



Client Wins a Car!

Proud pet parent, Dawn Grochalski, was in for a yearly visit with her Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, Taffy. As part of the visit she opted to purchase a 12 month supply of Heartgard Plus, a monthly parasite preventative. As part of the purchase of the 12 month supply, Dawn was entered into a drawing offered thru Merial. The grand prize was a new 2012 Volvo, two of which were offered nationwide. Dawn, Eric



Taffy, Dawn, Elijah, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Harvey and the new car!



and Elijah were the lucky winners of one!

Dawn did not believe that she won the car and it took numerous calls and letters from the company to convince her that the Volvo was actually hers!

Congratulations!

Local Spotlight—Wildbird Recovery

www.wildbirdrecovery.org

Spring is here! It is baby wildlife season! Did you know that veterinarians are not permitted to rehabilitate wildlife? They are only allowed to offer supportive care to wildlife in need. So... what do you do with the young or injured wildlife that might need some help? You contact your local wildlife rehabilitator! We are very fortunate to have a wildlife rehabilitator right here in Butler County!

Wildbird Recovery is a non profit organization that is state and federally licensed with over 15

years training and experience in treating injured and orphaned wildlife. Wildbird Recovery is dedicated to the rehabilitation and release of distressed wild birds and they also promote responsible attitudes toward the preservation of native species, habitat, and the environment. If you have a wild animal that you think may need help please call and talk to Beth McMaster at 724-898-1788. For more tips on what to do if you think the animal needs help please visit their website.

You can also join them on Facebook to learn more about the animals they help from right here in Butler County! Visit them, tour the facility and meet the education birds at their annual Yard Sale May 21-22 from 8—4.



Kele, their educational Barred Owl

Client Information Sessions Offered!

Client education is a priority at Butler Veterinary Associates. The doctors and staff are committed to providing you with a thorough explanation of your pet's medical condition, including information regarding any diagnostic or test procedures that will be performed.

We are happy to announce the beginning of a new service! We have started our free Client Outreach Discussion Groups! They are designed to help you understand medical conditions that your pet may have. We will give a clinical description of the disease, discuss the most up to date information, treatment options,



Philip giving a Presentation

monitoring recommendations and have a question and answer session. This will be followed by an open discussion as to how the disease in your pet has affected your life, how you manage your time, and other aspects. There will be a special time for us to all offer suggestions and support to others in the group. Cof-

fee, tea, soft drinks and a light snack will be provided.

Some of the topics will be: diabetes in your pet, chronic kidney disease, obesity, and heart disease.

We look forward to helping you enjoy the happiness a healthy pet can provide. Please remember we are always available with more information. If you ever have a concern, suggestion, or question just ask.

If your pet has a condition that we are addressing we will contact you via mail (and possibly email). Our next session will be about Lyme Disease and will be held June 1. Watch for information about the next session in the office, on the website and on Facebook!

Case of the Quarter—Gizmo By: Heather, Receptionist and Certified Veterinary Technician

In October of 2009, a 10 week old puppy was found on the side of the road in Bethesda, OH. He was taken to Belmont County Animal Rescue League for care. His fur was so matted with dirt and blood that it was nearly impossible to even determine what breed he was. After a bath and some medical treatment for skin issues, it became clear to the staff that he was a Peke-A-Poo mix. The puppy (Gizmo) also began to exhibit some very odd behavior. He could not be kept in a cage because he was constantly running in circles when not leashed or in someone's lap. Because of this, he had to be left to go in circles all night in a room where other dogs slept in cages. As he settled in at the shelter, his circling began to decrease. He occasionally got to spend the night at the home of one of the

shelter's volunteers and seemed to do well there. Due to his unusual behavior, the shelter was faced with a difficult decision. They could try to adopt Gizmo out, knowing how difficult it would be to find a home that would be capable of treating his skin condition and handling his behavioral issues. Since he had done well at the volunteer's home, they decided to try listing him on petfinder.com to see what would happen. Gizmo got a lot of inquiries and some even came to meet him, but no one applied to adopt him. Until one Saturday in January 2010, a family with plenty of room in their hearts and their home fell in love with him. The shelter repeatedly stressed to them how much special care Gizmo would need. They had their minds made up and could not be swayed. He was the perfect

addition to their family! After a visit to BVA, it was found that Gizmo's skin problems were being caused by a skin mite called demodex. This mite is a natural inhabitant of the hair follicles in dogs and an overpopulation of these mites can cause numerous problems. Gizmo is still undergoing treatment for these mites and he is responding well.



Happy, Healthy and in his forever home!

By now, you have decided what type of pet works best for your family. You have done your research, and know which pet will work best with your household's personality and schedule. Now it is time to research where to get your pet. It is vital to carefully look into where you will get your pet because you want a well-socialized, healthy pet.

Regardless of where you get your pet we do need to focus on some important factors. Do all of the pets look healthy? Do any of the animals have eye or nose discharge, coughing or sneezing? Is the enclosure clean? Are the food and water bowls clean and full? If you see or hear anything that brings questionable care to your mind, then this is not the right place to purchase or get your new pet. ***The most important thing is that the new pet gets an exam.*** During the exam the veterinarian will check for (and certainly not limited to) heart murmurs, hernias, undescended testes and bite abnormalities. Intestinal parasites are also commonly seen in new puppies and kittens, some of which can be transmitted to your family. If those are detected the pet will be



Troy—otherwise known as “the Bubby”

sent home with an easy to give medication.

Pets that are advertised as ‘needing a good home’ is a commendable choice for choosing a new pet. Be careful with thinking a pet is “free” as they will need the same care that purchased pets need.

Places to visit that may have a pet that is right for you are rescue organizations and humane societies. Most of these organizations have protocols in place to make sure the pets are tested for any diseases and parasites. They also sometimes offer the first vaccinations, microchips, wormer and information about spaying, neutering and socialization.

There are many Humane Organizations in Butler and the surrounding Counties who have pets available for adoption. These are just a few:

- Rainbow Animal Refuge
www.rainbowanimalrefuge.org
- Butler County Humane Society
www.butlercountyhhs.org
- Angels for Animals
www.angelsforanimals.org
- Animal Friends
www.thinkingoutsidethecage.org

A reputable breeder is another good place to get a pet. The American Kennel Club is an excellent resource that can help if you are planning to purchase a dog. You can visit their website at www.akc.org. They will allow you full access to the puppies or kittens so that you may play with them and choose the right one for your family. A good breeder should already know the personality of each pup and be able to help match you with the right puppy. A good breeder will have also taken the litter to a veterinarian for their initial exam, vaccinations and an intestinal parasite screen. Responsible purebred dog breeders will do additional testing on the parents, including eye certification and OFA radiographs (to monitor for hip and elbow dysplasia in larger dogs) to help ensure that you get the best quality pet available. They may also test for breed specific conditions such as hypothyroidism, sebaceous adenitis and other diseases.

It is vital to the physical and behavioral health of your pet as well as to the health of your family that you thoroughly research where you will be obtaining your pet. As always, we are here to help you with any questions that you may have!



Crosby checking out the camera—up close!



Kimber doing a good sit during puppy class



Traveling with your pet Brought to you by the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association)

Planning and preparation are important when traveling with family pets. There are dogs and cats that cannot withstand the rigors of any type of travel due to illness, injury, or temperament. If this is the case, discuss with your veterinarian options such as hiring a reliable pet sitter or housing your pet in a clean, well-managed boarding facility. For car travel, consider whether or not your pet is comfortable in the vehicle before committing to a long road trip. A car-sick pet is sure to make the trip miserable for every-



Gracie relaxing in the car!

one. When planning your trip, if you will be staying with friends or family along the way, be considerate and ask them in advance if your pet is welcome. The same applies to choosing hotels, motels, parks, and campgrounds. Always check if pets are allowed or if kennel facilities are available. If a hotel or motel claims to be “pet friendly,” clarify exactly what that means to be sure it will accommodate you and your pet’s needs. If your pet must be left alone in a hotel room, place a “Do Not Disturb” sign on the door and inform the maid and the front desk. Before leaving home, consider bringing along a portable kennel for use in hotel rooms or the homes of friends or relatives who are not comfortable allowing your pet to roam freely when no one is home. Whether you travel by car or by plane, be sure your pet is wearing an ID tag and, if possible, also has an imbedded identification micro-

chip. While the microchip database should contain accurate contact information, consider not including your pet’s name on its ID tag. How a pet responds to hearing its name used could be helpful in reuniting a lost or stolen pet with its rightful owner. Grooming (bathing, combing, trimming nails) before a trip, plus taking along your pet’s favorite food, toy (s), and dishes will make your pet more comfortable. Carry proof of rabies vaccination and a current health certificate when crossing state or international borders. Finally, keep a printed photograph (a digital copy is also good to have) of your pet with you to assist with identification in case your pet is lost. Most importantly, before undertaking any trip, consult your veterinarian to ensure that all required vaccinations are up-to-date and to receive a certificate of veterinary inspection within ten days prior to travel by air.



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*Improving People's Lives
Thru Their Pets*

Want to receive this newsletter in your email inbox? Just go to our website and click on the “Newsletter” tab!

Our dedication to professionalism and excellence in every phase of our hospital operation motivates us to always continue our education. All staff members attend continued education in all aspects of veterinary medicine and client service. We conduct weekly staff training sessions each Thursday from noon-1:30 pm so you can feel confident that the people treating your pet will provide the best care possible. Butler Veterinary Associates’ doctors are a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), as well as state and local veterinary medical associations.

Visit us on the web at
www.butlervet.com

