



# merrick ANIMAL HOSPITAL

FALL 2009

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Dr. M. Kasper, Dr. P. Bowes, Dr. J Hosek, Dr. S Shack, Dr. J. Murnighan, Dr. S. Kostiuk

Hours: M 8-7, Tu 8-6, W 8-6, Th 8-7, F 8-6, S 8-1

## NEW WEBSITE

We have updated our website to help improve your access to our services and products. We are partnering with VetStreet to give you 24/7 access to your pet's health records including vaccinations, medications and prescription diets, and the ability to request appointments online. All you need to do is provide us with your email address.



You can also request a prescription refill to pick up at our office or, for some medications, have them delivered to your home. We will also be able to have most of the prescription diets available for home delivery.

You will also be able to update your personal and pet information, upload photos, share stories with other pet owners, and sign up for email reminders for heartworm preventatives, flea preventatives, vaccines and annual parasite tests. We can also provide you with information specifically tailored for your pets medical conditions, stage of life, and breed.

There will also be sections with information on our staff, pictures of our clinic, a Pet Health Library, pet care guides, special offers, access to our online store. You can also fill out feedback and survey forms to tell us about your experience at our clinic and help us to continue improving our service.

We hope to have the new website up and running as soon as possible so check [www.brookfieldvets.com](http://www.brookfieldvets.com) for details. If we have your email address then you will get an email letting you know when the website is up and running and how to access your pet's personal pages. If we do not have your email address you can send it to [email@brookfieldvets.com](mailto:email@brookfieldvets.com) and we will add you in. Best of all, there is no charge to to you use this service.

## JOINT SUPPLEMENTS

You may have heard or read about the use of supplements to help improve joint function and reduce pain in animals and people with injuries, arthritis or even developmental conditions such as hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia. The most common supplements contain Glucosamine and Chondroitin. These are nutrients that provide building blocks for the body to repair and grow cartilage and replace joint fluid. They are available as oral chewable tablets and can have an effect on the pets mobility and pain within weeks.

Omega-3 fatty acids have also been shown to be a benefit for the control of pain and inflammation in the joints and can help improve the efficacy of oral pain medications for joint pain.



There is also an injectable form called Adequan that contains polysulfated glycosaminoglycans or PSGAGs for short. It works in a similar fashion to the oral supplements but can start having effects within hours and days, rather than weeks or months.

Other benefits include the absence of long term side effects and the ability to manage a pet with joint disease without having to resort to pain medication, surgery or joint replacement.

At Merrick Animal Hospital we use Dasuquin from Nutramax for an oral Glucosamine and Chondroitin supplement. It also contains ASU (avocado/soybean unsaponifiables) which help improve the function of the other components. This is an updated version of their Cosequin supplement.



For an omega-3 supplement we like Welactin, also from Nutramax. It is available in a liquid as well as a capsule form. Nutramax also does independent testing of their products to insure label doses and



absorption of the supplement as well as effectiveness in treating specific conditions. Their products are also backed by a 100% satisfaction guarantee. If you would like to try a joint supplement for your pet give us a call or email and your vet can help you decide if they would be indicated.

In some cases your pet may also need a pain medication as well but adding in these supplements can help reduce the dose needed to keep them comfortable and slow down the progression of their disease.

We also carry human forms of these supplements.



We are now able to offer financing for veterinary services through MedChoice Financial. You can select from several plans, including options with 3 to 18 months of deferred interest. If you pay off the balance within the agreed time frame the financing is interest free.

You simply fill out an application and we will take care of the submitting it and letting you know when it is approved. You then just make payments to Med Choice and your pet can get the care they need without having to drain your bank account.

There are also Pet Health Insurance companies offering policies that can help defray the expenses for major medical problems or injuries and even for routine health

care needs. Check out Veterinary Pet Insurance, VPI at [www.petinsurance.com](http://www.petinsurance.com).

## NEW STAFF

Our newest Veterinarian is Dr. Stacy Kostiuk, a 2009 Graduate from the University of Illinois. She started with the practice in June. She has two very needy cats and a new Irish Wolfhound Puppy who thinks the middle of the night should be devoted to him.

She enjoys baking, reading, cycling and her husband is trying to get her interested in golf. Dr. Kostiuk is also working on her Masters in Public Health degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research concerns blastomycosis infections in dogs and people.

Emily Birkhahn is one of our veterinary assistants. She works one on one with the vets to help make sure you and your pet are seen in a timely manner and that all your concerns are addressed. She began working with us this past spring and has a dachshund named Schroeder and a husband named David. She is an avid reader and enjoys doing crafts including making her own greeting cards.

Shelley Kolodziejski is our new receptionist and began working with us in June. Shelley claims to lead a boring life and enjoys playing her guitar when not answering your phone calls.

Sandra Kie also is a new veterinary assistant. She has two daughters, three dogs, two cats, and three prairie dogs which take up most of her time. She also works as a domestic violence advocate in the evenings and whenever she has spare time.

Ron Swiatkowski is our newest Veterinary Technician. He will be assisting the vets with anesthesia, surgery, radiographs, lab tests and whatever else we can think of. Run is a big fan of Siberian Huskies and not only shows them but also worked at the 2008 Iditarod race.

***We look forward to seeing you soon. The Staff of Merrick Animal Hospital***