On behalf of the team at Alta Animal Hospital, we hope this publication will serve as a useful guide for your pet’s health care. The information contained in this booklet would not be possible if not for our wonderful sponsors such as Zoetis Animal Health, Novartis Animal Health, Hill’s Science Diet, the Friends of the Pocatello Animal Shelter, and the caring team at Alta Animal Hospital.

The information found in this booklet is provided to help you with your pet’s health needs throughout his or her entire life. At Alta Animal Hospital we strive to meet our mission statement each day. We stand ready to help with all your pet health care needs. You can learn about our clinic by visiting our website, our Facebook page, or our YouTube page. We invite you to come and visit us at the clinic to see how we can help you and your furry family members.

Thank you,
The Team at Alta Animal Hospital
Alta Animal Hospital was founded in the 1980’s as a single doctor practice operating in a small clinic located on South Main in Pocatello. Dr. Eric Krasa was soon joined by Dr. Stephen Fairchild who had a deep love for animals and a vision of a veterinary hospital that treats pets with the same level of medical care and attention given to human patients.

It was their insight and dedication to veterinary medicine that brought Alta Animal Hospital to where it is today - a full-service facility offering progressive medicine and compassionate care for pets throughout Pocatello and surrounding communities.

Alta Animal Hospital has grown immensely since the mid 1980s. After 15 years in the building located on South Main, Dr. Fairchild designed and built Alta’s current facility in 2000, which is located at 1601 Bannock Hwy. This location was chosen because of the great access to the Portneuf Greenway located directly behind the clinic. Today Alta is overseen by Dr. Kirsten Nickisch, who was mentored by Dr. Fairchild prior to his retirement. Dr. Nickisch and her medical team take great care and pride in the level of services offered at Alta today.

As a measure to provide the ultimate care and service Alta Animal Hospital is in partnership with the National Veterinary Associates (NVA) and belong to a network of over 200 other veterinary clinics across the United States. This partnership and networking with the NVA allows Alta to provide best practices from medical services to customer service.

We are happy to provide services Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Because we understand that busy schedules can make it difficult to bring your pet in, we also offer the option of dropping off your pet in the morning and picking up in the afternoon or evening.

In order to allow sufficient time for each patient, we see clients by appointment. Although walk-ins are accepted, we recommend that you call us at 208-233-0936 to schedule an appointment to minimize waiting time. You can also utilize email and click to chat services on our website to ensure you get the desired time for your pet’s appointment.

For your convenience, we accept American Express, Visa, Discover, MasterCard, check and cash. We also offer a new veterinary credit plan known as Care Credit. Call us for more information or come by our office to pick up an application. In addition to this we are now offering our Pet Annual Wellness (PAW) Plans, which provide an option to make interest free monthly installments on your pet’s health care.

As a way of saying thank you, if a friend of yours visits Alta for the first time based on your recommendation, we’ll send you a $25.00 coupon to be used on your next visit to the hospital! In addition to that we’ll also credit your friend $25.00 on their first visit!

We hope we can serve you and your furry family members in the near future!
Meet the Vets

Dr. Kirsten Nickisch became the clinic’s managing veterinarian in July, 2007 and is committed to Alta’s long tradition of quality patient care. Dr. Nickisch obtained her B.S. degree, Phi Beta Kappa, after studying in Mexico, and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. After graduating in 2001, she returned to Pocatello to join Dr. Fairchild at Alta Animal Hospital and has been practicing full time here ever since. Her interests are in soft tissue surgery, dentistry, and ophthalmology. She enjoys travelling, long distance trail running and skate-skiing. She is usually accompanied by her dog.

Dr. Sheena Haney obtained a B.S. in Animal Science from Oregon State University in Corvallis in 2005. She then moved to Southern California to earn her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Western University of Health Sciences in May of 2010. Her special interests are in dentistry, dermatology, and wound care. She and her husband, both originally from Klamath Falls, Oregon, moved to Pocatello in July, 2010. Her hobbies include camping and hiking with her family, reading, and cooking. She is the proud mom of a son, Henry, born in December of 2012.

Dr. Bart Gillespie obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Washington State University in Pullman, Washington in 2002. He first came to practice medicine at Alta Animal Hospital in 2005. In 2008, Dr. Gillespie moved with his wife to St. Kitts in the West Indies (Caribbean) and served on the faculty at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. He returned to Alta Animal Hospital in the fall of 2012. Periodically he teaches at Utah State School of Veterinary Medicine, teaching students the principles of surgery. His special interests include internal medicine and orthopedics. Outside of the clinic, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and family.
All of us in veterinary medicine have surely experienced many a story of success, of happy outcomes we’ve seen in the clinic. Rarely, however, do “coincidences” with clinic staff, community, and perhaps even fate, work together so dramatically as they did in Wylie’s case.

Wylie, a lively Jack Russell Terrier, was thrown from his owner’s vehicle when it was involved in an accident on I-15. Wylie actually lost the bottom half of a hind leg in the accident and apparently escaped the scene in a panic. Remarkably, he did not bleed to death, and equally remarkably, managed to survive in the hills for four days.

The terrier was discovered by caring residents not far from the interstate, and from there a Pocatello Animal Control officer brought him to Alta Animal Hospital. Wylie was not in good shape, but seemed to understand that he was there to be helped. With the assistance of my dedicated staff, I amputated the remaining mangled portion of his leg. We watched in awe as he handled all of this with courage, resilience, and even when he could, a wagging tail.

During his stay at our hospital, the rest of this story unfolded. Wylie belonged to a family which was driving past Pocatello on their way to a memorial service for the owner’s brother who had committed suicide – a sad enough situation made even worse by the accident. Officers at the scene told the family there was no way that Wylie could have survived, but the two young daughters never gave up hope. With their mom still in the hospital due to injuries she sustained, they called area clinics and shelters in the days after the accident, hoping against hope that someone had found Wylie. In fact, the family had called us at Alta Animal Hospital even before we had seen Wylie. But as soon as Wylie was brought to Alta, I was re-connected with his family and able to pass on the happy news that Wylie had survived and was going to be OK! The family was concerned about their ability to pay for the costs of Wylie’s care, so my staff and I looked for solutions (as veterinarians so often do). I donated my surgery time, and we decided to share his story with the newspaper. The newspaper printed the story, and mentioned that we were accepting donations at the clinic to help Wylie’s family with his remaining medical costs.

No sooner had the story appeared, than our phones began to ring with individuals making donations. Soon caring folks from the area even began to arrive at the clinic to donate in person!

Meanwhile, Wylie recovered nicely and everyone at Alta fell in love with the perky, loving little fellow! A week or so later, Wylie’s family made the trip back to pick him up. What an emotional reunion it was! The staff and I were elated to see Wylie all wags and wiggles upon seeing his family, but so sad to see him go – we’d grown attached. I confess that I got a little teary-eyed when I saw him so happily reunited with his family.

My staff and I will miss Wylie and his bright, upbeat view of the world, but I am especially called to appreciate the many individuals in this community who stepped forward to find Wylie, bring him to Alta for care, and assist his family with the costs. Wylie’s case demonstrates that positive “coincidences” and community involvement can bring wonderful outcomes.

**Contributed by Kirsten M Nickisch, DVM**
The Importance of an Annual Exam

An annual physical exam may be the most valuable step you can take to maintaining your pet’s good health.

First, it is a chance for a thorough physical exam by your veterinarian to assess your dog’s or cat’s body condition and to detect early signs of pain or illness. Additionally, the annual check-up is your opportunity to discuss with your veterinarian topics like diet and nutrition, behavioral issues, or anything else pertaining to your pet’s life stage, lifestyle, and overall health. And finally, these visits provide preventive health care measures like vaccinations for disease prevention, blood tests for early disease detection, and parasite preventives to prevent disease in your pet, some that can be transmitted to humans.

Guidelines developed by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) with the support of the Partnership for Preventive Pet Health Care recommend that both dogs and cats be seen at least annually by a veterinarian to assess:

- Medical Conditions
- Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases (diseases transmitted from animals to humans)
- Parasite Prevention and Control
- Dental Care
- Genetic, breed, and age considerations
- Behavior
- Nutrition

Our Pet Annual Wellness Plans (PAW Plans) provide your pet with a comprehensive level of preventive care to live a long and healthy life. By enrolling in one of our PAW Plans, you’re taking an important step to maintaining your pet’s health and well-being.

Did you know:

Spaying or neutering your dog or cat can:
- Prevent unwanted litters (Some 8 million dogs and cats are euthanized each year in the United States alone since there aren’t enough homes for them)
- Decrease the risk of certain infections and also some types of cancer in dogs and cats
- Decrease undesired behaviors like aggression, urine marking, and roaming

Contributed by Kirsten M Nickisch, DVM
Proper dental care can detect dental disease that not only affects the mouth, but can also lead to more serious health problems such as heart, lung, and kidney disease. Good dental hygiene is just as important for pets as it is for humans. Yet, it’s one of the most overlooked areas in pet health. The team at Alta Animal Hospital is dedicated to providing your pet the best dental care available. To do so we have been trained in the latest techniques and use state-of-the-art equipment to ensure your pet’s dental health is addressed promptly and adequately.

**Importance of Dental Care**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>GRADE I</th>
<th>DENTAL DISEASE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Soft plaque has built up on the surface of the teeth. Small amounts of gingivitis and plaque are visible on some teeth. Bacteria have invaded the gum tissue around the teeth causing mild inflammation, erythema, and/or edema at the gingival margin.</td>
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A professional cleaning and polishing within the next six to eight months, along with proper home care (brushing and use of specialized dental treats) will aid in reversing dental disease.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>GRADE II</th>
<th>DENTAL DISEASE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate tartar buildup is present on several teeth. The tartar is acting like a wedge, pushing the gums away from the teeth, causing food, bacteria, and debris to accumulate there. Inflammation and edema are present, but no bone loss. The gums are red and swollen, but exhibit minimal gingival bleeding upon probing.</td>
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A professional cleaning and polishing within the next two to three months, along with proper home care (brushing and use of specialized dental treats) will aid in reversing dental disease. Delaying the treatment may result in irreversible dental disease.

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<tr>
<th>GRADE III</th>
<th>DENTAL DISEASE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Plaque and tartar formation is heavy. Pockets of bacteria and debris have accumulated to form further pockets of infection along the teeth. The infection has destroyed the tissue around the teeth that hold them in place, and some may have become loose. Inflammation, edema, significant gingival bleeding upon probing, pustular discharge, and slight to moderate bone loss are present. Most pets will require dental x-rays to fully evaluate bone loss and tooth health.</td>
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At this stage, the effects of dental disease are irreversible. However, proper treatment can delay the progression of the disease, and eliminate oral pain that the pet is experiencing.

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<tr>
<th>GRADE IV</th>
<th>DENTAL DISEASE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Severe tartar formation and gum disease is present. Toxic debris and inflammation have caused extensive tissue death. Roots are infected, abscessed, and rotten. Inflammation, edema, severe gingival bleeding upon probing, pustular discharge, and loose teeth due to severe bone loss are usually present. Bacteria may be spreading through the entire body in the bloodstream, potentially causing harm to vital organs. Chronic oral pain is usually moderate to severe at this stage. Full mouth x-rays will be needed to completely evaluate bone loss and tooth health.</td>
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</table>

At this stage, permanent damage has been done and the effects of dental disease are irreversible. However, proper treatment can eliminate or minimize the amount of oral pain that the pet is experiencing and help him or her lead a healthier life.
Importance of Pet Nutrition

We have all heard the phrase, “Don’t judge a book by its cover”. So how does this apply to dog food? We all love our pets and studies have shown that we treat them as we would a family member, and some owners even give them presents for their birthdays! We want what is best for them through proper veterinary care, but may not realize the importance of proper nutrition and its long-lasting effects. Why do our pets live so much longer today then in the past? It is because of proper veterinary care and better nutrition. Decades ago, nutritional deficiencies were common as were all of the diseases that now can be vaccinated against. The nutritional challenge that we face today is trying to avoid unnecessary excess nutrients that cause the body to work harder.

Choosing the food that is best for your pet can be a daunting task. “Dr. Google” has 557,000,000 results when asked and the challenge then becomes what is credible and what isn’t. The people who know your pet’s health the best is your veterinarian. The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) is an association of local, state, and federal agencies that are charged with providing consumer and animal safety in regard to animal feeds. Pet food companies are required to follow certain protocols and nutrient levels established by AAFCO are designed to avoid nutritional deficiencies or nutritional toxicities. Current research is also a valuable tool to use, and your veterinarian can be an excellent resource for this as well.

When choosing the best food, here are a few of the guidelines that we use to determine if a pet food is ideal for the individual. So what do these mean? Which diet is better? The Guaranteed Analysis can give you some information about what is in the food, but does not give any indication of quality of the product.

A food that goes through an AAFCO feeding trial is really the gold standard when trying to determine what food is ideal. At least with a feeding trial, the pet food company will know how digestible the food is and how bioavailable its nutrients are for the pet. A feeding trial is time consuming and expensive which is why many pet food companies use the word “formulated” instead of “feeding trial”. Dogs or cats, puppies or kittens, have to remain healthy and pass other biochemical tests during the 6 month feeding trial in order for the food to qualify.

The next information we look at is still a part of the AAFCO statement telling us what is the food designed for. If we are feeding a puppy or kitten, it should say “…for growth”. Another is “…all life stages.” “All life stages” signifies that the food had to meet the highest energy demand for all life stages of an animal’s life, which is growth. If feeding a 6 year old lab or a 6 year old cat, the AAFCO statement should every bag of food should contain an AAFCO statement. It will read, “Animal feeding tests using AAFCO procedures substantiate that ABC Dog Food provides complete and balanced nutrition for adult maintenance.” Another may say, “ABC Cat food has been formulated to meet the nutritional recommendations established by AAFCO for all life stages.”
say “...for growth”. Another is “...all life stages.” “All life stages” signifies that the food had to meet the highest energy demand for all life stages of an animal’s life, which is growth. If feeding a 6 year old lab or a 6 year old cat, the AAFCO statement should read “...adult maintenance.” AAFCO does not recognize a “senior” or geriatric pet food, so those foods should also say “...adult maintenance.” The statement we want to be careful of and avoid if possible is a food designed for an adult or senior dog that says “...all life stages.” Right away this tells us that the food is going to be too high in minerals, protein, and fat for my older pet. If you have a very active pet or a working dog, there are food companies that make special adult dog foods designed for working animals that avoid all unnecessary excess nutrients.

The Guaranteed Analysis is required to give 4 measurements. Crude Protein, Crude Fat, Crude Fiber, and Moisture. Any other information is up to the manufacturer or company that sells the products but as stated earlier, does not give an indication of quality. This is most important especially with protein. All animals require protein, however, too much or not enough can be harmful, especially over time. If you really want to know the quality of the protein, call the manufacturer. Other nutrients to look for is mineral content. Sodium, calcium, phosphorus, and magnesium are all key minerals that are good to know what is going into your pet. Too much of these can lead to heart, kidney, and urinary diseases. If they are not listed under the guaranteed analysis, call the pet food company. If the pet food company is unable or unwilling to share any of this information with you, it should be a red flag as to what you are feeding your pet.

With so many choices out there, we have come to trust Hill’s Science Diet and Prescription Diet as a company who cares about quality, consistency, and safety. If you have any questions about the food you are feeding, or are considering a diet change, please feel free to contact us so that we can help you make the best nutritional decision for your pet.
Alta’s Blood Donor Program

At Alta Animal Hospital we stand ready to provide high quality medicine at a moment’s notice. Most people have heard of blood donation for human medicine, but did you know that dogs donate blood for veterinary patients too?

Dogs may need blood transfusions for a variety of reasons. Certain illnesses can cause severe anemia (low red blood cell counts) by interfering the body’s production of red blood cells, or in some cases, by destroying the animal’s red blood cells. Some dogs need transfusions after traumatic accidents when they have lost excessive amounts of blood. And occasionally animals get clotting and bleeding disorders as seen with severe liver disease or after accidental ingestion of rodent poisons.

In these cases, a transfusion of blood (containing red blood cells, platelets, plasma, and clotting factors) can be the critical treatment needed to save a life!

Meet our donors:

Lily, an American Staffordshire Terrier, was adopted from an Oregon animal shelter in 2003. She eventually settled in Idaho in 2010, and she first donated blood at Alta on Memorial Day weekend, 2011. Lily’s unique blood type (Universal Donor) means she can safely donate blood to almost any canine in need. While Lily loves to hike and camp with her owners, she is most likely to be found in her favorite sunbathing spot or spending quality time with her toy pig, Omelet.

Reidar, a Labrador retriever, was born in April of 2007. He was adopted by his current owner several months later while he was battling a life threatening illness. Thank goodness he recovered completely! Now he loves playing Frisbee and running and hiking in the mountains. Reidar began donating blood in 2009 at Alta Animal Hospital. His fairly common blood type means he can donate to about two thirds of canines in need.

Our special thanks go out to Lily and Reidar for their selfless donations!

Contributed by Dr. Kirsten Nickisch

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Did you know:
- A canine red blood cell has approximately the same life expectancy in the recipient patient as it does in a normal dog, about 110 days.
- Dogs have 8 recognized DEA (Dog Erythrocyte Antigen) blood groups. DEA 1.1 negative dogs are considered Universal Donors.
- A dog must weigh at least 60 pounds to be a blood donor.
Mr. Amazing’s Pet-in-Need Fund

With the help of our blood donor dogs, we’re ready for cases like Jack (aka. Mr. Amazing), the dog that suffered from a gunshot wound. Many thanks to Reidar, the donor dog that helped save Jack’s life that fateful day. On March 12, 2012, a black Labrador retriever was brought to Alta Animal Hospital by Pocatello’s Animal Control staff after local Good Samaritans had assisted him on the scene when he was shot by a local resident. He arrived in critical condition, and without identification, so Alta’s staff began treatment without knowing his name or even if he had a family to claim him.

Consistently amazed by his will to survive (and wagging tail even in his weakest moments), the staff began to call the dog, Mr. Amazing. His condition stayed critical in the first hours of his treatment, but late that night Mr. Amazing was able to sit up on his own for the first time since the incident, and the doctors and staff knew he was going to make it!

As luck would have it, on the second day of his week-long hospital stay, after much heartache and searching, Mr. Amazing’s family was directed to Alta Animal Hospital and all were joyously reunited. We learned that his real name was Jack.

Word of Jack’s story quickly spread, and the community showed an outpouring of support for the dog.

In the weeks that followed, Jack continued to recuperate from his ordeal. In June he was well enough to attend “Mr. Amazing’s Party at the Park,” a fundraiser to help the clinic and Jack’s family recover some of the costs of his medical care. It was so successful that it has become an annual event, Jack always in attendance, to help raise money for Alta’s new Pet in Need Fund. The fund helps other animals like Jack with outstanding stories and instances of need.

Since Jack’s case, the fund has helped more animals, like Wylie, the Jack Russell Terrier (see article on pg. 5), and Bowser, the Boxer.

To contribute to Mr. Amazing’s Pet-in-Need Fund, please contact Alta Animal Hospital at 208-233-0936, or alta@nvanet.com. We’d like to thank everyone who has donated to the fund along the way!

Contributed by Dr. Kirsten Nickisch

To contribute to Mr. Amazing’s Pet-in-Need Fund, please contact Alta Animal Hospital at 208-233-0936, or alta@nvanet.com. We’d like to thank everyone who has donated to the fund along the way!

Contributed by Dr. Kirsten Nickisch
OSTEOARTHRITIS
Osteoarthritis is a chronic, painful condition of the joints that causes inflammation, stiffness, and decreases mobility in dogs and cats. Osteoarthritis is the most common cause of lameness in middle-aged and geriatric pets, but can be diagnosed at any age. It is thought to affect up to 1 in 5 dogs.

Although osteoarthritis is one of the most common conditions diagnosed in pets, it is easy for pet owners to miss some of the subtle symptoms shown early in the course of the disease. Many pets suffering from arthritis simply lay around more because it is painful to walk and run. Your pet may seem stiff, or show difficulty getting up after resting. Many pets with arthritis will lag behind on walks, or hesitate to climb stairs or jump up into a vehicle. More pronounced signs of osteoarthritis in pets include limping, weakness, and soreness or yelping when touched. If your pet is exhibiting any of these symptoms or other character changes, he or she may be suffering from osteoarthritis.

There is no cure for arthritis, but there are options available to help control the pain and stiffness associated with the disease and improve your pet’s quality of life.

Laser therapy is a safe, non-invasive, pain-free, drug-free treatment option for chronic pain. It is less stressful for your pet than some alternative treatments. Laser therapy is often soothing for your pet during and after treatment. Laser therapy is used to reduce pain and discomfort by decreasing swelling. This increases mobility and motion in joints and speeds healing for many different types of injuries.

HOW DOES LASER THERAPY WORK?
The laser creates a photo-chemical response in individual cells. This response blocks nerve impulses and reduces pain, accelerates tissue repair, increases circulation, and increases the rate of tissue regeneration and cell growth. This allows for increased tissue oxygenation and reduced inflammation, faster healing, and reduced scarring.

CAN MY PET BENEFIT FROM LASER THERAPY?
Most pets who are in pain, have inflammation, or a wound can benefit from laser therapy. This includes aches and pains of old age, surgical procedures, open wounds, and recent injuries. Examples include arthritis, hip dysplasia and other joint conditions, lacerations, and faster healing from spays/neuters, declaws, tumor removals, and emergency surgeries. Laser therapy can also be used for dental procedures, ear and skin infections, sprains and
and skin infections, sprains and strains, fractures, and many other conditions. Ask your veterinarian if your pet can benefit from laser therapy!

Because it is meant to alter cells and increase circulation, there are a few conditions where laser therapy cannot be used. These include wounds with active bleeding, and immediately following steroid injections or ingestion of photosensitive medications. The laser also cannot be used on pregnant animals, over immature growth plates, or to treat cancer or heart conditions.

Laser treatments programs are unique to each pet. The number and frequency of treatments will be determined based on your pet’s medical condition and needs. Most treatment sessions only take a few minutes! Many conditions, such as elective surgeries, minor dental procedure, and minor wounds, require a single treatment. More extensive tissue disruption may require 2-6 treatments. Chronic conditions like osteoarthritis require multiple, every-other-day treatments until clinical improvement is achieved.

This is usually seen after 6-9 laser sessions. Maintenance treatments are then performed as needed to maintain the desired effects. Laser therapy is a widely trusted treatment option. It is currently being used by over 2000 veterinary hospitals, dozens of professional sports teams, physical therapists, chiropractors, and many others in the human and veterinary medicine fields.

Contributed by Dr. Sheena Haney

A couple of months ago I noticed that my 13 year old lab Toby was having increased difficulty walking. By the end of our hikes his hind legs were dragging. He was having a great deal of difficulty climbing a flight of stairs. I had been giving him glucosamine with chondroitin for a couple of years to slow down his apparent hip degeneration, but it was clear that the time had come to add something new. I had heard good things about laser treatment for arthritis and decided to give it a try with Toby. After his very first treatment I could see a difference. He was no longer dragging his legs by the end of our hikes, and he was climbing the stairs more normally. After each subsequent treatment I could see a little more improvement so that by the end of the initial six treatments he had some spring back in his step and seemed to enjoy running again. I waited between the sixth and seventh treatment to see how he would do. When he took a downward turn again and was having trouble with the stairs, I took him in for his seventh treatment. He bounced right back to his springy step and improved stair-climbing the next day. I’m so grateful to have this technology available to keep Toby as my number one hiking companion!

---Jean Bokelmann
Friends of the Animals

Friends of the Pocatello Animal Shelter

Who Are We?
We are a non-profit 501 (c)3 group formed in 1996 to help support the Pocatello Animal Shelter.

What do we do? - Adoption Programs and Shelter Needs

2nd Chance Fund - this fund helps pay for emergency expenses the animal might incur that would make adoption impossible. Examples include medical services and transport fees to rescue groups.

Pets for Vets - This program matches our homeless pets with our country’s heroes. In thanks for their service to our nation we offer a reduced adoption fee.

Katie’s Old Friends - This fund helps us reduce the adoption fee for senior dogs over the age of 6 years.

Cell Dog Program - This subsidized program places dogs from the shelter into the Pocatello Women’s Correctional Center where they live with the inmates for 8 weeks to learn everything they need to be a canine good citizen.

Shelter Needs - Friends over the years’ have supplied funds for materials, equipment and training for staff and volunteers.

New Animal Shelter - Friends has been raising funds and support for a new animal shelter since being incorporated. Now that a new shelter is on the way - Friends will be standing by to help make sure we have the best facility for our animals.

Events We Plan - Along with minor fundraising all year round we plan two major events each year to help pay for these valuable programs.

June Cat Adoptions - in conjunction with June’s Adopt a Shelter Cat Month we celebrate cats by promoting special adoption events. Throughout the year Friends helps subsidize the adoption fees for cats making their adoption fee the best deal in town!

This annual event is held every fall in conjunction with Octobers’ Adopt A Shelter Dog Month. Over 600 dogs and their owners meet at the park for a 2K walk, 5K walk/5K run. It’s a great day to see old friends and rub noses.

How can you help?
Donate your dollars – many of our programs can only be offered due to great supporters donating to the cause. We couldn’t do this without your help.

Send your donation to: Friends of the Pocatello Animal Shelter P.O. Box 281, Pocatello, Idaho 83204 or visit www.friendsofthepocatelloanimalshelter.org

Donate Supplies – the shelter can always use extra dog and cat toys, food and supplies. Blankets, towels and small throw rugs are also welcome.

Adopt a pet - The shelter offers a great program for adoption. The adoption fee includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, license, collar and identification tag. All adult cats are tested.

Volunteer - The shelter can always use more help. The staff is fully committed to keeping up on the daily chores. The animals depend on volunteers for the emotional support and love they need. Volunteers help with kennel cleaning, office work, fund-raising and events, socializing and training animals and much more. Call the shelter at 234-6156 for more information or visit www.pocatello.us/animal
New Animal Shelter
Unfortunately, you may be faced with an emergency situation at some point in your pet’s life. Alta Animal Hospital participates in an emergency call program which provides a veterinarian on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond immediately to your emergency.

For Emergencies Call:
Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m 208-233-0936
and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to noon
Afterhours to reach the on-call Veterinarian at 208-233-0936

Contact Alta Animal Hospital immediately if you notice any of the following:

In General —
• Any problem that persists longer than 24 hours.
• Any problem that worsens over several hours.
• Any systemic problems such as lethargy, loss of appetite, weakness and fever.
• Body temperature less than 100°F or greater than 103°F.
• Any indication that more than one body system (GI, urinary, neurological) is affected.

Gastrointestinal Problems —
• Frequent bouts of vomiting or diarrhea resulting in loss of large volumes of fluid.
• Inability to drink or keep water down.
• Blood or black material (digested blood) in the vomit or stool.
• More than three to four episodes of vomiting or diarrhea in a puppy or in a dog older than 8 years.
• Vomiting following suspected ingestion of foreign material (toys, garbage, rocks, etc).
• Suspected poisoning.
• Suspected bloat (painful, distended abdomen)

Bleeding —
• Bleeding from nose, mouth or anus.
• Bleeding accompanied by bruising of the skin, especially on the abdomen.
• Bleeding that cannot be stopped by applying pressure.
• Weakness, difficulty breathing, or reluctance to move after a bleeding episode.

Lameness —
• Obvious fracture of a limb.
• Non-weight bearing lameness persisting for more than 12 hours.
• Swollen, painful joints or a gait that appears as if “walking on eggshells.”
• Paralysis of one or more limbs.
• Lameness that initially improves but does not resolve in 24-48 hours.

Other Emergencies —
• Trauma (i.e. hit by car, lacerations, falls)
• Venomous snakebite