



Watertown Animal Hospital July Newsletter

Welcome to the July edition of the Watertown Animal Hospital monthly newsletter! Summer is in full swing, and we are excited to share new ways we can support your pet's health and comfort during these warmer months. Inside this edition, you will find information on our expanded services, new products, and essential tips for outdoor safety.

- **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.

Kindly refer to the conclusion of this newsletter for a specialized update from our large animal practitioner and partner, Dr. Rebecca Reynolds.

Our team is growing!

We are thrilled to introduce our newest Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT), Alyssa Shatraw , to the Watertown Animal Hospital family. Alyssa is a recent graduate of SUNY Canton who officially joined our team as a VTA / LVT in June 2026. She is a familiar face around the clinic, having completed two separate 120-hour preceptorships with us during her summer and winter breaks in 2025 and early 2026. During her time as an intern, Alyssa demonstrated exceptional dedication, her commitment to compassionate care makes her a perfect fit for our growing team.

Beating the Summer Heat: Essential Safety Tips

- The 7-Second Pavement Rule: If you cannot hold the back of your hand on the pavement for seven seconds, it is too hot for your dog's paws. Opt for grassy paths or walk during cooler times of the day.
- Hydration & Fresh Water: Offer fresh water every 15-20 minutes during activity. Watch for signs of dehydration such as thick saliva, lethargy, or dry, sticky gums.
- Heat Stroke Awareness: Recognize signs like excessive panting, bright red gums, or staggering. If suspected, cool your pet with cool (not ice-cold) water immediately and seek emergency veterinary care.

Gnats, Flies, and Pesky Summer Bugs

Summer brings an increase in insect activity that can cause significant discomfort and health risks for your pets. Ticks are a major concern and become active as soon as ground temperatures rise above freezing. These parasites can transmit serious conditions such as Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, and Ehrlichiosis. Additionally, mosquitoes can transmit heartworm disease, making consistent preventative medication essential. We strongly recommend keeping all pets on year-round flea, tick, and heartworm preventatives to ensure they are protected throughout the season.

Beyond disease-carrying parasites, gnats and biting flies can cause skin irritation and "fly strike," particularly on a pet's ears. For our feline friends, ensure they are protected with products like NexGard® COMBO, which offers comprehensive protection against various parasites. If you notice excessive itching, redness, or skin lesions, contact our office to discuss multi-modal management options.

Let's Talk BBQ: Preventing Pancreatitis in Your Pets

As we enjoy summer cookouts, it is important to remember that many common BBQ foods can be dangerous for our pets. Specifically, rich holiday meals, bones, and greasy scraps can lead to pancreatitis, a painful and serious condition where the pancreas becomes inflamed. High-fat foods like bacon, pork, and fatty beef can overwhelm a pet's digestive system, leading to significant harm.

Beyond fatty foods, many other BBQ staples are toxic. Onions, garlic, and leeks can cause red blood cell damage and anemia, so be cautious with burger toppings and pasta sauces. Additionally, grapes and raisins can lead to kidney failure, while certain nuts like macadamias can cause muscle and nervous system damage. Even seemingly harmless treats like cooked bones can splinter, causing stomach lacerations or foreign body obstructions.

If your pet does experience gastrointestinal distress like vomiting or diarrhea, follow a strict protocol: withhold food for 12 hours while offering small amounts of water or ice. Afterward, transition to a bland diet of boiled boneless, skinless chicken and rice for 48 to 72 hours before slowly reintroducing their normal food. If symptoms persist for more than 48 hours, please contact us at 315-788-1711 immediately.

New for Poultry: Exzolt™ for Mite Control

We are happy to announce an option available for the treatment and control of Northern Fowl Mites in poultry: Exzolt™. Administered directly through your poultry drinking water system, Exzolt™ is a simple and effective solution that requires no special training or additional equipment. By targeting Northern Fowl Mites efficiently, it helps support healthier, more comfortable birds and improved flock wellbeing. Contact our office for availability and dosing information.

Expanded Services & Technician Appointments

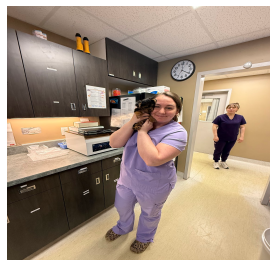
Our Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVTs) are now available for expanded appointment types to make routine care more convenient. Provided your pet is current on their annual exam, you can book technician appointments for booster vaccines, ear cleanings, and routine maintenance bloodwork. Additionally, our weekly Bath & Hygiene appointments include a bath, nail trim, anal gland expression (as needed), and ear cleaning.

Current Promotions

- Buy one Aloe & Oatmeal Shampoo — get a FREE conditioner!
- Buy ONE bag of VeggieDent Chews - Get a \$10 rebate!
- Buy ONE bottle of Aquadent Dental Solution - Get \$5 rebate!
- Buy 1 Dose of Bravecto® Chewable for pets under 18 months of age, Get \$20 Instant Rebate
- Bravecto® 1-Month for pets under 6 months of age, Get \$10 Instant Rebate (Great for our puppies! \$10 EACH dose up to 1 dose / month for 3 months)
- 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
- Rebate
- Buy 12 doses of HEARTGARD® Plus (ivermectin/pyrantel), get a \$15 instant rebate
 - Buy 12 doses of NexGard® COMBO (feline) and get a \$50 instant rebate.
 - Get a \$10 rebate with your first purchase of a Thunderease or Feliway product!
-

Happy Patients at Watertown Animal Hospital!



Ready to Schedule?

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

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

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



To Our Large Animal Clients

As many of you know, I have been providing all of the large animal veterinary services for Watertown Animal Hospital for the past year. While I have managed this workload in the past with relatively few difficulties, it has become increasingly challenging. Despite our efforts, we have been unsuccessful in recruiting another veterinarian interested in large or mixed animal practice.

Caring for your animals is truly one of the most rewarding parts of my life, and I am grateful for the trust you place in me. However, being on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week has begun to take a significant toll on my mental and physical well-being, as well as my home life. My goal has always been to provide compassionate, high-quality care, and I recognize that the stress of this schedule has occasionally affected my interactions with some of you. If I have seemed short or frustrated during an emergency call or text, I sincerely apologize.

After much thought, I have realized that I need to make a small but important change to ensure that I can continue caring for my patients for years to come.

Beginning August 1, I will no longer be available for emergency calls on Thursday nights or during the first weekend of each month. This change will allow me two full days and six nights off each month—time that is essential for rest, recovery, and maintaining the energy and focus necessary to provide the level of care that your animals deserve.

I understand that this may leave some of you wondering what to do if an emergency arises while I am unavailable. Unfortunately, emergency options for large animals in our region are limited. If you need immediate veterinary care during these times, I encourage you to contact another livestock veterinarian in the area, although I recognize that availability may vary. Some examples include Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Parker with Cow Calls, Dr. Anderson with Lake Effect Veterinary Services, or Dr. Peck with Roaring Brook Veterinary Services, to name a few. For cases that can be trailered, the Cornell University Hospital for Animals in Ithaca is available and accepts large animal emergencies, although it is approximately a 2½-hour drive away.

This was not an easy decision. I understand that it may be an inconvenience at times, and I did not make it lightly. However, I believe that taking this time to care for my own health will ultimately allow me to continue serving this community and your animals with the dedication and compassion they deserve.

Thank you for helping me make this change. By respecting these boundaries, you are helping ensure that I can continue providing large animal veterinary care for our community for years to come. Thank you for your understanding, your patience, and your continued trust. It is truly a privilege to care for your animals.

Sincerely,

Becky Reynolds, DVM