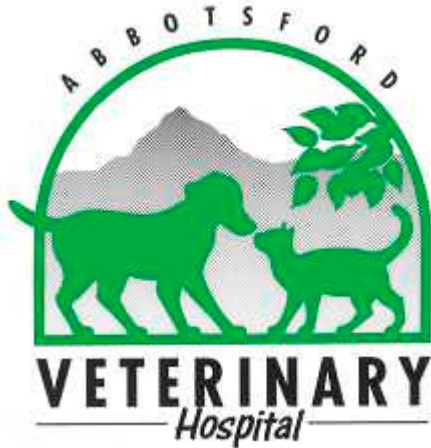


Abbotsford Veterinary Hospital



Our First Ever - Newsletter



What's New at Abby Vet???

Things are really picking up here at Abby Vet. We have been getting much busier **thanks to you**, our valued clients. Nothing helps business like word-of-mouth referrals, and it makes us feel good to know we have so many satisfied clients, and patients!

We've had to hire several new people in the past few months to help out with the workload. Maybe you haven't had the chance to meet us all and chat, so we thought you might enjoy hearing a little about us and what's new around here:

Dr. Christopher Taylor - Veterinarian

I have been working at the hospital full-time since June 1st. While it's been very busy, it's been extremely enjoyable. The staff at Abby Vet are very skilled, professional, and dedicated and are just a pleasure to work with. I can understand how this hospital has been so trusted for nearly 50 years. Currently, my family and I still live in Langley, but will be thinking about moving come winter. Lately, I've been working on developing our digital imaging technology in order to make the record keeping and specialist referrals easier for things like X-rays and microscope slides. Be sure to come by and get your pet's digital photo taken and placed in their medical file! When I get it, my spare time is spent hanging out at dog and cat shows, gardening, and teaching martial arts. While we're talking, don't forget that heartworm season extends all the way until November, and if your dog gets exposed to mosquitoes you should ask us about preventing this disease.



Did you know? We now carry “**DOGGLES**”, protective eyewear for dogs. These are great for dogs that love to have their face in the breeze of a moving vehicle, or are just sensitive to bright sunlight. They come in a variety of colours and sizes. Come by and check them out!



Cindy - Veterinary Assistant

I've been here at Abby Vet since last fall and am working towards becoming an Animal health technologist. I grew up on a dairy farm, and still spend a lot of time helping out with local 4-H programs. My favourite sports are softball and volleyball, but my preferred activity is walking and playing with my dogs! I have two white boxers who take up all my “spare” time. By the way, if you're thinking of adopting a new cat or kitten, don't forget to come by the clinic to get him or her tested for Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus before taking him home. This fast and simple test can save you a lot of money and keep your other cats safe from this disease.

Did you know? We just finished renovating our hospital! We have now moved the isolation ward to a better location where these very ill pets can be better monitored and treated. This will make a big difference to these special patients. Down the corridor, we have completed our new “Client Room”. This

room is comfortably decorated to allow people to visit their sick pets in a home-like atmosphere, read up on the latest information in our veterinary library, or have private phone conversations.



Ashley - Veterinary Assistant

I began here at AVH just this summer. You may have spoken to me on the phone. I've worked in veterinary hospitals for several years, but recently decided I'd rather work here at Abbotsford Veterinary Hospital and obtain credit towards my degree in Animal Health Technology. While I've got your attention, please remember to bring a small stool sample from your pet when you bring them in for their annual examination.. We can test it for many types of nasty parasites, some of them transmissible to humans! Be sure to discuss a deworming strategy with us if you have young children or people with poor immune system function in your home.

Did you know? We now have a website at www.abbyvet.com ! Its full of all kinds of information and photos. You can take a virtual tour of our newly renovated hospital, learn how to properly clean your dog's ears, or read an article about optimizing your cat's health. Also, every week we will post an interesting case where you get to play "The Vet" and figure out what is happening. Be sure to check it out!

Susan - Animal Health Technologist

Since coming on board at Abby Vet this spring, I have been placed in charge of the surgical and medical treatment areas to ensure the highest level of patient safety and quality control. Part-time, I help the University College of the Cariboo in developing their distant education course for Animal Health Technology. When I am not at the office my favourite thing to do is to compete with my Border Collies in sheep dog trials. Remember, Hallowe'en is fast approaching. Keep cats indoors as the event approaches, and be sure to contact us if your dog has a noise phobia problem with fireworks. Some of the newer medications for treating anxiety in pets can help alleviate this very common problem!



Did you know? Dental disease is the number one preventable cause of premature death in our pets! That yucky odour from your pet's mouth is not normal. Bad breath is a sign of gingivitis, plaque, tartar or even systemic disease. If your pet's kisses are not so fresh anymore, be sure to bring them by for a check-up. A little dentistry can go a long way to keeping your friend's affection enjoyable for many more years!

Announcing Our Baby Pet Photo Contest 2004

Send or bring us a picture of your puppy or kitten before December 1st, 2004 for our Pet Baby Photo contest. You can email us a digital version, or send us a print photo. We will put all the photos up on our website, where everyone can take a look. The staff at the hospital will judge the contest and announce the winner on December 4th - Our Santa Photo Day! . The winner will receive a **free annual examination and booster vaccination** next year at AVH for their winning pet and have their pet's photo placed on display in our hospital.

Did You Know? You can now get a special pheromone infuser, much like a “Glade Plug-In” that produces a calming balm for anxious pets that is odourless to humans. “Feliway” and “DAP – Dog Appeasing Pheromone” come with refillable plug-in infusers that last for about 6 weeks, and have helped with separation anxiety, aggression and house-soiling in dogs and cats. This happy-pet-smell is a non-pharmaceutical way to help with pets that otherwise can be quite difficult. At Abby Vet, we use the Feliway infuser to help in our cat ward, and have noticed a big improvement in the disposition of our nervous kitties in the morning. If you’d like more information, why not give us a call?



Arlette - Accounts Administrator

We've probably talked on the phone. I have been here long enough to know most of our clients by name! When I am not managing the front office, I often help with patient admissions and discharge. Outside of the office, I am very involved with amateur diving as a judge. Are you thinking of getting a puppy or a kitten? You might want to give us a call before you buy! We can offer you objective information about selecting a pet that is right for you and your family and how to keep it as healthy as possible. Once you get home, don't forget those lovable troublemakers get into **everything!** Puppy or kitty-proof your house carefully. Move toxic plants out of the way, use baby-gates to prevent falls, and buy a good quality dog-crate to secure puppies when they are not under direct supervision.

Did you know? We now have an IDEXX VetTest blood chemistry analyzer right in hospital? This machine allows us to perform on the spot detection of many sub-clinical diseases before your pet undergoes an anesthetic. In critically ill patients, it allows us to determine the problem immediately without having to wait a few days for results. We recommend pre-anaesthetic testing for all patients undergoing their first surgery or any over 8 years of age.



Kirstin - Veterinary Assistant

I work part-time for the hospital, helping out where needed during the busiest times. I came here to Abby Vet for the fabulous working environment after eight years experience in the industry. My free time is limited because I am completing my degree in Natural Resource Conservation, but I do like to ride my horse, Skeksis, or play with my two Staffordshire Terriers, Geisha and Braxus when I find some!

Did You Know? Abbotsford Veterinary Hospital is the oldest operating veterinary facility in the Fraser Valley? The clinic was opened in 1958 on McCallum Road, across the street from MSA hospital. It was moved to its present location on McDougall Avenue in 1972. The larger building allowed the practice to be split into separate farm and companion animal facilities. While the Abbotsford Veterinary CLINIC upstairs deals only with farm animals, we maintain a cooperative business relationship with them. In fact we share many clients, and do allow for redirected billing for our mutual clients!