



# ST. FRANCIS

## VETERINARY HOSPITAL

### Meet Our New Groomer

#### April Mhire

April joined our practice a little over a month ago as our new pet stylist. She is passionate about grooming pets and is excited about joining the St. Francis health care team. She has 3 pets at home, "Foxy", "Snickers" and "Caruso".

April grooms all breeds of dogs and cats. Maintenance packages are available for frequently groomed pets. Current vaccinations are required. Schedule your pet for a day of bath, beauty, and TLC.



### Heartworm Alert:

We live in a heartworm endemic area. Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. So every time your pet goes outdoors, it is potentially exposed to heartworms through the bite of one or many mosquitoes.

Heartworm infection can be prevented by giving a pill once monthly, or, in dogs, by a 6 month injectable preventive called Proheart.

Giving heartworm prevention is more important now than ever because the drug used to treat heartworm infection is temporarily unavailable.

If your dog tests positive for heartworms, we will put him or her on a wait list for treatment. In the meantime, don't forget to give that monthly pill or get the 6 month shot!



*"Thousands of years ago, cats were worshiped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this."*

*~Anon.*



## Nutrition News

### Nutrition as Medicine

Thousands of years ago, Hippocrates said, "Let food be your medicine and medicine be your food." That statement is truer now than ever when it comes to pet health.

Nowadays, many diseases can be managed nutritionally such as kidney disease, dental disease, bladder disease, and allergic skin disease to name a few. Starting next month, a new therapeutic diet called "y/d" will be launched by Science Diet for the control of hyperthyroidism in cats.

Hyperthyroidism occurs in around ten percent of senior cats. Traditional treatment options have included radioactive iodine, thyroid surgery, and more commonly, medication twice daily for life. With the new prescription diet, treatment will now be as simple as feeding your cat.

If your senior cat has been losing weight recently despite a noticeable increase in appetite, has an increased activity level, or an increase in drinking and urination, then call our office for an appointment. A simple blood test will detect this disorder in your cat.



*"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."*

➤ *Immanuel Kant*

## Dental Health

### Cleaning Your Pet's Teeth for Oral and Overall Health

If your pet's teeth look like the dog to the right, then your pet is overdue for dental care. Most dogs and cats do not exhibit outward symptoms of painful teeth. They suffer in silence until dental problems are found on examination by the veterinarian.

Periodontal disease is the most common disease seen in small animal medicine. About 85% of all dogs over the age of 3 have some level of periodontal disease. All periodontal disease starts with gingivitis.

The bacterial component of dental tartar causes gum disease, tooth root abscesses, and eventual tooth loss. Bacteria can also be absorbed into the bloodstream and infect internal organs such as the heart, lungs, liver or kidneys.

The keys to controlling dental disease and preventing its progression are professional cleaning when needed and home care.

When professional cleaning is needed, the dog or cat is placed under general anesthesia. The teeth are ultrasonically cleaned and polished. The veterinarian performs a thorough examination and evaluation of the pet's mouth. Dental x-rays are then performed to evaluate the portions of the teeth, i.e. the roots, which are encased in bone and not visible to the naked eye. Diseased teeth are surgically extracted, and pain is controlled with medication.

Home care is very important to dental health. The gold standard is daily tooth brushing. For pets that are uncooperative, prescription dental diets are the next best choice. Make sure your pet's teeth are evaluated at least twice yearly for early detection of dental problems. Early detection and intervention prevents needless suffering, and helps maintain the overall health and well-being of your pet.



*A patient with marked tartar accumulation, missing teeth, recessed gums, gingivitis and tooth root exposure.*



*Taking dental x-rays on a cat*

*“You think dogs will not be in heaven? I tell you, they will be there long before any of us.”*

*~ Robert Louis Stevenson*

## Website Updated!

We recently updated our website. Visit [www.stfrancislafayette.com](http://www.stfrancislafayette.com) for news and information about our hospital. Follow us on Facebook.

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St. Francis Veterinary Hospital  
Lon Randall, DVM  
Blythe Lyons, DVM

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