



[pawPRINTS]

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

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ALL CREATURES TECHNICIANS

- CHARLOTTE**
- JENN**
- JENELL**
- MICHELLE**
- MELANIE**
- TIFFANY**
- LEDA**

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VET TECH

As a technician at All Creatures, the day typically starts by preparing for the surgeries that morning. Before patients arrive, equipment and supplies are set up. Once patients arrive, they are admitted, treatment plans are discussed and any questions are addressed. Once patients are checked in, they begin setting IV catheters and prepping for surgery. The technician then becomes the “anesthetist” for the duration of the surgery and post-op, under the supervision of the DVM. They continually monitor heart rate, respiration rate, temperature, blood pressure and the anesthetic depth and adjust if needed. After the procedure is finished, they

continue to monitor the patient during recovery and keep the veterinarian and client up to date on how each patient is doing.

Once surgeries are completed, equipment and supplies are taken care of and cleaned. Generally, scheduled appointments begin at 9am. It is the technicians responsibility to “check in” the rooms for their assigned vet. This includes getting weight, temperature, heart rate and a history on each patient. The technicians will gather information on the reason for the day’s visit, which is then

related to the veterinarian before they go in the room. While the veterinarians are in the room with appointments, technicians may be assisting in the room, drawing blood, clipping nails or expressing anal glands, checking in the next patient, making phone calls, filling prescriptions, taking x-rays or a myriad of other clinic responsibilities. In between their specific doctor’s assigned duties, they also tend to



“technician appointments,” which include things like nail trims, anal gland expressions, suture removal, drawing blood/urine for labwork, changing bandages or administering fluids.

Before leaving for the day, technicians make sure medication refill requests have reached the doctor’s desk for approval, and fill the approved medications. House-keeping, such as laundry, cage cleaning and restocking are done. Oxygen and equipment is turned off and surgery packs are prepared for the next day.

As you can see, our multi-tasking technicians vary rarely have a spare moment in their busy day. Their hard work and expertise is essential in providing the best care for the beloved members of your family.

FEBRUARY IS PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!

Would you let years go by between visits to the dentist? Probably not! Your pet's dental health is just as important to his or her overall health as your dental health is to your general health.

Dental care of dogs and cats is one of the most commonly overlooked areas of pet health care. In fact, a recent AAHA study showed that approximately two-thirds of pet owners do not provide the dental care that is recommended as essential by veterinarians. What's more, the American Veterinary Dental Society reports that 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by age three.

Dental disease doesn't affect just the mouth. It can lead to more serious health problems including heart, lung and kidney disease, which makes it all the more important that you provide your pets with proper dental care from the start.

To celebrate National Pet Dental Health month, we are offering \$50 off a dental cleaning in the month of February. So what all does a "dental cleaning" entail?

Pre-anesthetic exam — Whenever anesthesia is needed, special considerations are taken to help ensure the safety of your pet. Your veterinarian will thoroughly examine your pet to make sure she's healthy enough to undergo anesthesia. Depending on your pet's age and general physical condition, your veterinarian may also run bloodwork to check for issues with the heart, kidney, or liver, as well as any other conditions.

Anesthesia monitoring — During anesthesia, the monitoring and recording of your pet's vital signs (such as body temperature, heart rate, and respiration, as well as other important factors) is important. This helps ensure the safety of your pet while undergoing anesthesia.

Dental radiographs — X-rays of the teeth are sometimes needed periodically in order to completely evaluate your pet's oral health. X-rays aid the veterinarian greatly in detecting abnormalities that cannot be detected under examination alone. In some cases, x-rays can confirm the need for extraction of teeth that are loose or badly infected.

Scaling & Polishing — Veterinarians are advised to use similar instruments as human dentists to remove plaque and calculus from your pet's teeth. To smooth out any scratches in the tooth enamel, polishing with a special paste is also recommended.

Fluoride/sealants — The application of an anti-plaque substance, such as a fluoride treatment and/or a barrier sealant is also advised. This can help strengthen and desensitize teeth as well as decrease future plaque.



IS ANESTHESIA NECESSARY FOR DENTALS?

In order to appropriately diagnose and treat your pet's dental disease, anesthesia is necessary. It provides three important functions: immobilization in order to clean below the gum line and perform dental procedures (radiographs, extractions, etc.) as needed, pain control, and the ability to place a tube into the windpipe so bacterial products do not enter the respiratory system.

We take every precaution to ensure safe anesthesia. We use the safest of anesthetic agents, and pets are given pre-operative bloodwork depending on their age and condition to make sure they are safe to go under sedation. You can be assured that your dog or cat will be closely monitored for the duration of the procedure, as well as their recovery.

DOCTOR SCHEDULES

We would like you to be aware of a few schedule changes with our doctors. In January, Dr. Ingram will only be in on Thursdays and Fridays. **Dr. Ingram will be completely out of the office in February and March.** We will continue to have a relief doctor, Dr. Nichole Hooper, filling in. She will be in on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Dr. Roberts will continue his normal schedule of not being in on Tuesdays. Dr. Bob will continue to be out of the office on Wednesdays. Please keep these schedules in mind if you will need medication refills, which may require to be approved by the treating veterinarian.



Please join us in welcoming Dr. Nicole Hooper to the All Creatures Animal Clinic medical team! Dr. Hooper is filling in for Dr. Ingram, who will be adventuring out of the country in February and March. Dr. Hooper graduated with her doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Florida in 2006. Since that time, she has worked as an emergency and critical care veterinarian in specialty practices (VetMed) as well as doing relief work around the valley.

CLINIC NOTES

- ◆ Thank you to everyone who donated pet food for our holiday pet food drive in December. We are extending the drive through January, to collect even more donations for the Chuck Waggin' Pet Food Pantry. You can drop off at any time, and as a "thank you" a \$10 credit will be added to your account. (One credit per client). Additionally, a heartfelt thanks from the doctors and staff for all the thoughtful cards, gifts and treats this holiday season!
- ◆ **It is our policy to require 24 hour notice on all medication refills. Please be aware of when your pet is nearing the end of their supply, so that we can be alerted in time to prevent any lapse in medications.** If you need a refill from a secondary source (i.e. compounding pharmacy, PetMeds, Walgreens), please contact them. They will fax us a request which the doctor will review and fax back at the earliest convenience (within 24 hours). Additionally, please make sure you pay attention to prescription labels for reminders of lab work or rechecks required before the next refill. Your understanding and cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.
- ◆ We would like to wish our longtime technician Courtney the very best as she moves on to work as a technician at the new Odysea Aquarium in Scottsdale.
- ◆ For the safety and consideration of other clients and pets, please make sure your dog is on a leash at all times. If you forgot one, please ask the receptionist and we would be happy to give you one to use for your visit.
- ◆ If you love your care and service at All Creatures, please refer a friend. When they provide your name during their first visit, your account will be credited \$25! As a welcome, they will also receive \$25 off their first visit!
- ◆ Please notify a receptionist if there are any changes to your phone number, address or email. This will ensure you are able to be reached for callbacks from our doctors, lab work results and vaccine reminders.

SCHEDULES

Dr. Ingram: Thursday, Friday

Dr. Roberts: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Dr. Bob: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Dr. Hooper: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

*Typical schedule only— subject to changes



February Is
National Pet Dental
Health Month

Receive **\$50** off a dental in the
month of February and March!

Call today to schedule!
Spaces are filling up quickly!



**The perfect time to get your pet microchipped
is when they are in for a procedure or dental.
Receive **\$20 off** a microchip *(original price \$59.50)*
when it's booked with your next procedure!**