



# The Pawsletter

Warmest Holiday Wishes!

I hope that all is well with your human and animal families! I am returning to my roots by changing this newsletter back to a Thanksgiving letter. After all, the purpose has always been to express my gratitude for the privilege of serving your pets' needs. This is the 30th edition of the Pawsletter! It seems like only yesterday that I was answering phone calls in the mornings before heading out for a day of house calls. It is still fun to see customers from that bygone era before cell phones and when directions consisted of "go over the bridge and turn left at the pigs!" I cannot imagine how much easier life would have been with a GPS in the car!

Creature Comforts has continued to offer 24 hour care to its patients and has done so since 1993. I am trying out a new method of seeing appointments. I still schedule regular visits, which I will see as close to their scheduled time as possible. However, if a patient needs to be seen, and there are no available time slots, we will offer to arrange a stand-by appointment. The trade-off is that there is no specific time offered during the office visits, but there are no additional fees incurred for urgent or emergent care. Life threatening emergencies will always be given precedence. The waiting time can be long, but it works like any human urgent care facility. Clients are expected to call in advance. We have opened an additional parking lot and the annex facility offers an additional waiting area. Some of the doctors still prefer to schedule their urgent care visits. Early feedback has been very positive. I still recommend a regularly scheduled appointment first. However, if that doesn't work out, I wanted to offer another option for care.

Dr. Ian Civco has returned to CCVS for one Sunday per month and he fills in so that we can have some staff development time. I would like to direct your attention to the Meet The Staff portion of this newsletter. It gives you a glimpse of the wide variety of people who are needed to perform the kind of work that we do every day.

My husband, Ed Gallagher, continues to own and operate K-SE Enterprises, which is a computer service company by day and a karaoke/DJ service by night. He is also the man who keeps our computers running. His website is [www.kseent.com](http://www.kseent.com). He is the current President of the West End Rotary. Our daughter, Erin, is a sophomore photojournalism major at Rochester Institute of Technology. She is still working as an ice rink attendant. She also had the opportunity to participate in the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's production of "Godspell". She spent the summer as an intern for Lehigh Valley Live and Advanced Publications. Of course, she still does private portrait work, as well.

I have been busy both professionally and personally. I attended the American Animal Hospital Association Annual Meeting in Austin, TX in April. Our practice will be honored in Nashville, TN in April for our 25 years as an AAHA-certified practice. I have also been attending online classes, and stubbornly progressing on my Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine work. I will have the honor of serving as our Rotary District Governor in 2017-18. I am looking forward to getting a little time to visit all over Northeast Pennsylvania. My husband and I went to Winnipeg, Canada and will be going to San Diego, CA as part of the training for this position. I remain the President of the Board of Trustees for the Western Pocono Community Library. I have maintained my status as a 4-H Leader. We are looking for children ages 8-18 who are interested in the veterinary field and would like to join the Top Dog Club. I am also seeking adults who would be interested in serving as a co-leader.

Community service does not stop with animals. Our practice participates in the West End Relay for Life, under the team name "Ark of Hope". We are always looking for team members and would love to have clients come and join us! We also place luminaria at the track side for our patients who have or had cancer. We are gathering socks for our annual drive for PVEN. The goal is to gather 1,000 pair of socks (which make for 10,000 Toasty Toes) by the holidays. Due to Pleasant Valley dress code, the preference is for white socks.

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I am also excited that we have additional parking and that we are starting to make a little progress on the garage property. We are in the process of beautifying the natural setting in the rear of our buildings, in order to provide a comfortable and quiet place for our staff. We would also like to put in a large exercise area for dogs. All good things

## Online Pharmacy

Creature Comforts Veterinary Service is very pleased to announce that it is participating in an online pharmacy. This is merely an extension of our in-house pharmacy. However, there is the added benefit of in-home delivery and monthly discount coupons.

There is a distinct advantage to using our online pharmacy. Purchases made on the website are guaranteed in the same way as products which are purchased in the hospital. For instance, if you purchase brand named Rimadyl over the internet, that product warranty will not be honored. However, when you purchase it from the Creature Comforts site, the company will honor its warranty, the same as if you purchased it in our hospital.

We have a link to the pharmacy on our

Facebook page. It may also be accessed by going to :

[www.creaturecomfortsvet.vetsfirstchoice.com](http://www.creaturecomfortsvet.vetsfirstchoice.com)

The other advantage would be for those pets who need prescription diets. If the user decided to go for auto-shipment, there is no shipping fee and the prices are normal retail. In addition, the website carries a huge assortment of prescription foods, which we cannot possibly keep in stock.

The online pharmacy offers a wide range of compounded products, as well. There are also pet products and non-prescription items. We are currently modifying the prices, so that they match our in-house pricing.

When you place your prescription order, the pharmacy automatically sends us an email for prescription signatures from the doctors.

## Cyber Bullies

There are people who use social media like Facebook and Google to intimidate or to unfairly target a company. The only way to combat this is to leave positive reviews for a business you love. These media outlets do not check the validity of the claims and vicious reviews can only be diluted by good reviews. If you like our services, please give us a good review. If your service has been less than a 4-5 rating, please call or email and let us know how we could

## New Flea and Tick Protection

Twenty years ago, a new spot-on flea and tick product was introduced in the United States and it was a sensation. Frontline, or fipronil, was the first in a new generation of flea and tick products which were uniquely safe for mammals. It lasted for 90 days against fleas and 45 days against ticks. However, over time, the fleas and the ticks have developed resistance and the product only prevents fleas and ticks for about 3 weeks.

Additional products were added to the Frontline, which made it a little more effective, but as it became a mainstream product, more resistance was encountered. Effective collars were developed, but, those had the inherent problems that come with collars and those products were potentially toxic to cats and children. More recently, the isoxaline class of oral medications have been developed for oral use in dogs. The first product was called Nexgard and is effective. However, protection does not last a full 30 days. A 90-day product, Bravecto, is not 100% effective in the last month.

In 2016, a new medication, Simparica, or sarolaner, was introduced for use in dogs. It provides 35 solid days of protection against fleas and ticks. It starts killing fleas in 3 hours and starts killing ticks

in 8 hours. In addition, the cost for Simparica is about 30% less than the other products which are available.

Ticks can only transmit diseases if they remain attached for more than 24 hours. Simparica will effectively prevent this from happening and will prevent live ticks from infesting an environment. In addition, the product has been shown to be effective against mites, such as scabies and demodex.

Simparica reduces gaps in protection and provides rapid relief for dogs with existing infestations, even dogs with Flea Allergy dermatitis. It kills fleas before they can lay eggs, protecting both pets and homes. It has been shown to be extremely effective against the four dog ticks found in the Northeast.

Simparica is intended for dogs over the



age of six months and safety has not been determined in pregnant or lactating dogs. The medication has been tested as safe to use with other parasiticides, vaccinations and commonly used medications. Patients with seizure disorders should use this class of medications with caution. However, the risk of tick-borne disease in Northeast Pennsylvania is extremely high.

Simparica is a once-monthly chewable for dogs only. Dogs should be observed after administration to insure that the entire dose has been given. There is no comparable product for humans. Cats will have their own form of Bravecto, which will be a topical. There is no oral formulation for the feline species. This product is expected to be effective for up to two months. There is also an expectation that the Ceva company will have an oral feline medication in early 2017.

Simparica does not protect against internal parasites, so there is still a need to use a heartworm preventative. We continue to recommend Interceptor Plus for effectiveness in parasite control for the dogs. We also recommend Revolution for Cats or Advantage Multi for cats. **DOG PRODUCTS MUST NOT BE APPLIED TO CATS!**

Simparica adds another weapon in the

## A Breath of Fresh Air

You can stop bad breath from coming between you and your dog. OraVet Dental Hygiene Chews provide easy, daily oral care that fights the source of bad breath, as well as plaque and tartar control.

The Merial company has developed a method to use delmopinol in dogs. This ingredient has been used for years in a human oral rinse. Each chew contains delmopinol in its center, which is released throughout the mouth as soon as

the dog starts chewing. It creates a barrier against the bacteria which lead to the formation of plaque, tartar, and bad breath.

The Oravet Dental Hygiene Chews are clinically proven to reduce bad breath in dogs. The chews have a taste that dogs love. They have been shown to extend the benefit of professional cleanings by reducing plaque and tartar buildup. The chews are not intended to replace professional dental care. However, they can

take the place of regular brushing. Many owners find that daily brushing of their dog's teeth is difficult, if not impossible. It is far more fun to offer your dog a tasty treat daily.

The treats are not diet food, however. If the Oravet Chews are used daily, then there needs to be a slight adjustment to the food intake. It is also recommended that the owner carefully secure the product, as dogs will go after the entire package for a big snack!

## New Hope for Canine Itch Patients

When your dog suffers, the whole family suffers, too. If your dog's itching is caused by a medical condition, there is help available. Here are some of the clues that your dog may need medical treatment:

- ◇ Excessive licking, chewing, biting or scratching
- ◇ Excessive rolling, rubbing or scooting
- ◇ Foot chewing
- ◇ Hair loss
- ◇ Recurrent ear infections
- ◇ Changes in skin, like sore or darkened hair
- ◇ Redness
- ◇ Body odor

All of these problems can be complicated by infections with bacteria or yeast. But the real problem is that the dog simply does not get relief.

In the past, steroids were considered a hallmark of treatment for itch. There tended to be side effects which included excessive drinking and urinating, excessive appetite and lethargy.

Zoetis introduced Apoquel last year for itchiness for the chronic itch patient. It was in very short supply, so it was not possible to administer it to all the patients who needed it for a short term problem.

Apoquel begins to relieve the itch with-

in 4 hours and effectively controls itch within 24 hours. It may be used as both a long term and short term medication. It has been shown to be safe to use with other common medications. It is recommended for dogs over 12 months of age.

The vast majority of dogs with chronic itch have a problem known as Canine Atopic Dermatitis. This can be triggered by seasonal pollen, and other airborne allergens and is not curable. Some patients only exhibit signs during certain times of the year. Still others never find relief. Apoquel has been used for those patients.

Zoetis introduced another new therapy in 2016, which helps to reduce the clinical signs of atopic dermatitis in the dog. It is called Canine Atopic Dermatitis Immunotherapy or CADI for short. It is a new type of medication called antibody therapy. It mimics the natural immune system and is designed to target itch at its source. CADI is a canianti-cIL-31 monoclonal antibody specifically designed to target interleukin (IL)-31, a key cytokine involved in sending the itch signal to the brain. This is a whole new class of medications which are basically

“smart bombs” for targeting specific illnesses. There are expectations that this type of treatment will be advanced for the treatment of other chronic systemic diseases. Monoclonal Antibody treatment is already being used for the treatment of specific cancer problems.

CADI helps to offer safe and sustained relief of itch. The itching is reduced within one day of the injection and begins to reach optimal relief by the third day. It controls itching for a full month. Patients receiving CADI experience improved skin condition, if that condition is caused by atopic dermatitis.

Side effects have been mild and are self-limiting. The injections may be repeated monthly and the early findings have been very positive. This injection



### Did You Know?

It was always assumed that dogs inhaled pollen and that was what caused allergic dermatitis. Now, it has been determined that it actually is caused by direct contact. This is why dogs often have itchy feet and ears. The pollen sticks to areas where there is no hair. You can help your dog by wiping it down with non-alcoholic baby wipes when they come in after an

# Lyme Disease Update

This year brought the first significant change in the treatment and prevention of Lyme disease in dogs.

It is estimated that 1 in 16 dogs in the United States have tested positive for Lyme disease. In Northeast Pennsylvania, that number jumps to 1 in 3! The CDC estimates that human cases have jumped 28% since 2005.

The effects of this disease can be devastating. The primary presentation of lameness and general malaise can be complicated by secondary problems in the kidney, liver and brain. Research showed that an infection with *Borrelia burgdorferi* could be managed with antibiotics. However, when the patient is exposed to the bacteria after the initial bout, the body responded by making immune complexes, which caused marked problems in major organs. Lyme nephritis, or kidney inflammation, can be fatal. Some breeds like the pit bull and the Golden Retriever were acutely susceptible to this. Research indicated that the only way to prevent this problem was to eliminate any possibility of re-infection for a longer period of time.

The standard protocol included a 30-day course of doxycycline, which was repeated every 3 months for one year. This would effectively treat the patient for possible re-exposure. The treatment was successful, but was difficult for both the owner and the dog.

The obvious answer would be to create a Lyme vaccination which was nearly 100% effective. The problem was that the bacteria had one type of outer surface protein (OspA), while in the tick's body and converted to seven different types (OspC) when found in the dog's body. This made it essentially impossible to address the variability through vaccination. The only vaccines available addressed OspA only. Since the vaccine only addressed the form of the disease while it was being transmitted, it decreased incidence of disease, but could not 100% prevent Lyme disease.

In 2014, a new test was introduced for the detection of active new infections. This is called a C6 Antibody test, and it measures the body's response to an active infection. It was a way to quantify the simpler in-house test already in use.

A veterinarian and a human physician collaborated to find a solution to the problem. Basically, they figured out that through recombinant technology, a piece of each of those OspC proteins could be used to create one chimeric (combined) protein. That protein could be fed to special types of bacteria, which would produce volumes of this new protein, which was then used to produce an effective vaccination. Chimeric protein technology was specifically created during the development of the new canine Lyme vaccination. The real excitement is that this same technology can be used to cre-

ate an effective vaccination for humans. In addition, the benefits will extend to other devastating diseases which are caused by multiple forms of the same pathogen.

Zoetis introduced Vanguard crLyme earlier this year. The vaccination has been well tolerated. It does mean that dogs who were previously vaccinated with the OspA-only vaccine, would need to get a booster after receiving the OspA and OspC combined vaccine. The really amazing news is that the vaccine is thought to be nearly 100% effective. In the challenge study, none of the dogs given the new vaccine tested positive after exposure.

The major impact will be that the fatal effects of additional Lyme infections can be avoided. This has affected the normal treatment protocol, as well.

Dogs presented for acute Lyme disease are still treated for 30 days with antibiotics. However, they are also given the vaccination, in order to avoid additional new infections. This eliminates the need for the entire year's worth of treatment. The new protocol includes sending out a C6 Antibody test to check that there is no current Lyme infection six months after treatment.

Even with the best vaccination protocol, it is still advised to maintain good tick control. Ticks are able to transmit other harmful diseases, which may not

## Booms Away!

It is estimated that roughly one-third of all dogs have a form of noise aversion. Loud noises like thunder, fireworks or construction work can make dogs panic. Dogs exhibit signs of great distress, which include trembling, pacing, hiding, panting, and even destructive behaviors. This is very stressful to an owner, as well.

Sileo (Latin for quiet) was introduced this year for the canine patient. It is a new formulation of a product which is used as a sedative. It is an oromucosal gel preparation of Dexmedetomidine. This means that it absorbs directly through the membranes of the mouth. As

a matter of fact, the product will not work if it is swallowed.

Sileo comes in a convenient syringe with a special tip on the end. If the dog is experiencing distress from a noisy incident, the owner can put a dose inside the



cheek, and within minutes there will be a calming effect. The medication is dosed so that it will be calming, but not sedating. One dose lasts about 2 hours. This can be repeated for up to 5 treatments in one day. The shelf life after opening is two weeks.

In studies, it was found that this medication produced excellent to good results in 75% of the test group.

The real advantage is that an owner has the capability of helping their pet, without having to wait for a pill to take effect. If dogs have noise aversion, it is recom-



# Meet the Staff

## The Doctors

**Dr. Abby Gerenser** -- D.V.M. Hired: 7/24/2003 - University of Minnesota SVM, 2013 - Dr. Abby enjoys working with small animal patients, as well as goats and the occasional pig. She has a special interest in urology / nephrology and oncology. In her free time, Dr. Abby enjoys going on road trips and spending time at the beach, and especially spending time with "Gracie", her dog.

**Dr. Yong Keun Jeon** -- D.V.M. Hired: 12/13/2012 - Chonbuk National University, 2008 and Kansas State University SVM, 2009 - Dr. Yong was trained internationally and is licensed both in the United States and South Korea. He was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea. He used his Bachelor's in Genetic Engineering to research human liver cancer for 2 years. He worked as a medic for 26 months while serving his mandatory duty in the Army in South Korea. His natural love of animals led him to obtain his veterinary degree. Dr. Yong worked as an associate and chief of staff for a corporate veterinary practice. He is certified in Veterinary Acupuncture and Veterinary Food Therapy by the Chi Institute in Florida. He has a special interest in preventative medicine, veterinary surgery, and acupuncture / herbal therapy. In his spare time he enjoys outdoor activities and traveling with his wife, Yumi, and his 7 year old son Sean.

**Dr. Ian Collins-Civco** - D.V.M. Hired: 8/7/2009 - Virginia Maryland Regional SVM, 2008 - Dr. Ian graduated from the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (Virginia Tech) in 2008. He enjoys working with small animals and farmyard pets. He also works as a USDA vet and enjoys his small animal experiences at CCVS.

## The Supervisors

**Linda Breitlauch, J.D.** -- Comptroller - Linda is the company comptroller and also adoption coordinator. She has a number of pets at home including dogs, cats, and two horses. Linda is married with two grown children and a one year old granddaughter.

**Kareen Kosman** -- Day Shift Technician Supervisor / Dental Department Supervisor Hired: 11/15/1990 - Kareen finds dentistry to be the most compelling part of her job. She enjoys lab work, interacting with clients, and assisting in surgery. She is a member of our Blood Bank Committee and AAHA Committee. She also pet sits furry friends. Kareen enjoys home life with her 10 year old daughter Tori, and the family dog "Bristol". Her family enjoys spending weekends at the races and doing outside activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, boating, hiking, camping, flying kites at the park, scrapbooking, she keeps busy Tori to Girl Scout meetings, gymnastics, horseback riding, track, pottery class, and church choir.

**Ron Stem** -- Physical Plant Supervisor Hired: 1/2/2002 - Ron is the man that keeps a roof over our heads, the equipment working, and the light bulbs in their sockets. He is a 1983 MCTVS graduate with a degree in carpentry. He has a daughter Rebekah, who graduated Kutztown University in 3 1/2 years and is now enrolled in a Master's program. Jacob, his son, is a sophomore at Kutztown University. He lives with his yellow lab named "Lilly". He enjoys archery, fishing, kayaking and camping.

**Angela Russo, B.S.** -- General Manager Hired: 12/29/2003 - Angela lives with her fiancé, Chris, and their twin cats, "Stink" and "Dink". In her free time she likes to sing karaoke, watch reality television, and spend time with her family.

**Eileen Lange** -- Accounts Receivable/ Public Relations/ CSR Supervisor Hired: 7/18/2004 - Eileen is a team and committee member of the West End Relay for Life team "Ark of Hope", the founder of "10,000 Toasty Toes", and a Girl Scout Leader. She spends the majority of her day at CCVS handling patient billing. In the little spare time that she has she enjoys gardening, sewing, and spending time with her grand kids and her Maltese, "Sophia".

**Leslie Arrington** -- Inventory Clerk/ Administrative Assistant Hired: 7/22/2009 - Leslie is the mother of two wonderful children, Ashley, 22, and Brendan, 15. Her fur babies include three cats, two dogs, a 13 year old chinchilla, a bearded dragon and two ball pythons. In August 2015 Leslie took on the dual responsibility of being the inventory clerk and the assistant to the General Manager. She does all of the ordering to keep CCVS stocked with all supplies and medications. She has a great passion for animals and is enjoying her 7th year with CCVS.

**Bradley Meixsell, CVT** - ICU Supervisor Hired: 6/26/2010 - Brad is a certified veterinary technician working in the ICU. He shares his home with his daughter Celestia and their 3 cats.

**Heather Scott** -- Night Shift Technician Supervisor Hired: 10/17/2011 - Heather has a love for pit bulls. She is the mother of 7 pit bulls, 1 Boston terrier, and the step mother of a teenage daughter. Heather has been grooming dogs and cats for 16 years and is great with difficult and scared animals. She recently lost her 5 year old niece Alex to brain cancer. Since her passing, she has been an active member of Relay for Life and The Truth 365.

**Barbara Tokar** -- Kennel Supervisor Hired: 6/19/2012 - Barb loves working with and taking care of the animals. She has two dogs, a golden retriever, "Bailey (Rotten)", a shih-tzu, "Ranger (blue)", and a cat, "Sauza".

## The Staff

**Kathy Ruwedel** -- Client Communications Technician Hired: 9/10/2001 - Kathy lives with her husband of 35 years, two dogs, "Kola" and "Ghost", two cats, "Citgo" and "Babbette", and a nasty little bird she adores named "Ike".

**Kristy Santee** -- Technician Hired: 9/15/2003 - Kristy and her husband recently celebrated their 5th daughter's 1st birthday. Kristy works full time and enjoys her job working with the animals. She is also a member of the Blood Bank Committee. This is her 13th year at CCVS. When she is not at work, she spends her time with her 5 daughters. She also has 2 dogs, 2 cats, and a bearded dragon.

**Elizabeth Caesar** -- Technician Hired: 5/2/2005 - Elizabeth enjoys doing physical rehabilitation. She has been married to her husband, Chris, for 15 years and has two boys, Chase and Mason. Her pets consist of "Chowder", a 7 year old frenchie, "Speedy", a bearded dragon, and a new Frenchie puppy.

**Theresa Valanda** -- Technician Hired: 9/14/2006 - Theresa is happily married to Robert and they have 2 children, Racheal, 12, and Naomi, 16. She also has 2 fur babies, a Rottweiler named "Diego", and a mixed breed dog named "Shelby".

**Priscilla Yates** - Technician Assistant Hired: 5/15/2010 - Priscilla can be found in the exam room with the doctors. She worked in the dog show field most of her life and continues to show dogs. Priscilla is very interested in all types of medicine, especially natural and holistic. She also does behavior consultations.

**Warren Eckel Jr.** -- Kennel Assistant Hired: 6/14/2010 - Warren works in the kennel and has a mastiff named "Duke". He is working towards a degree in the marine sciences.

**Kaleigh Yaich** - Technician Hired: 6/29/2010 - When Kaleigh is not helping with office visits, you will find her at home with her four year old daughter, Jessica, and her daughter's mixed breed puppy, "Page".

**Arlene Wimperis** - Filing Assistant Hired: 9/8/2010 - Arlene is the mother of two and currently shares her home with her cats. She enjoys spending time with her friends and loves to bake and read. Most of all, Arlene enjoys spending time with her three grandchildren!

**Elisha Frable** -- Technician Hired: 2/25/2011 - Elisha is married to her husband, Ryan. She is the proud mom of three girls, Carly, Carinne, and Alexis, and two dogs, "Gordon" and "Morgan". She enjoys working overnights in ICU. When Elisha is not at CCVS, she is a Soccer mom, enjoys puzzles, and spending time with her family.

**Clarajeon Krampert** - Technician Assistant Hired: 7/15/2011 - Clarajeon is a fun loving, and caring person who enjoys spending her days with everyone at Creature Comforts. She loves helping to take care of the clients and all of their needs. When she is not working she enjoys time with her husband of 26 years, 4 kids, and 2 grandsons. Oh, and she can't forget the added joy of her dog, her cats, and her 2 grand-dogs.

**Kristin McLennan** -- Technician Hired: 8/15/2011 - Kristin loves her job and loves learning more about her field. When not working in ICU or taking care of appointments and emergencies, you can find her hanging out with her 4 dogs, 5 cats, chinchilla, or bird, listening to music, or watching TV.

**Sharon Hesney** - Office Assistant Hired: 8/26/2011 - Sharon has been married for forty-seven years. She has three children, eight grandchildren, four dogs, and seven cats.

**Sheryl Adams, CVT** -- Technician Hired: 2/2/2012 - Sheryl is from Allentown, PA and has graduated from the NCACC and LCCC veterinary technician programs in 2005. Sheryl loves all animals, but is especially partial to black cats. She has 14 cats and 1 dog. Sheryl is also an avid Steelers and Dolphins fan. She loves reading, gardening and watching Code Black.

**Stephanie Chieffo** - Client Service Representative Hired: 4/3/2012 - Steph is a receptionist and is the proud owner of "Jigsaw", a dog, and betta fish, "Anchovy". Steph is also one of the key people

responsible for managing the adoptable animals program.

**Christian Dickinson** -- Technician Assistant Hired: 4/3/2012 - "Please send help. They are holding me hostage until I fill out this paper. They won't let me leave. I work with animals. I make them feel better. I get let out of the cage when I'm needed." - Obviously, part of our sarcasm committee.

**Sherri Frisbie** -- Adoption Coordinator Hired: 1/27/2013 - Sherri and her husband, Jason, live with their furry rescue kids, "Roxxi", "Jake", "Tess", "Ella", "Lexxi", "Angelo", "Moma", "Monkey", "Tux", "Cinder", "Bolt", and "Jemma". As you can see, Sherri has a passion for helping animals, this being the reason for working with Steph and Linda through the challenges of finding our adoptable animals homes. In her spare time she enjoys gardening, sewing, and spending time with her family and friends, especially her granddaughter Sophia.

**Deborah DiPalma** -- Client Service Representative Hired: 3/9/2013 - Deb is grateful to have a job that equates with her vegan lifestyle and love of all animals. Adopting "Jill" from CCVS has filled a void inside her soul that she did not realize was there. "Jill", her dog, and her cats fill her life with love and laughter.

**Tracy Shoemaker** -- Kennel Assistant Hired: 4/19/2013 - Tracy has been at Creature Comforts for almost 4 years. She loves working with all the animals and learning new things every day.

**Mona Groman, CVT** -- Technician Hired: 7/30/2013 - Mona lives with three rescues, a 12 year old basset hound, "Beauford", and two 4 year old short hair cats, "Flash" and "Fairway". She lives in the Lehigh Valley area, is an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, enjoys baking, crafts, needlework, and going to the dog park with "Beauford".

**Karli David** -- Kennel Assistant / Housekeeping Hired: 12/26/2013 - Karli has three amazing dogs; two Australian Cattle dogs, "Dodge" and "Oakley", and a Siberian husky, "Angel". She also has two horses, "Blue" and "Jack" that she enjoys trail riding with. When Karli's time is not spent with her animals, she's enjoying her free time with her family.

**Patrick Murphy** -- Kennel Assistant Hired: 4/2/2014 - Patrick has worked here since April 2014 and can be found taking care of our animals in the kennel.

**Brittany Zimmerman** -- Technician Assistant Hired: 4/7/2014 - Brittany started with us as a Kennel Assistant taking care of all our hospitalized animals for about 9 years. In more recent years she has moved up to join our front staff as a Veterinary Technician Assistant. She has thrived in this position and enjoys helping in any way possible.

**Joan Borger** -- Housekeeping Hired: 4/12/2014 - Joan has worked here since April 2014 and can be found keeping CCVS clean and sparkling on the weekends. She is an animal lover and the mother to two children, two dogs, two cats, and a foster mom to lots of kittens.

**Sierra Barclay** -- Kennel Assistant Hired: 5/31/2014 - Sierra loves working with animals, especially cats. She has been working at CCVS for almost three years now, and no day is the same. Sierra has two handsome fur babies at home, "Milo", two years old, and "Caesar", three years old, and they are her world. If she's not here working, then you'll find her taking care of young children or with her own fur babies. CCVS is an interesting work place and always a pleasure to be at.

**Paige Hart** -- Technician Assistant Hired: 7/24/2014 - Paige is a junior Microbiology student at Moravian College. She absolutely adores all of the patients she cares for and loves working with her colleagues who have become like a second family to her. In her spare time, Paige enjoys reading, writing poetry, watching anime, and playing with her beloved pets. She has three cats, "Freya", "Lila" and "Sweet Pea" and two dogs, "Sandy" and "Ghost".

**Petra Fudro** -- Kennel Assistant Hired: 8/23/2014 - Petra is happily married to her husband, Matt, for 17 years and has two wonderful children, Alyssa, 10, and Anthony, 8. Her fur babies include three big dogs, "Bella", "Cody", and "Nala", and of course, we can't forget about their rabbit, "Angel"! She enjoys working with the animals at CCVS.

**Ceallaigh Thorne** -- Technician Assistant Hired: 6/26/2015 - Ceallaigh works hard taking good care of all the animals in the ICU.

**Teresa Wojcik** -- Client Service Representative Hired: 8/15/2015 - Teresa usually works at the front desk. She is an animal owner who deeply enjoys working with animals and their owners. Teresa's enjoys spending quality time with her kids, going to the movies, concerts, sporting events, and visiting the shore in the summertime. Theresa loves coming to work every day because of her co-workers, the clients, and their animals. The only bad part of her job is when clients have to say their final goodbyes to their fur babies

**Alanna Walsh** -- Technician Assistant Hired: 8/24/2015 - Alanna started at CCVS in 2015 as a kennel attendant. She was recently trained as a technician assistant. Alanna's fur family consists of 3 dogs, 7 cats, and a rabbit. Working at CCVS has been an amazing experience for her and she looks forward to many more years.

**Monica Barnes** -- Instrument Assistant Hired: 9/2/2015 - Monica is 23 years old and is the keeper of the instruments that are used for surgery. She loves her job! Monica is from a small Ohio family whom she loves very much.

**Jessica Krieger** -- Technician Assistant Hired: 9/10/2015 - Jessica has been working for Creature Comforts for over a year and it is the best job she has ever had. She enjoys coming into work and working in the ICU. Jessica has the best job because she gets to nurse animals back to health. In her free time she loves to take her 5 year old beagle "Trip" for walks. He loves to chase squirrels in the park.

**Jenna Bringenberg** -- Client Service Representative Hired: 9/20/2015 - Jenna is a cat enthusiast. She owns six of her own kitty kids and wishes she could have more.

**Tara Schmidt** -- Technician Hired: 10/6/2015 - Tara has been back 1 year and is still learning new things. Her hubby and 5 kids are all still healthy and happy.

**Dawn Boyle** -- Technician Hired: 10/13/2015 - Dawn will have been a technician for 26 years in February. She started by volunteering at her local animal shelter in Paramus, NJ. Dawn went to school to become certified and she's loved it ever since. She has one daughter who just graduated from Westchester University. Dawn is currently living in Stroudsburg. She has been at Creature Comforts for a year and she loves it.

**Megan Haggerty** -- Client Service Representative Hired: 10/22/2015 - Megan is a receptionist here at CCVS. She loves bow hunting, the outdoors, trucks, and food.

**Chanel Melendez** -- Technician Hired: 10/22/2015 - Chanel is the mother of three children, 1 boy and 2 girls, and the puppy mommy of three dogs. She has been working with animals since she was 10 years old. Chanel specialized in dog behavior and training for the past 5 years.

**Krista George** -- Client Service Representative Hired: 10/29/2015 - Krista is currently going to school in Williamsport to study Human Services and Psychology, so she is not around as much. When she's not at school you can find her here or at home with her puppy.

**Saleen Letson** -- Kennel Assistant Hired: 10/29/2015 - Saleen is a happy dog mom of two corgis. When she's not working, you can find her walking her two dogs or giving all her attention to them. Saleen is a huge animal lover so working at CCVS makes her a happy person. In her free time she loves hanging out with friends, hiking, and swimming.

**Andrew Bartholomew** -- Kennel Assistant Hired: 3/30/2016 - Drew is one of the kennel workers here at Creature Comforts. He is very family oriented and has had many pets throughout the years with his family. Drew sees every pet that comes through as his pet and gives it the best care he can.

**Barbara LaBar** -- Bookkeeping Hired: 5/4/2016 - Barb is a mother of four. Her furry kids are "Max", "Sassy", and "Fat Cat". Barb spends her free time crocheting, oil painting, and reading her nook.

**Katerina Struna** -- Client Service Representative Hired: 7/21/2016-- Kat has worked here since July 2016 and can be found answering our busy phone lines.

**Kendra Long** -- Technician Assistant Hired: 7/29/2016 - Kendra enjoys working with animals. She has 7 cats, 3 birds, and a dog at home.

**Patrick George** -- Kennel Assistant Hired: 8/4/2016 - Patrick works in the kennel and hopes to become a technician assistant in the near future. He is 19 years old and was born and raised in Northeastern PA.

**Samantha Breitlauch** -- 11/13/2016 -- Assistant -- After a nearly 4-year stint working for Amazon, Samantha has moved back to our area. She is a proud homeowner in Hamilton Township, where she enjoys spending time with her family, friends, horses and houspets. She is currently attending NCACC and is pursuing a business degree. Her interests include reading, traveling and has considered running for public office.

**Erin Rebecca Gallagher** -- 3/31/97 -- Assistant -- Studying to become a photojournalist at R.I.T.



# The KuRita Foundation



The KuRita Foundation was created in honor of Kurt and Rita Breitlauch. They had an unending love for animals and this fund is intended to help animals in great need. Animals should get the kind of medical care they deserve, regardless of their financial circumstances. In the past year, over 300 patients have received some sort of assistance through this fund, supplemented by the Father Richard Schware Account. Sometimes, it is something as simple as an antibiotic medication. In other times, it could be an animal which has been severely abused and needs multiple surgeries and long-term loving care. Pet adoption donations help to fund these needs.

There are quite a few special needs animals who need a loving home. Some have a form of physical disability or maybe are just older, but they would still be a great pet. Some need chronic medication. Some just need a great deal of patience. Currently, we have a mother bully dog and four puppies which will be ready for adoption by the middle of December. We also have a very energetic Jack Russell, who needs someone who knows this breed well. Rescue animals need time to physically and mentally heal. If you are one of those special people willing to help a creature in need, please contact the office. Recently, a client died and left nine cats behind. They just need a place to be loved. They aren't the cutest or the most affectionate and for that reason, people don't open their hearts. It is often difficult for new pet owners to understand that these creatures have been through a traumatic experience and need a kind and patient hand.

The team has been very busy this year. They have hosted grooming and vaccination events. They spent the whole week at the West End Fair and participated in Woof-Fest. They have been busy online and are participating in many rescue sites. At the time of this writing, nearly 100 animals found their forever homes. In addition, nearly 100 animals were reunited with their owners. It is our policy to accept found pets from our town of Saylorburg and also those that are microchipped. If space is available, pets from

## Gone....But Not Forgotten

Abby, Abendigo, Aja, Alena, Alfie, Alice (Flash), Allie, Amanda, Amber, Andy, Angel, Angelina, Angie, Angus, Annie, Anubis, Apache, Apollo, Apple, April, Ariat, Arrow, Ash, Ashley, Aurora, Aussie, Autumn, Ayden, Baby, Baby Bird 2, Baby Girl, Bacardi, Bailey, Bandit, Barkley, Barney, Bart Basset Hound (Benjamin), Batman, Baxter, BC, Bear, Bear Cat, Beara, Beast, Beau, Bebe, Beca, Bella, Bella Rosa, Belle, Bender, Benjamin, Benji, Benni, Benny, Bernard, Betsy, Betty, Bibby, Biddy,BIG, Binny, Birdie, Biscuit, Bizhu, Black And White, Black Widow, Blackie, Blackie 3, Blaze, Blitz, Bloo, Blue, Bo, Bob, Bonnie, Boo, Booky, Boots, Bootsie, Bosco, Brees, Brendan, Brie, Britti, Brownie, Bruizer, Bruno, Brutus, Bub, Bubba, Buck, Buckley, Buddy, Buddy(Coal), Buffett, Buffy, Bunny, Buster, Butch, Butter Cup, Butterbean, Butters, Buttons, Cali, Caliander, Callie, Calvin, Captain Hook (Aqua), Carley S Pup, Carmel, Carter, Casey, Cashew, Caspar, Cassidy, Cassie, CB, Ceaser, ChaCha, Champ, Charley, Charlie, Charlie Harley, Charlie Brown, Charo, Chase, Checkers, Chelsea, Chenza, Cher,Chewie, Chicken, Chickens, Chico, Chief, Chino, Chip, Chips, Chloe, Choco, Chopper, Christmas, Christopher, Church, Cinderella, Cinnamon, Clark, Clo, Cloe, Clyde, Coco, Cocoa, Cody, Colby, Cole, Cookie, Cookies N Cream, Cooper, Copper, Cosmo, Crash, Cricket, Cuddles, Cujo, Cutie, Daisy, Daisy Mae, Dakota, Dallas, Dancer, Dante, Darwin, Dawson, Dax, Deisel, Delilah, DeoGee, Destiny, Deuces, Devin, Dexter, Diesel, Digger, Dilly, Diva, Dixie, Dof, Dolly Madison, Domino's Pup #2, Domino's Pup #5, Doobie, Dora, Doxie, Dozer, Duddly, Duffie, Duke, Dum Dum, Dumpette, Duncan, Dunkin, Dutch 'String Bean', Ebony, Effany's Puppy, Ellie, Ella, Elsa, Emily, Emma, Emmett, Emmie, Emmitt, Emmy, Erica, Ernie, Evan, Eve, Fat Boy, Feral 3, Feral Cat, Feral Kitten, Fergi, Feta, Fian-na, Fidget, Fifi, Finn, Fiona, Fiora, Fluffernutter, Fluffers(Waffles), Fluffy, Found Dog, Found Pigeon, Foxi, Freckles, Fred, Freddi, Fritz, Fritz Bitz, Frosty, Furry, Fuzzbutt, Fuzzy, Gandolf, Garantina, Garfield, Gemini, General, Georgia, Ghost, Gia, Gibbs, Giselle, Gizmo, Godiva, GoGo's Girl, Goldy, Gomer, Gonzo, Gracie, Gray Gray, Graymaulkin, Greggers, Gregorio, Gretta, Grizzy, Guinness, Gunner, Gypsy, Hailey, Hallie, Hannibal, Hank, Hanna, Harley, Harry, Hawkeye, Hazel, Heidi, Helen, Hemi, Hemingway, Henry, Henry(Biscuit Webb), Henwin, Herbert, Hercules, Honey, Honeybear, Honeynutz AKA Honeybunches Of Nutz, Hooch, Hope, Houlihan, Hungry Man, Ice, Inky,Isis, Ivan, Ivy, Izzy, Jack, Jackie, Jada, Jade, Jake, Jakers, Jasmin, Jasmine, Jasper, Jax, Jayda, Jazz's Male Puppy, Jazzy, Jeepy, Jeeter, Jenny, Jennynydots, Jessa, Jesse, Jessica, Jessie, Jet, Jetta, Joey, John John, JoJo, Jolie, Jolly Molly, Jordan, Jorge, Josephine, Joshua, Jubilee, June, JuneauJupiter, Justice, Kadie, Kahu, Karma, Karmen, Katie, Kaya, Keeler, Kelsey, Kharma, Kiara, Kiko, Killian, King, Kip, Kira, Kirk, Kitten, Kitty, Kiwi, Kobie, Kodi, Kota, Kuma, Kya, Lacey, Laddie, Lady, Ladybird, Lauren, Layla, Leo, Levi, Lexi, Leyla, Liam, Lil, Lilly, Lily, Little Bit, Little Guy, Lizzy, Lloyd, Loki, Lola, London, Loonie, Louie, Louie Bear(Bruiser), Lucas, Lucky, Lucy, Luke, Lulu, Luna, Lyle, Mac, Macho, Mack, Macy, Maddy, Maggie, Maggie May, Magic, Maizy Mae, Maliblu, Maliboo, Mamas, Mandy, Maple, Markie, Marley, Marta, Marty, Mary, Mary Jane, Mask, Mavis, Mavis Litter- Whitey, Mavrick, Max, Maxie, Maximillion, Maxwell, Maxx, Maya, Maynard, Meatball, Meep, Meg, Meleon, Melissa, Merlin, Mew, Mia, Mickey, Midnight, Mikey, Milano, Miles, Milly, Milly Rose, Milo, Mimi, Miss Boo, Miss Julia, Missy, Mittens, Mitzi, Mo, Moe, Molly, Momma, Momo, Monkey, Monique, Montana, Monty, Moo, Moo-Cow, Moogie, MooMoo, Moonshine, Mopar, Morgan, Mousse, Mr. Big, Mr. Lucy, Mr. P, Muffin, Munchie, Mungo, Munster, Murphy, Mylo, Mystique AKA Tiky Tiky, Nala, Napoleon, Neko, Nellie, Nemo, Newman (Pluto), Nibbles, Nick (Jr), Nicki, Nickie, Nico, Niki, Nikita, Nikki, Nina, Nip, Nittany, No Boots, Nova, Nua, Nyla, Nyna, Obadiaha, Obi, Olga, Oliver, Ono, Onyx, Opie, Orangesicle, Oreo, Oscar, Ozy, Paige, Panda, Parker, Patch, Patches, Peaches, Peacock, Peanut, Pearl, Penny, Pepper, Peppy, Percy, Petey, Petri, Phoebe, Picabo, Piewacket, Piglet, Pino, Pip, Pip-Squeek, Pixie, PJ, Pokey, Pokie, Polka Dot, Ponchie, Poncho, Poppy, Porsche, Posie, Precious, Prince, Princess, Princess Buttercup, Princess Misato Poufy Pants (Sato), Priscilla, Puccini, Puddins, Puff Puff, Pumpkin, Puppy, Puss N Boots, Queenie, Radar, Rambo, Rascal, Raven, Ray, Rebel, Red, Red-Eared Slider, Reeses, Reggie, Reilly, Remington, Reno, Rex, Ribbons, Rigby, Riley, Ripley, Robby, Rocco, Rocious, Rocket, Rockette, Rocko, Rocky, Rocky 3, Rocky Obama, Rodney, Romano, Rosie, Roxie, Roxy, Rubee, Ruby, Rudy, Ruffles, Rushmore, Russell, Rusty, Rusty Bear, Saba, Sable, Sabrina, Sadie, Sage, Saja, Salem, Salemn, Sally, Sam, Sampson, Sandy, Sandy Joe, Sara, Sarah, Sarge, Sasha, Sassy, Scar, Schatze, Scooby, Scout, Scrappy, Scruffy, Sebastian, Seeker, Shadow, Shamus, Shasta, Shawnee, Sheba, Sheena, Sheila, Shelbie, Shelby, Shelby Lynn, Sheldon, Shells, Shelly, Sherman, Shianne, Shorty, Si-Si, Simba, Simon, Simone, Sir Remington, Skeezmo, SkittlesSky, Smeec, Smokey, Snicker Doodle, Snickers, Snooches, Snoopy, Snow White, Snowball, Snowflake, Sosa, Soupy, Sparkle, Sparky, Spartacus, Spaz, Spazy, Speck, Spencer, Spice, Spidey Cat, Spike, Spooky, Spunky, Squeak, Squeaker, Squeakers, Squid, Star, Starsky, Stash, Stasiu, Stella, Stetson, Stinky, Storm, Stormy, Stray, Strider, Stu, Sucker, Sugar, Sugar Pie, Sunny, Susie, Sweetet, Sweetpea, Sydney, Syren, Tabby, Taco, Tai, Tallulah, Taylor, Taz, Teah, Teddy, Teddy (Tiger), Terror, Thelma, Thorr Princess Of All N-achos, Thumper, Tiger, Tigger, Timmy, Tinkerbelle, Tinky, Tiny Red, Tippy Ann, Tison, Titi, Titus, Toby, Toffee, Tommy, Tonka, Trixie, Tucker, Tula, Turd, Twitch, Ty, Tyler, Uno, Upstairs Mikey, Vagita, Vampire, Vic, Vice, Victoria, Vixen, Waylon Jennings, Whitey, Whitney, Wiggy, Wilbur, William,Wilson, Winkin, Wolf, Wolfie, Woody, Xander, Xena, Yoda, Zak, Zander, Zane, Zeus, Zippy, Zoe, Zoey, Zoro, and Zulu. We offer this as a tribute to your memory and thank you for enriching our lives. Please let us know if a beloved pet is missing from this list.