

## A bi-monthly newsletter from Lifetime Small Animal Hospital

Issue 1

January / February 2009



### 🐾Meet Dr. Pedersen

January 6, 2009 we gained a new associate; Dr. Erin (Fulton) Pedersen. Dr. Pedersen obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of Wyoming, and completed her veterinary medicine degree at Colorado State University. She comes to us with the blessings (and curses) of Dr. Brown of the Animal Clinic of Billings [MT]. She will be missed by the staff and patients up there. Dr. Pedersen will be providing surgical and critical care services, as well as lifestage based care. She will be bringing some much anticipated relief to our own busy Dr. Blessing.

Since Lifetime Small Animal Hospital doctors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Dr. Pedersen will be seeing many of our loyal clients and many new clients, as well. She will be providing a welcome addition to our emergency services and to our life stage based care programs. Her new perspectives have already proved invaluable to the staff and clinic cats.

She and her husband, Ty, grew up in the Powell area. They are the proud parents of 2 dogs, Maddie and Wyatt. As a family, they are excited to be moving back to the area. They enjoy camping and gardening in our great Wyoming outdoors.

### Grooming Tips from Verna

Many people stop grooming their pet at all in the winter. **This is a mistake.** A long shaggy coat does not protect and keep your pet warm if it gets packed down and dirty. Just like the feathers in a down coat require air for holding in the warmth, your pet's coat also needs to be clean and fluffy. Even for an outside pet, a few inches or less of hair is usually enough. The air trapped in a clean, well-brushed, fluffy coat will insulate your pet better than two inches of thick mats!!



We are planning a Meet & Greet Open House this spring to introduce Dr. Pedersen but don't be shy! You're welcome to come on in and make an appointment with her today!



### 🐾Spay and Neuter Week 🐾 March 2 - 6

**Why:** Four million cats and dogs—about one every eight seconds—are euthanized in U.S. shelters each year. Often these animals are the offspring of cherished family pets, even purebreds. Maybe someone's cat or dog got out just that one time or maybe the litter was intentional, but efforts to find enough good homes failed. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100-percent effective method of birth control for dogs and cats and a proven way to reduce the vast numbers of animals who are born only to die prematurely and without a family who loves them. Learn more about why you should spay or neuter your pet.

Call Lifetime Small Animal Hospital for your 50% off appointment today. 587-4324 Space is limited!!!!



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 What's Going On at Lifetime Small Animal Hospital? 

<p><b>February 2009</b></p>	<p><b>Dental Month</b></p>	<p><b>10% off all dental procedures</b></p>	<p><b>\$\$\$\$ Must be paid at time of service \$\$\$\$</b></p>	<p><b>Book Ahead so you don't miss out!</b></p>	<p><b>Same Day Service</b></p>	<p><b>Avoid unnecessary kidney and heart problems by addressing dirty teeth TODAY!</b></p>
<p><b>March 2009</b></p>	<p><b>Spay &amp; Neuter Week 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>50% off all NORMAL spay or neuter</b></p>	<p><b>\$\$\$\$ Must be paid at time of service \$\$\$\$</b></p>	<p><b>Appointments required!</b></p>	<p><b>Proof of current vaccinations requested.</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Blessing Turns "70" March 7th</b></p>

** Carol Barks: **

Lean Treats: Her Favorite Cookie  
Canine and Feline formulas available.  
Allowable for diabetics.  
Made from real skinless chicken. Bite sized for portion  
control—easily broken into smaller bits for training.  
Very odorific! Only available through veterinarians.  
Great value for your money!!! *Pets Love Them!*



Deana Baker, CVT lets us in on some basic training insights.

Yes, you can teach an old dog new tricks. And a young dog. And a hard headed dog. And a blind dog. And a deaf dog. And a cat. Above all else.....Be consistent.

Consistency is very important in a training program. Dogs learn faster when commands are given the same way, rewards are given the same way, and the same expectations are required. The dog then understands what is expected in order to earn the reward. For example, when training the "Sit" command, "Josey Sit", "Sit Josey," and "Sit Down" appear to be three separate commands in the dog's mind. Likewise, if the dog is allowed to lie down to the command "Sit", he will learn that "Sit" means the lie down position. In general the dog doesn't care what word is used as he doesn't really understand English or any other human language. He just learns through the power of repetition and reward that the command means a certain position or action. When the commands, actions, and rewards are not kept the same, the dog becomes confused and training is delayed causing dog and owner frustration.

# 🐾🐾 Specially formulated foods 🐾🐾

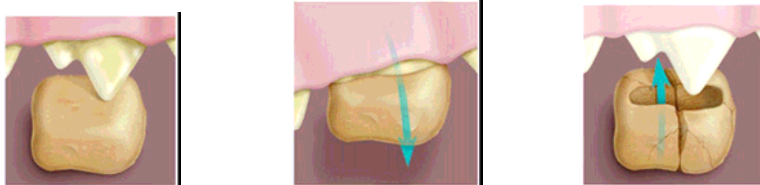
## Help reduce plaque and tartar buildup on your pet's teeth



Several complete and balanced adult pet foods are available that provide significant oral cleansing compared with typical dry, moist or snack foods. The mechanism of action for these dental foods is based on the enhanced textural characteristics of the kibble that provide mechanical cleansing of the teeth. Combining increased fiber content with a size and pattern (texture) that promotes chewing and maximizes contact with teeth is critical to obtaining a dental benefit. (Figure 3) Typical dry foods do not possess the textural characteristics for adequate dental cleansing. Currently, three dog foods and three cat foods: Hill's®

Prescription Diet® t/d® Canine, Hill's® Prescription Diet® t/d® Small Bites Canine, Hill's® Prescription Diet® t/d® Feline, Hill's® Science Diet® Oral Care Adult Canine, Hill's® Science Diet® Oral Care Adult Feline and Friskies® Feline Dental Diet, have received the VOHC seal for plaque and calculus (tartar) control.

Evidence clearly shows that dental foods can play an important role in dental homecare programs. Since most dogs and cats eat something every day, the use of foods that provide dental benefits seems appropriate. Strong evidence from multiple studies support the use of dental foods with enhanced textural characteristics to control plaque and calculus accumulation in cats and dogs. Evidence exists for use of these dental foods in cats. Evidence supports that dental foods are best used as the sole or predominant food source in conjunction with regular professional treatment.



**Lifetime Small Animal Hospital welcomes you to our website!**  
**LTSAHosp.com**

Lifetime Small Animal Hospital in Cody, WY is a full service companion animal hospital. It is our commitment to provide quality veterinary care throughout the life of your pet. Our services and facilities are designed to assist in routine preventive care for young, healthy pets; early detection and treatment of disease as your pet ages; and complete medical and surgical care as necessary during his or her lifetime.

We understand the special role your pet plays in your family and are dedicated to becoming your partner in your pet's health care. We treat your pet as we would our own. Our goal is to practice the highest quality medicine and surgery with compassion and an emphasis on client education. Our entire healthcare team is committed to providing personal attention to the unique concerns of each individual pet owner.

At this site, you will find information about our practice philosophy, our services, helpful forms to assist you and an extensive [Pet Medical Library](#) for you to search for additional pet health care information.



What do **YOU** want to know **TODAY?**

### On Line Store Categories

- Carriers and Kennels
- Clothing
- Collars and Leashes
- Dental
- Diets
- Ear
- Eye
- Flea and Tick
- Grooming

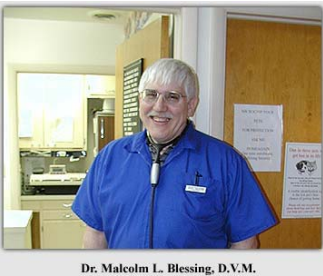
- Heartworm
- Nutritional
- Supplements
- Officially Licensed Products
- Other
- Over the Counter Medications
- Pest Control

- Prescription Medications
- Reproductive
- Stain and Odor
- Supplies
- Toys
- Training Treats

[Cat Wisdom]

How Skanky came to be ....well..."Skanky"

Sometime last summer I was minding my own business – catching food and trying to keep from being eaten by owls, hawks and coyotes. One day I found myself in a container with several other cats – probably my cousins, brothers or sisters, or my own kittens, and we were brought into a building. We were taken out one at a time and after a short nap, I woke up with a tender tummy. A couple of us had terrible colds and we stayed inside and a person kept coming in and cleaning our potty, giving us food and water and something they kept calling medicine. When I arrived, I had the most horrible hair – it was falling out in chunks and I was pretty skinny. The people kept talking about ‘the one with the skanky haircoat’, but they seemed to pay special attention to me. After a few days, I was feeling lots better and decided that this room service stuff was pretty good. The other cats started leaving – I heard that they were getting places with room service also. Pretty soon I was introduced to a big fat orange cat named Sam. I guess he was pretty lonely, since his longtime companion had recently passed away. He seemed to be pretty nice, so I kicked him out of his nice plushy bed (I’d never had one of those before.) A few weeks went by before the guy with the white hair noticed that I was here, but by then Sam had decided that I needed to stay with him. I’ve been here ever since, usually cuddling in my person’s arms or with Sam. My person tried giving me different names, but I choose to ignore them all. We fell in love with each other when I was the “one with the skanky hair” so Skanky I shall remain.



## ASK DR. BLESSING

*Rumor has it that you are retiring and leaving Lifetime Small Animal Hospital.*

*Is this TRUE?????????*

**Not at all.** I enjoy what I am doing so much that retirement is not an option. I may slow down some and rely more on my wonderful staff. Interaction with animals that experience relief from pain and just plain feel better is extremely rewarding. The more mentally challenging cases I see, the more mentally alert and younger I feel.

*The staff would like to note that we do our best to keep him mentally challenged at all times. He has us to thank for his youthful demeanor and alertness.*

*Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dr. Blessing  
March 7!!!!!!!*

# Dental Month

# February 2009

Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets



- An astounding 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by age 3, according to the American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS).
- Periodontal disease is a common problem in dogs, particularly smaller breeds
- Cats can develop painful resorptive lesions. Studies show that about 28 percent of domestic cats develop at least one of these painful lesions during their lifetime.
- Without proper preventive or therapeutic care, plaque and tartar buildup leads to periodontal disease, which affects the tissues and structures supporting the teeth. Left untreated, periodontal disease can cause oral pain, dysfunction, tooth loss and systemic complications.
- The inflammation and infection associated with periodontal disease may damage other organs such as the heart, liver, and kidneys, or lead to other serious health problems.
- Common indications of oral disease include bad breath, a change in eating or chewing habits, pawing at the face or mouth and depression.
- Pet owners should practice a regular dental care regimen at home, which may include brushing the pet's teeth with specially formulated toothpaste. It's best to start early, but grown dogs and cats can learn to tolerate brushing. Toothpaste for humans is not recommended because it may upset the pet's stomach.



Lifetime Small Animal Hospital would like to get to know Dr. Pedersen. We have heard many rumors about Dr. Pedersen. Which ones are TRUE? We asked and here are her answers.

Are you "that knife happy man" rumors have credited you with being? *NO and NO. I do enjoy surgery but I only recommend it if it is the best solution for the pet. I'm not sure how the "Man" rumor got started. I'm sure that there is more than one "Dr. Pedersen," "Dr. Peterson," or even "Dr. Arron".*

Are you the new replacement for Dr. Tarr? *No. I trained in "mixed animal" (Large and Small animals) but since graduation, have only worked on small animals. I am trying to convince Dr. Blessing that pygmy goats are small animals. At least half of the staff is behind her on this!*

Are you a "New Vet?" *Not a new veterinarian to the field but a new veterinarian to LTSA. I graduated in 2007 from vet school and spent the last 18 months in a very busy practice in Billings, including seeing emergency calls.*



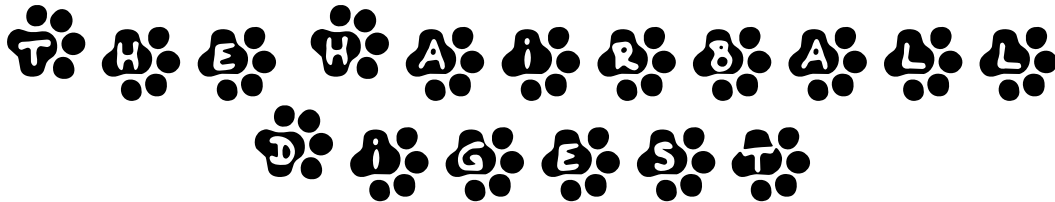
## Lifetime Small Animal Hospital

*“Helping Your Pet Be Its Best – for a Lifetime”*

**Malcolm L. Blessing, DVM      Erin L. Pedersen, DVM**

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