



# Kern Road Veterinary Clinic Newsletter

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June 2016

## What do you do with baby wildlife?

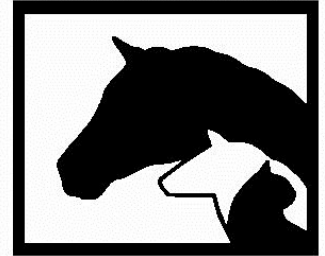
Many people call us or come into the clinic because they have found baby wildlife and don't know what to do with it. The best option— leave it be! Most times the parent is out gathering food, and will be coming back for their young. Did you know that mama bunnies will only come back at dawn and dusk to feed their young— so don't be alarmed if you don't see them during the day. Baby bunnies will leave the nest around 3 weeks (size of a chipmunk) so that bunny may be ready to be out of the nest.

Signs that wildlife does need your assistance:

- Brought in by your cat/dog
- Evidence of bleeding
- Shivering
- A dead parent nearby
- Wandering/crying all day long

If you determine that wildlife does need your assistance you can reach help by calling the Howell Nature Center at (517)-546-0249 and they can advise you how best to handle the situation. If you have discovered injured wildlife and

need medical assistance— please go directly to Howell Nature Center at 1005 Triangle Lake Road in Howell.



105 Fowlerville Rd  
Fowlerville, MI 48836  
517-223-9618  
[www.kernroadvet.com](http://www.kernroadvet.com)



## Got SKUNKED?!

Your dog ran away, or was chasing some woodland creature and came back skunked! Most of us have been there and the clinic gets many calls asking for the best solution for this smelly problem.

Step 1: Leave the dog outside! It's hard to get the smell of skunk out of cars, homes, and carpets (and vet clinics).

Step 2: Apply a de-skunk product. We have *Skunk Off* availa-

ble in the clinic for this purpose or you can follow this at home solution:

- 1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide
- 1/4 cup baking soda
- 1 teaspoon liquid dish soap

Wearing gloves and avoiding the eyes, apply the solution to your pet then rinse off.

\*\*Do not put solution into a closed container-it can explode!

CAUTION: Leaving the at-home solution on too long on a dark coated dog may bleach their hair.

Step 3: After rinsing the solution off of your pet, shampoo bathe them with any pet-safe shampoo.

Your dog should now be skunk-free!



## Microchipping:

Despite your best efforts, accidents can happen. Someone leaves a door ajar, an intrepid pooch digs under a fence, and your best intentions go awry: Your pet escapes and gets lost. If he's wearing a collar and identification tag, chances are good that you'll get him back. But what if his collar comes off? What if the tag rips off his collar? This is where microchips come in!

To protect their pets, many owners turn to technology, in the form of identification microchips implanted in their pets. Microchips are tiny transponders, about the size of a grain of rice, that can be implanted in

your pet's skin by veterinarians and animal shelters; some shelters implant one in all pets they place. These are not GPS microchips, but rather a number that can be scanned and linked to your contact information. Our fee for microchipping, which includes registration is \$45. Our microchips are also international! This means that even if you were to re-locate to Europe and take your pets with you, you will still be able to access your pet's microchip information!

### How and where are microchips placed?

Microchips are implanted just under the skin, usually right between the shoulder blades. This is done with a large-bore needle and doesn't require anesthesia. We typically do this at time of spay/neuter, but microchipping can be done at any appointment!

## LOST PETS

People often wonder if microchipping their pet is worth the money and effort. We get weekly calls with people who have found pets in our area, wondering if we know of any lost pets. Our first recommendation is to bring them in for a microchip scan.

Most veterinary practices, humane societies and animal control will own a microchip scanner! If the pet has a microchip, it's a quick internet search to locate the owner information for the pet.

If the pet does not have a microchip, things get a bit harder. Facebook and social media have revolutionized lost/found pets. The

Love Of Louie Facebook is constantly updated with pictures of found/lost pets hoping to find their homes once again. For some, it's a happy reunion. For others, it's a trip to a shelter in the hopes of getting rehomed.

The best way to make sure you are ALWAYS reunited with your pet, is to get them microchipped. Dogs can slip collars and lose their ID tags. Cats often do not wear collars, and may not have any other form of ID. A recent study showed that less than 2% of cats without microchips were returned home. However, if a cat is microchipped, the return-to-owner rate is 20 times higher than if the cat was not microchipped. If your pet already has a microchip, make sure it is registered and the information stays up to date.

*"A recent study showed that less than 2% of cats without microchips are returned home"*



## Rat Poison and Pets! What to know...

By: Dr. Hermann



Now that summer has arrived, garages and sheds will be open and your pets will be outside exploring and the risk of your pet ingesting rat poison rises. In recent years several new rat poison products have come on the market and the newer generation of poisons are much more toxic to your cat and dog than the traditional anti-coagulant rat poison. All types of rat poison are toxic to your pet and ingesting even a small amount can potentially cause life threatening problems. While we do not recommend using rat poison if you have pets, what should you do if you suspect or see your pet ingesting rat poison?

The first thing to do is remove your pet from the area and call your vet clinic. There are several key pieces of information we will ask for when you call –

1) what is the active ingredient of the product, 2) when did your pet ingest it and 3) an approximate amount ingested. Name brands and color of the poison are not as helpful as the active ingredient because all the types of poison look the same and some brands use all the types of poison. Treatment for your pet can include inducing vomiting, activated charcoal, medications, and supportive care. Please call your veterinarian to ask how best to proceed!

## Yearly Teeth Floating Helps Lead You to Success

Written by: Kelly Beaubien

Preparing for show season with your horse can be stressful enough. There are hours of practice and training involved, tack to make shine and sparkle, not to mention ensuring your horse is in top shape. When a horse's teeth are not given regular attention by your veterinarian, this can lead to many problems. Things such as overreaction to bit pressure, difficulty framing your horse in the bridle, roughened transitions, poor disposition, and even trouble eating hay and grain are all possible symptoms of poor teeth care. If your horse has become extra sensitive from bit pressure, even cranky,

there is a chance his teeth may have developed sharp points along the edges causing ulcerations inside his mouth. Since horses are foragers, their mouth is designed to grind sideways, rather than chew up and down like humans. Adding more concentrates to your horse's diet, such as grain, can change the way they chew. These changes can make your horse wear their teeth unevenly, giving them the opportunity to develop sharp edges, or uneven waves in their teeth. It's a good idea to have your veterinarian check your horse's teeth at

least once a year to ensure the teeth are flat and grinding properly. If unevenness has formed, your vet can use special dental files to "float" the teeth, or file them down until they are flat again. Dental floating is a great addition to your yearly exam and spring vaccines before show season begins. Keeping your horse's mouth functioning at its best will keep your horse performing his best.

## New things here at Kern Road Veterinary Clinic

### WELLNESS PLANS

Did you know we have **Wellness Plans**?

Whether you have a horse, dog or cat, we have packages that will fit any pet's health care needs. **Wellness Plans** are a preventive health care package for your pet with a monthly payment. This allows the opportunity to provide the best care for your pet without the lump sum payment at the time of visit. Always wanted to get that bloodwork or dental done but not able to afford it? **Wellness plans** include annual bloodwork at an affordable amount.



### Date for Annual Kern Road Open House!

The date for our Annual Kern Road Vet Clinic Open House has been set. The date will be August 27th 2016 from 2-5pm. If you have never been to this in the past, please stop by! We have food, games, prizes and a bouncy obstacle course! Fun for the whole family!



### Is Your Horse Choking?

By: Dr. Lauren Gnagey

You just fed dinner, now your horse is coughing, gagging, and has fluid coming out of his nose! It is possible your horse has an esophageal obstruction, or "choke". This is not the same as choking in people, but rather a mouthful of food may have gotten lodged in the esophagus preventing further swallowing, causing saliva and food to be forced back out the nose and mouth. What can you do? Take all food and water away and keep your horse calm. Sometimes walking can help distract from the distress caused by the obstruction. Staying calm can help the food slide down to the stomach where it belongs. If any of the coughing, drooling, gagging or refusal to eat continues for more than 15 minutes, call your vet! The longer a horse is choked, the greater the risk for pneumonia due to fluid getting in the lungs. Sometimes medical treatment is required to help the obstruction pass. This may include sedatives and passing a tube to physically remove the obstruction. What causes "choke"? Eating too fast is the main culprit, so separating horses during feeding, or adding large rocks to your feed tub can help slow them down. Some horses can choke if they cannot chew well. Talk to a vet to have your horse's teeth checked and make sure their chewing and swallowing are normal. A dental float and special diet may be indicated depending on the exam findings.

## Kern Road Veterinary Clinic



105 Fowlerville Rd  
Fowlerville, MI 48836  
Ph- 517-223-9618



Kern Road Veterinary Clinic, P.L.L.C. is a 7 veterinarian Equine/Small Animal Veterinary Practice located south of Fowlerville and west of Howell at 105 Fowlerville Road. Established in 1972, Kern Road Veterinary Clinic, P.L.L.C. has continued to grow as we strive to provide state of the art veterinary medicine and the best possible service to our patients and clients.

Kern Road Veterinary Clinic provides quality veterinary medicine through the use of radiology, ultrasound, current methods in surgery, state of the art laboratory diagnosis, cryosurgery, advanced dental procedures, and current diagnostic techniques. Sophisticated equipment and instruments are used, evaluated and updated regularly.

*If you received this newsletter in the mail and would like to receive future correspondence electronically please provide us with your email address at [info@kernroadvet.com](mailto:info@kernroadvet.com)*



## Welcome to Dr. Foote!

Kern Road Vet Clinic welcomes Dr. Iris Foote to the family. Dr. Foote graduated in 2016 with her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Michigan State University. She has also obtained her certification in veterinary acupuncture at the Chi Institute of Veterinary Acupuncture with a focus in horses. She has interest in both equine and small animal patients. We are very excited for this opportunity and know that Dr. Foote make an excellent addition to our veterinary team. Please help us extend a warm welcome to her!

*Thank you for giving Kern Road Veterinary Clinic staff and doctors the opportunity to work with you and your pet. We understand that pets are part of the family and strive to provide the best possible veterinary care. Please feel free to contact us anytime.*

