). Cats need 2-3 mini-sessions daily.
7. **Ensure bathroom access:** Accidents may stem from pain/mobility/medical issues. Provide frequent breaks for dogs and low-sided, multi-location litter boxes for cats. Call about straining, blood, or sudden accidents.
8. **Don't miss dental disease:** Link dental care to comfort. Call about bad breath, dropping food, or pawing at the mouth. Emphasize home care and that oral pain affects quality of life.
9. **Know dementia signs (DISHAA):** Disorientation, social changes, sleep issues, house-training loss, altered activity, anxiety. Use consistent routines and a night light.
10. **Use a Quality-of-Life check:** Tools like the HHHHHMM scale (Hurt, Hunger, Mobility, etc.) help guide decisions. Keep a "good day/hard day" calendar.
11. **Medication safety:** Bring *all* medications/supplements to visits. Never give human pain meds without vet approval.
12. **Call us (Red Flags):** Urgent signs include: not eating >24 hours, trouble breathing/collapse, repeated vomiting/diarrhea, straining to urinate/can't urinate, sudden severe pain, bloated abdomen, or sudden confusion/seizures.



Happy patients at Watertown Animal Hospital!



## Our Services

**Exams • Vaccinations • Dentistry • General Surgery • Diagnostic Imaging • Parasite Prevention • Boarding • In-House Lab Diagnostics • Large Animal Services**

Call us at 315-788-1711 or visit our website to book an appointment.

[www.watertownpetcare.com](http://www.watertownpetcare.com)

**Watertown Animal Hospital**

**1445 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601**

### Hours

**Monday–Friday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM**

**Saturday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Closed Sundays**

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**Watertown Animal Hospital — Compassionate care for the pets you love!**