

MCLEOD



VETERINARY  
HOSPITAL



Fall 2009

### Hospital Hours

Mon – Thurs 8 am – 6:30 pm  
Friday 8 am – 6:00 pm  
Saturday 9 am – 1:00 pm  
Sunday Closed

### Announcements

McLeod Veterinary Hospital would like to extend a warm welcome to Randi Boyd. Randi is joining our team as a recently graduated Registered Animal Health Technologist from Lakeland College in Alberta.

We would also like to welcome back Animal Health Technologist Kim Nakamura who has been away on maternity leave.

Congratulations to Dr. Jason Kellsey and Chas who welcomed a baby boy into their family August 31, 2009. Kieran Kellsey weighed in at 7 lbs 10 oz.

### Questions?

Our clients have access to [www.veterinarypartner.com](http://www.veterinarypartner.com), a web site which offers information on many pet related issues such as behaviour, nutrition, and emergency care.

McLeod Veterinary Hospital  
880 McLeod Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R2G 2T7  
Ph: (204)661-3334  
Email: [mcleodvh@mts.net](mailto:mcleodvh@mts.net)

## Disgusting Habit or Necessary Treat?

Pet rabbits require a balanced diet to stay healthy. Did you know that part of a healthy diet for a rabbit includes eating it's own droppings?

Rabbits produce two types of droppings, the familiar hard droppings found in the bottom of the cage, and a softer dropping covered in a layer of mucus. The soft droppings are greener in color and have a stronger odor than the hard, dry droppings. Owners usually do not see these droppings because the rabbit will often ingest them as soon as they are produced.

Soft droppings come from the part of the intestinal tract that ferments food, making them very rich in vitamins and nutrients. When ingested, the material in the soft droppings is then re-digested and all of the nutrients are absorbed by the rabbit. So although this habit may seem disgusting, rabbits need this in their diet to maintain good health.



## Soft Palate Resection

Some dogs are bred specifically for their short, pushed in nose and large head, like the English bulldog and the Pug. Although these dogs are cute, the anatomy of their shortened skulls can lead to significant breathing problems.

Brachycephalic (short-nosed) dogs often have difficulty breathing due to a large amount of soft tissue at the back of their throat. The tissue, called the soft palate, in brachycephalic breeds is often so long that it can protrude into the dog's airway with each inward breath. For this reason, owners of these breeds will often complain that their dog breathes very loudly and tires quickly, especially with exercise.

A soft palate resection, best performed by laser surgery, involves removal of the excess soft tissue at the back of the throat. Laser surgery can be performed with no bleeding and no suturing. This procedure is done to keep the tissue from blocking the airway and make it easier for the dog to breathe. Though the surgery may not completely eliminate breathing problems, dogs generally show a significant improvement in their ability to breathe after surgery.



## Pet of the Month

### Meet Gypsy

She is a 3 month old papillon lovingly owned by Val.

## McLeod Veterinary Hospital Staff Members

### Veterinarians

Dr. Robert Newfield  
Dr. Alison Bowles  
Dr. Jason Kellsey

### Animal Health Technologists

Barbe Parke  
Cindy Sontag  
Kim Nakamura  
Amy Weir  
Randi Boyd  
Shannon Toback

### Receptionists

Martina Korne  
Brittini Jensen  
Kelly Byra  
Carissa Shaw

### Veterinary Assistants

Rees Buck  
Jennifer Loewen  
Laura Tschetter

McLeod Veterinary Hospital  
880 McLeod Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R2G 2T7

Ph: (204)661-3334  
Email: mcleodvh@mts.net

## Should I Feed my Bird Pellets or Seeds?

The short answer to this question is that it's okay to feed both however, neither should be fed exclusively.

If your bird has previously been fed a strictly seed diet, a slow transition to pellets should be done as removing all seeds and offering only pellets may result in starvation. Allow for at least 2 weeks of slowly adding more and more pellets to your bird's dish. Birds are often very picky eaters and may not take a liking to pellets right away, be patient!

The changeover process can sometimes take up to a year to complete.

Feed a good quality bird pellet such as Harrison's. Harrison's pellets are formulated in different sizes to accommodate different species of birds. These pellets are made with all organic ingredients and contain a mixture of grains, seeds, vegetables, fruits, and other protein sources.



## Bird Dangers

Some of the most common foods eaten by humans are poisonous and can even be deadly to birds. Here are a few of the common foods which should not be offered to birds.

**Avocado** – the seed and pit of avocados have been known to cause cardiac distress and eventual heart failure.

**Caffeine** – causes cardiac malfunction and can result in cardiac arrest.

**Apple Seeds** – most fruit seeds of the cherry family, including the peach seed, pear seed, apricot pit, and cherry pit contain trace amounts of cyanide.

**Mushrooms** – the caps and stems of certain varieties of mushrooms can cause liver failure.

**Salt** – too much salt can result in dehydration and eventual death.

**Tomato and Potato Greens** – are highly toxic.

**Dried Beans** – contain a toxic chemical. Cooked beans are safe and a favorite of most birds.

**Onions** – excessive consumption of onions may result in serious digestive problems.

**Alcohol** – is often fatal. Do not leave your drink unattended.

## World Rabies Day

Monday, September 28, 2009 is World Rabies day, a day to raise awareness about the dangers of Rabies and its prevention.

Rabies is a virus carried in the saliva of infected animals and humans. Rabies is spread mainly through bite wounds however may also be spread by infected saliva entering open wounds or coming in contact with the moist skin of the eyes, nose or mouth. The Rabies virus attacks the nervous system and is almost always fatal by the time the animal or human begins to show signs of infection.

Veterinarians have been very helpful in educating pet owners and expressing the importance of vaccinating against Rabies. Speak to a veterinarian about Rabies vaccination at your pet's next check-up.

