

Barta ANIMAL HOSPITAL

PetTalk Fall 2015

MLS Laser Therapy

Could Your Pet Benefit from this Treatment Option?

We now offer MLS laser therapy to reduce your pet's pain and inflammation and to restore mobility. This is an effective, proven, pain-free treatment option for our clients who want to ease their pets' pain and inflammation. Common uses are to relieve arthritis, back discomfort, musculoskeletal abnormalities, as an anti-inflammatory, post-surgery, and after dental procedures to soothe sore gums.

Cold laser therapy is a noninvasive procedure that uses light to stimulate cells and increase blood circulation. This reduces pain and nerve sensitivity, and also releases endorphins, which are natural painkillers.

Most patients see positive results in one to three treatments. Acute conditions can subside with as few as one set of treatments, while chronic conditions can be managed with regular treatments. There are no known negative side effects.

The many benefits of MLS Laser Therapy include:

- 🐾 Relief of chronic pain, such as arthritis
- 🐾 Relief of acute pain, such as trauma or injury
- 🐾 Strong anti-inflammatory effect
- 🐾 Stimulates healing of damaged tissue
- 🐾 Speeds recovery of the structural integrity of the injured region
- 🐾 Improvement of local blood circulation
- 🐾 Postoperative pain relief and faster wound healing



Holly performs laser therapy on a patient to relieve pain and promote healing.

Please ask for details on how this innovative therapy can work for your pet's pain and inflammation!

Microchip Technology

Peace of Mind for Pet Owners

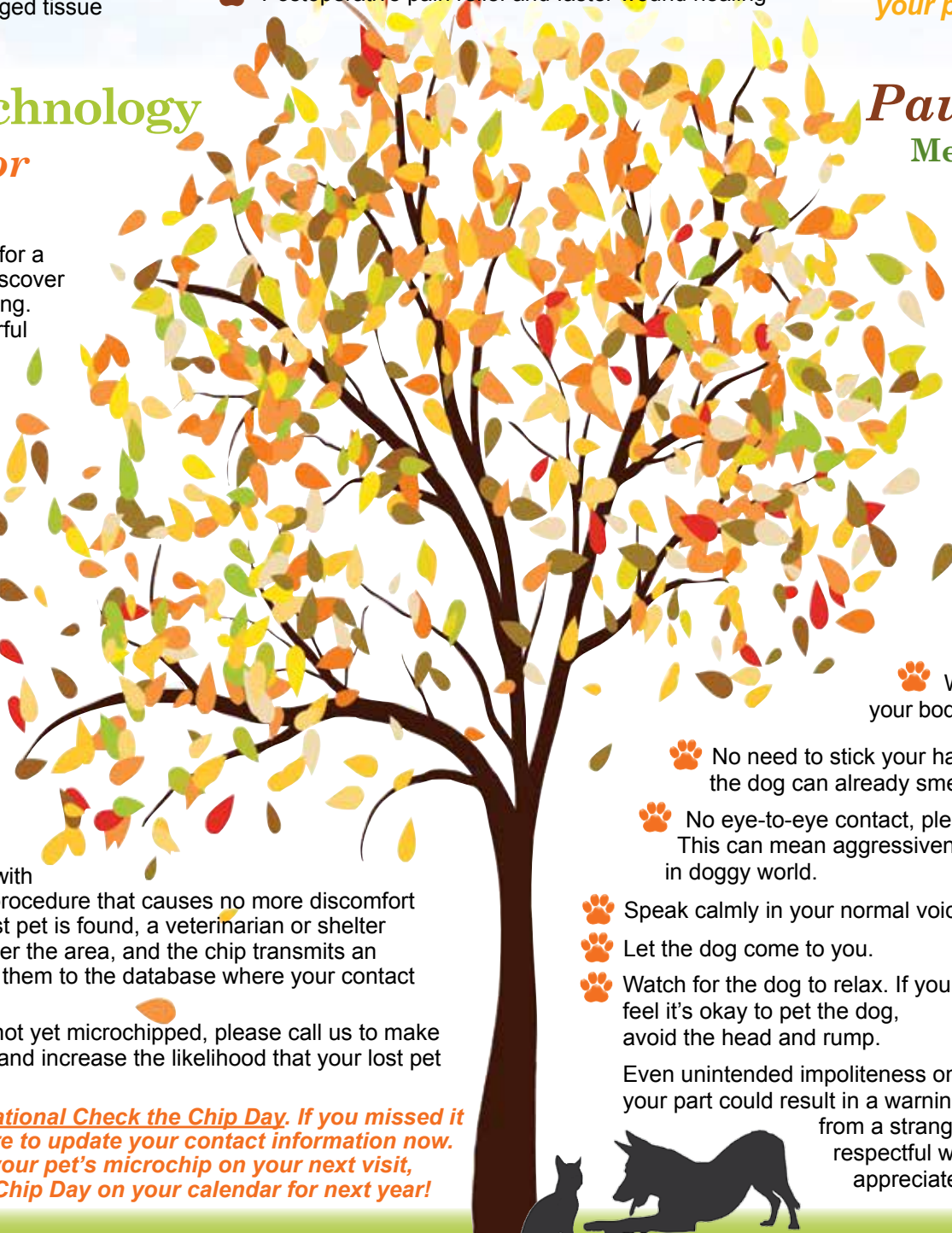
Few things are more upsetting for a pet owner than to suddenly discover that a beloved dog or cat is missing. As much as they love the wonderful home you provide, sometimes the natural instinct to roam just gets the best of them. If they're unable to find their way back home, both you and your pet can have a real problem.

Fortunately, today's microchip technology can greatly increase the likelihood that your little darling will return home safely. A study conducted by the American Veterinary Medical Association found that dogs are 2.5 times more likely and cats are 21.4 times more likely to be returned to their homes from a shelter if they have a registered microchip.

The electronic microchip is about the size of a grain of rice. It's implanted under a pet's skin with a hypodermic needle in a quick procedure that causes no more discomfort than a typical injection. If your lost pet is found, a veterinarian or shelter uses a scanner that is passed over the area, and the chip transmits an identification number that guides them to the database where your contact information is stored.

If your pets are not yet microchipped, please call us to make an appointment and increase the likelihood that your lost pet will return home!

August 15 is National Check the Chip Day. If you missed it this year, be sure to update your contact information now. Also, have us test your pet's microchip on your next visit, and put Check the Chip Day on your calendar for next year!



Paws for Thought

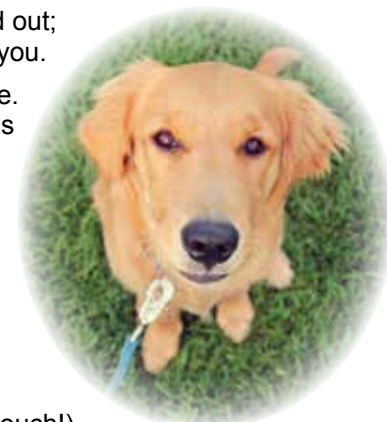
Meeting & Greeting a Strange Dog

How would you react if a stranger approached you, squealed in a high-pitched voice, shoved their hand in your face, and then thumped you on the head a few times or gave you an uninvited hug? You might be frightened. At the least, it would seem, well ... rude.

Now, perhaps, you can better understand why our instinctual way of meeting new dogs isn't appropriate. To do it like a pro, approach them in a way that's considered polite in the dog world and follow these tips:

- 🐾 While squatting or standing, position your body sideways rather than head-on.
- 🐾 No need to stick your hand out; the dog can already smell you.
- 🐾 No eye-to-eye contact, please. This can mean aggressiveness in doggy world.
- 🐾 Speak calmly in your normal voice.
- 🐾 Let the dog come to you.
- 🐾 Watch for the dog to relax. If you feel it's okay to pet the dog, avoid the head and rump.

Even unintended impoliteness on your part could result in a warning (ouch!) from a strange canine. Greeting a new dog in a respectful way will keep you safer and will be appreciated both by the dog and its owner.



Give Your Pet a Healthier Life

Why Smart Pet Owners Spay and Neuter

Few things can put a smile on our faces like a cuddly litter of puppies or kittens. Unfortunately, pet overpopulation is a heartbreaking problem. The Humane Society estimates that there are more than 3 million homeless pets in the U.S., and most—2.7 million—are euthanized each year.

Pet lovers know that spaying or neutering is the responsible thing to do, but there is another good reason to spay or neuter your pets: They will live healthier lives! A 2013 study found that dogs living in U.S. states with the highest rates of spaying/neutering also live the longest, with neutered males living 18% longer and spayed females living 23% longer than unneutered/unspayed dogs.

Female dogs and cats spayed before their first heat cycle are typically healthier than those that aren't spayed. Spaying reduces her risk of uterine infections including pyometra, uterine cancer, and breast cancer, which can be fatal.

Neutering male dogs and cats can help prevent testicular cancer. It will also make him less likely to roam, less aggressive, and better behaved in general than an intact male. Unneutered males are more likely to visit our hospital after having been hit by a car, injured in a fight with another male, or after contracting other diseases and injuries associated with roaming.

As long as you feed proper portions and provide exercise, your pet will not gain weight after spaying or neutering! Spaying and neutering cats and dogs requires only a short hospitalization and offers lifelong health benefits.



Osteoarthritis and Your Senior Dog

Can Treatment Increase His Comfort?

If your aging dog is having difficulty getting up, limps after resting, appears stiff, or seems reluctant to walk, run or climb stairs, osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease (DJD) is likely the cause. The Arthritis Foundation estimates that DJD affects one in five dogs in the U.S.

Smooth cartilage normally protects the bones in your dog's movable joints, acting as a cushion to allow smooth and painless movement. Age and other factors can cause cartilage to wear down over time. Pain and inflammation is the result as bone-to-bone friction begins to occur.

In addition to age, osteoarthritis can be caused by injuries, obesity, congenital disorders such as hip dysplasia and patella luxation, and other factors. If your dog is showing symptoms, we can diagnose DJD based on a physical exam and his or her medical history. We may recommend X-rays to determine how much the disease has progressed.

DJD is permanent and progressive; however, there are approaches we can take to slow its progression and keep your dog more comfortable. Certain foods and supplements may reduce the symptoms of arthritis, and maintaining a healthy weight will minimize stress on the joints. Light to moderate exercise can also help keep the joints more limber.

Another treatment that may bring relief is MLS laser therapy, which we now offer at Barta Animal Hospital. Some conditions, such as patella luxation, can be helped with surgery. We may also prescribe anti-inflammatory drugs or pain medication to help alleviate symptoms.

If you suspect that osteoarthritis is causing your dog discomfort, be sure to provide a warm and comfortable place to rest, and see us soon for an exam. Your veterinarian can guide you on what treatments are appropriate for your dog.



Scary Things!

Fall Pet Dangers to Avoid

Fall brings cooler days, autumn leaves, Halloween fun and Thanksgiving with family. For our pets, however, it can also bring scary things that can harm them. Watch out for:

-  **Chrysanthemums** - These flowers are toxic to dogs and cats. Look for ataxia (stumbling), dermatitis, vomiting, and diarrhea.
-  **Mushrooms** - Most types aren't harmful but it's difficult to distinguish which are toxic. It's best to keep pets away from them.
-  **Antifreeze** - Thousands of pets are poisoned each year by the sweet tasting ethylene glycol found in antifreeze. Keep it away from pets and clean up spills immediately.
-  **Candy** - Chocolate, raisins and xylitol (a sugar-free sweetener found in candy and gum) are toxic to pets. To be safe, keep all candy out of reach.
-  **Thanksgiving Foods** - Fatty foods can lead to acute pancreatitis, and turkey bones can cause serious injury to your pets if swallowed.



We're Thankful for Healthy Pets and Happy Clients!

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on canine and feline microchipping!

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FELINE NEUTER SPECIAL

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Neuter your male cat for only \$50!

Not valid with any other offers.
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CANINE NEUTER SPECIAL

SAVE 10%

Neuter your male dog and save 10%!

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Refer a Friend and Save!

Refer a new client and you'll both **save \$10** on your next visit!

Be sure to mention the refer-a-friend savings when you make your appointments!



Call (620) 331-6327 today to make an appointment!



ANIMAL HOSPITAL

We have warm hearts for cold noses.

1861 S. 10th Street
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Our Team Is Always Here For You!

