

# HVAH



# Newsletter

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## Keep Your Pet Warm On Cold Winter Days

While you prepare yourself to venture out into the snow, remember the cold temperatures can pose several dangers to your pet, especially to their paws and skin. It's important to remember that snow, ice, and salt products can become encrusted within the paw pads cracking them causing pain & irritation, not to mention your pet could ingest harmful chemicals when licking their paws. It is very important to dry him/her off completely when going back indoors. Like humans, pets can develop frostbite and hypothermia as well. Coats, sweaters, and even booties can be helpful - but limiting their time outdoors is essential. If your pet does spend a fair amount of time outdoors, it is imperative they have access to shelter and it may be advisable to increase their food, protein in particular. Something important to remember is that cats as well as wildlife may seek shelter under your vehicle, so before starting the engine, take a quick look underneath and tap the hood, just to make sure there isn't a fur buddy underneath.



## "Meet Our Staff" Spotlight is on ... Cassie

Cassie joined the HVAH staff in May, 2011. Originally from Millers, MD Cassie now resides in Baltimore city with her love Matt, their Pug Nacho, and a Netherland Dwarf rabbit named Dusty. Cassie is still very close to her beagle Daisy, Isabella the feline, and two lop rabbits, Almond & Nibbler whom live with her parents.



Cassie is a huge advocate for the support of finding a cure for Autism. She speaks highly of her younger brother who is autistic, while beaming with love and amazement with each and every word, doing all she can to help raise awareness.

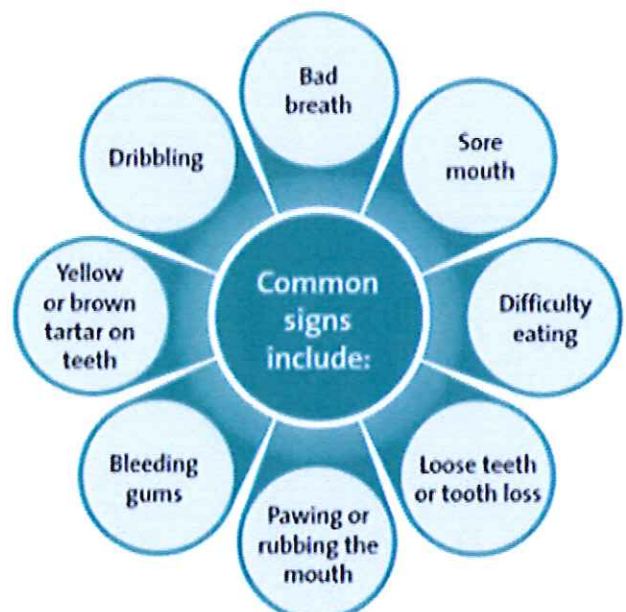
Cassie mainly works in our kennel, but can be found helping with appointments, and assisting technicians with post surgical care.

What some may not know is Cassie studied cosmetology at Empire Beauty School a few years ago, and still enjoys it. She is a "flip flop" nut that loves warm weather and the beach.

## Dental Care ...

Dental care of dogs and cats is one of the most commonly overlooked areas of pet health care. In fact, research shows that at around the age of 2, 80% of dogs have some sign of dental disease. Periodontal disease in pets is the same as it is in people. It's a sneaky and insidious process that begins when bacteria in the mouth attach to the teeth and produce a film called "plaque". In the beginning, plaque is soft and can easily be removed by brushing or chewing on appropriate toys or treats. But if left to spread, plaque leads to gum inflammation (called "gingivitis") and infection. Eventually, the infection spreads to the tooth root and even the jaw bone itself - causing pain and tooth loss. Dental disease frequently leads to more serious health problems such as liver, kidney and heart disease.

It's important for all pet owners to know that pets can lead longer and healthier lives with good dental care. In fact, studies show that proper dental care can extend a pet's life by as much as five years! Ask your veterinarian about good dental care for your special furry friend.





## Guinea Pig Fun Facts ...

**A male Guinea pig is a "boar", a female is a "sow" and a baby is a "pup"!**

**Guinea pigs need to drink a lot water, but they actually get much of it from eating grass!**

**Guinea pigs are vegetarians & will eat all day & night! They also need vitamin c supplements as they do not produce it themselves!**

**If they sense their owner is near, they will squeak to get their attention!**

**Females are pregnant for 70 days, and can produce up to 4 pups. Males must be taken from their mother as they will try to mate with her after only a month!**

**In the Andes mountains, in S. America, doctors have been known to put a guinea pig against a sick person, and it will squeak when they are close to where the disease is!**

**They don't have the same number of toes on their feet, they have 3 on the front feet, and 4 on the back feet!**

**Pups are born with all their fur, their eyes are open, and they have claws, and are able to eat solid food!**

**Guinea pigs cannot sweat like humans, so they can get heat stroke if they are in the sun or become too hot!**

**They have a total of 258 bones in their body, and are very fragile. Their bones could break easily if you are too rough with them.**

**They have great field of vision, able to see around them, however they cannot see anything straight in front of them - which means they don't see what they are eating!**



## Feline Word Find ...

A Z E S E N A V A J Y S  
Y B G T A R O K X M W I  
M N Y X Q O C I C A T A  
O A P S R M B Y N I Z M  
X P T A S J C Z B N X E  
U O I W B I F E W E E S  
E L A Z J Z N Q T C R E  
R E N X L G U I R O N N  
T O M V A L S Q A O O I  
R N A L P P O O I N V K  
A N U O E L E D P H E O  
H E M K R R J C G A D N  
C G H I M A L A Y A N T  
P E R S I A N A B F R D

Abyssinian

Egyptian Mau

LaPerm

Persian

Bengal

Himalayan

Maine Coon

Ragdoll

Chartreux

Javanese

Napoleon

Siamese

Devon Rex

Korat

Ocicat

Tonkinese



## Pet Insurance ?

Veterinary service expenses continually rise each year largely due to huge technological advances in veterinary medicine. Medical care has become sophisticated, and a doctor's ability to treat animals has grown in leaps and bounds. Pet insurance allows for the more advanced treatment options that may not have otherwise been considered. The right time to consider pet insurance is with the arrival of a healthy new pet. It works about the same as human health insurance, and each year more companies are offering plans. Typically you would pay your veterinarian, then submit a claim to the insurance for reimbursement. It's very important to decide first what you would like from a policy as some plans may cover wellness visits and vaccines, some may only cover illness and injury. Plans that cover wellness often have a lower reimbursement for illness or injuries, and may also have incident or lifetime limitations, as well as exclusions. Do your homework and pay close attention to the policy details! Some breeds may be more prone to certain illness and that too may affect a policy premium. If you are considering pet insurance, but may have questions - just ask, we are happy to assist you. Don't wait until "something" happens, be prepared in advance and have some peace of mind.