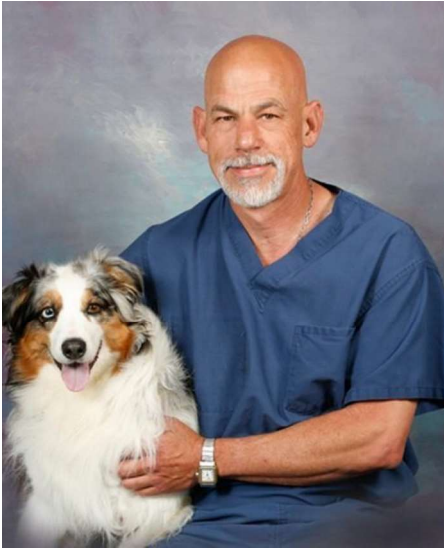


Friendly Newsletter

Companion Pet Care- October 2019



A Letter from the Manager:



Let me introduce myself. My name is Glenn Barnes. I'm the newest member of the family here at Companion Pet Care and am looking forward to getting to know all of the pets and their owners who have trusted CPC with caring for their furry family friends.

I'm proud to be the oldest member of the CPC team. Having spent about forty-five years of my life in small animal hospitals, I began my career by cleaning cages at 6:00 every morning. Some may call it 'starting at the bottom', but any role that helps in caring for animals is never 'the bottom'. They all matter. I learned so much over the years and eventually became a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) in 1979 at an animal hospital in El Cajon. Moving my family to Orange County, I not only gained more knowledge and experience, but really expanded my skills by working at a busy emergency clinic. All of this landed me a wonderful position at Mission Animal and Bird Hospital in Oceanside, where I was able to expand my knowledge even more, caring for exotic animals as well.

For twenty-five years I enjoyed developing close relationships with co-workers, along with all the pets and their owners. Soon I was promoted to Hospital Manager and aided greatly in growing the hospital to a twenty-four-hour facility with fourteen doctors – fives times its size when I started. At forty-five years old, I went back to college to keep up with the ever-growing practice and became a Certified Veterinary Practice Manager (CVPM), becoming part of only a handful with that combination of medical and business knowledge in the animal profession.

So why my move to CPC? Because the "heart" of caring for each owner and their pet became too challenging when a large corporation purchased the Oceanside hospital. Losing "the heart" of caring is typical when an entity transforms from private to corporate, but I found myself slowly losing the joy I once had. Maybe I could expand those thoughts with another article in a future newsletter.

Dr. Burghardt and I had worked together in Oceanside for a few years before he moved on to purchase Companion Pet Care. I'm very grateful to be working with him once again in an environment that I enjoy, an environment that takes a personal interest in caring. I'll be managing the hospital here and getting to love again what was slipping away. One day, when the time is right, I hope to retire my career right here in front of all of you.

I very much look forward to helping each one of you and your healthy relationships with your pets. As I step into my new role here, I want to thank you for all your support and trust that you've given to CPC and doctors like Dr. Soifer and Dr. Bushnell. Like me, they too believe in "the heart" of animal care and wellness. I'm dedicated to continue with Dr. Burghardt and the team here at CPC in promoting this tradition of "heart-centered" care.

Thank you all again for letting me have the opportunity to help care for your pets, and to help me realize, once again, the joy that comes with this profession. Please ask to see me when you come in so that I can personally introduce myself and get to know each one of you.

Glenn Barnes RVT, CVPM



Thanksgiving Safety Tips

Thanksgiving is a time for friends, family and holiday feasts—but also a time for possible distress for our animal companions. Pets won't be so thankful if they munch on undercooked turkey or a pet-unfriendly floral arrangement, or if they stumble upon an unattended alcoholic drink.

Check out the following tips for a fulfilling Thanksgiving that your pets can enjoy, too:

- **Talkin' Turkey:** If you decide to feed your pet a small bite of turkey, make sure it's boneless and well-cooked. Don't offer her raw or undercooked turkey, which may contain salmonella bacteria. Do not give your pet the left-over carcass—the bones can be problematic for the digestive tract. Also beware of the high salt content in some turkeys, as salt can be hard on the GI and cardiovascular systems.
- **No Bread Dough:** Don't spoil your pet's holiday by giving him access to raw yeast bread dough. When a dog or cat ingests raw bread dough, the yeast continues to convert the sugars in the dough to carbon dioxide gas and alcohol. This can result in bloated drunken pets, which could become a life-threatening emergency, requiring hospitalization.
- **Don't Let Them Eat Cake:** If you plan to bake Thanksgiving desserts, be sure your pets keep their noses out of the batter, especially if it includes raw eggs—they could contain salmonella bacteria that may lead to food poisoning.
- **A Feast Fit for a King:** While your family enjoys a special meal, give your cat and dog a small feast of their own. Offer them made-for-pets chew bones. Or stuff their usual dinner—perhaps with a few added tidbits of turkey, vegetables (try sweet potato or green beans) and dribbles of gravy—inside a food puzzle toy. They'll be happily occupied for awhile, working hard to extract their dinner from the toy.

A few small boneless pieces of cooked turkey, a taste of mashed potato or even a lick of pumpkin pie shouldn't pose a problem. However, don't allow your pets to overindulge, as they could wind up with a case of stomach upset, diarrhea or even worse—an inflammatory condition of the pancreas known as pancreatitis. In fact, it's best keep pets on their regular diets during the holidays.

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/thanksgiving-safety-tips>

Patient of the Month!

“Barley” Wagner is a 4 year old Boxer who was known for being a speeding rocket, chasing balls down at the park like a flash of lightning. Until she came up injured and starting limping on her left hind limb. The limp was worked up and diagnosed as a left ACL rupture (called Cranial Cruciate Ligament, or CCL, in veterinary medicine). Medications as well as acupuncture and rehabilitation were attempted with slight improvement however the limp persisted. Barley's parents had to consider the following; the young age of the patient, the inevitability for arthritis in her knee, which would restrict range of motion, and the long-term to life-long anti-inflammatory and pain medications that could be required. They ultimately elected to stabilize Barley's knee with surgery.

In dog CCL repair surgery we do not attempt to replace the torn ligament. Instead, Dr. Burghardt did a procedure for Barley called TTA (Tibial Tuberosity Advancement) surgery, which changes some of the angles inside the knee and eliminates the need for a CCL. We also injected each knee with Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) and infused a local numbing agent around the incision, which numbed the surgical area for 3 days. Barley has been recovering great and is an excellent patient thanks to her parent's diligent recovery efforts to keep her calm. We expect in a few months that Barley will be back out tracking down balls like she used to.



The radiograph on the left shows the joint prior to surgery, while the radiograph on the right shows the post-operative hardware after TTA surgery.

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