



October 2023 Newsletter

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**Coming
Soon**

2024 CALENDAR



In the Spotlight

National Veterinary Technician Week

Veterinary technicians are *critical* to the day-to-day function of veterinary practices and play vital roles in preserving animal health and welfare. **National Veterinary Technician Week** provides an opportunity to recognize veterinary technicians' contributions. First

celebrated in 1993, it takes place in the third week of October each year. This year is the 30th anniversary of celebrating veterinary technicians.

RCBR values veterinary technicians every day of the year and thanks them for all they do. During National Veterinary Technician Week, we honor their commitment to compassionate, high-quality veterinary care for all animals.

Please join us in celebrating these important team members. Here are a few of the dedicated vet techs that have helped care for our Boxers here in Minnesota (in no particular order!).

Ark Pet Hospital



**From Left to Right: Tori, Matt, Sarah, Kim, and Jane.
Not pictured: Melissa and Stacy.**

Prairie Village Pet Hospital



From Left to Right: Alyssa, Lindsey, Kelley, and Jamila.

Owatanna Veterinary Hospital



From Left to Right: Becca, Kristin, Traci, and Kayla.

A Few Words from Dr. Jim Nelson ...

I have recently retired from my veterinary practice at PVPH. My last day was Oct. 7th, 2023. I would like to share some thoughts about my journey.

In June of 1989, I arrived in Eden Prairie. Having just graduated from Kansas State University, I was anxious to test out my newfound veterinary skills at Prairie Village Pet Hospital (PVPH), a practice that Dr. Bob Skinner had built and opened only four years prior. The building was set back on a cul-de-sac, with new residential properties being built to the south and a clear view of Highway 5 to the north. To conform to

setbacks, much of the property was actually dedicated to green space. Additionally, the city required that our predominantly brick building have a pitched roof rather than the typical flat variety. As such, when you approached the hospital, it felt more like a home than an office building, which honestly became symbolic of the ethos that we strove to create and foster. When we updated our logo, that roofline became an inherent part of the graphics, stating that PVPH is a safe haven for all who enter and we will treat you like family.



Dr. Jim Nelson, circa 1989

People in Eden Prairie have always loved their pets! PVPH was a full-service veterinary hospital, and the majority of our patients were families with purebred dogs. Most pets came in for wellness exams and sterilization surgeries, but we also provided boarding, grooming, and daytime emergency and urgent care. We didn't have the option to refer surgeries or diagnostics to a specialist but strove to provide exceptional service with the resources available to us, and I think we did a pretty darn good job.

Over my career, I've witnessed a variety of developments first-hand in veterinary practice. In the 1980s, receptionists became the first voice new clients would hear and provided great client service. Similarly, local technical colleges created a two-year veterinary technician program, which quickly became an integral part of our modern practice. Helping to hold animals, assist in surgery, and perform diagnostic tests, these technicians have boosted the productivity of veterinary hospitals and doubled the number of patients a clinic can see each day.

After working with Dr. Skinner for 16 years, in 2005, with the help of small business and home equity loans, I took a leap of faith and purchased the practice from him. With no prior management experience, I was forced to learn on the fly. Within weeks of the purchase, three veterinary technicians and a practice manager left. Sometimes that's just the way things go, but in today's market, a similar exodus would be disastrous, as trained veterinary technicians are so scarce they have earned the name "unicorns." Luckily, I was able to keep the ship on course. I recruited three veterinary technicians, Jamila, Molly, and Kelley, and a new veterinarian, and ended up making some novel management decisions at the helm. We managed ourselves and redirected previous management costs to improve employee wages and benefits. Additionally, I made the decision that all new hires would be veterinary technicians or assistants, meaning that Mary, our lovely 30-year veteran, would be our last customer service representative hire (until COVID, when the need for telecommunications support boomed). Having everyone cross-trained to answer the phone and set up appointments allowed us to have a leaner, more efficient team who would get to know our customers, which again emphasized the family-like approach to our hospital.

It's the staff that makes this clinic



Dr. Jim Nelson today

successful, and I feel like it's important to shout out to all of them. It has taken years to develop a team with the level of expertise that we have, and I am so grateful that we have thrived, especially during COVID. During the pandemic, we added Elaina, our second receptionist, and the staff dug in their heels and never let the clinic shut down. We provided urgent care and accepted new clients when others couldn't. The time was right and I knew it was time to make my exit, but again, the staff and our clients are really what make PVPH so special. I'll be forever grateful to each and every one of you.

I am an anomaly. I will have started and ended my career at PVPH. I thank you all for accepting me for who I am and allowing me the privilege of providing care for your pets. Prairie Village Pet Hospital has been my safe haven for 34 years. Now it's time to explore the great, new world!

Cheers,
Dr. Jim Nelson

Article by Dr. Jim Nelson
Originally published in *Eden Prairie Lifestyle*
[Click here to read](#) the full article

Mark Your Calendars!

Save the Date

give TO THE MAX 
Nov. 16, 2023



rejectioncollection
boxer rescue



Lights and decorations, costumes and masks, a constant parade of strangers at the door... Halloween can be a downright spooky experience for our pets with risks of poisoning, intestinal blockage and lost pets.

CONCERNS:

- **Poisoning:** Ingestion of glow sticks or Halloween candy containing chocolate or xylitol, both of which can be toxic for pets
- **Intestinal blockage:** Glow sticks, some candies, decorations or parts of a pet's costume could cause intestinal blockage
- **Injury:** Lit candles or jack-o-lanterns can burn
- **Stress and escape:** Noises, strangers in costumes, continuous door ringing and opening and closing of the door can stress your pets and give them opportunity to escape

PREVENTION:

- Don't feed Halloween candy to your pets
- Never leave your pet unsupervised with accessible candy or decorations, or while they are in costume
- Identify your pet with a registered microchip, collar and ID tag
- Keep lit candles, jack-o-lanterns, glow sticks and other decorations out of reach
- Give your pet a quiet, safe hiding place inside and away from activity

MAKE SURE PET COSTUMES:

- Fit properly
- Have no pieces that can easily be chewed off or cause choking
- Don't hinder sight, hearing, breathing, opening the mouth, or movement

In case of an animal-related toxicity, please contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 1-888-426-4435

Questions or Concerns?

Ask your veterinarian or for more tips visit [AVMA.org/Halloween](https://www.avma.org/Halloween)

Halloween safety tips for pets
Pet costumes can be fun —
if you consider them from your
pet's point of view.

Some pets love the hustle and bustle of Halloween, while others will find this spooky holiday a bit stressful. We recognize that animals are individuals, so while you enjoy the festivities, consider it from your pet's perspective: A dog's natural instinct is to protect their home or to alert you that a stranger has arrived, while cats typically

prefer a quiet environment with their family. Trick-or-treaters continually knocking on the door or ringing the bell can be very stressful to both dogs and cats. Read on for our tips and tricks on taking the terror out of your pet's Halloween!

1. Halloween hype causes pet stress

Before the trick-or-treating starts, put your pets in a quiet room where they will be safe from all the Halloween activity. If your pup is likely to try to run out the front door and is comfortable in a crate, consider putting them in the crate with a treat-filled toy and some soft music playing in the background.

Minimize noise by sitting outside to keep trick-or-treaters from knocking on the door or ringing the bell.

2. Halloween candy—a treat for you, a trick for your pet(s)

Pre-Halloween and during trick-or-treating, keep candy safely stashed in a high cabinet secured with a lock or child-safety latch. Many foods, such as chocolate, gum, and xylitol (a sweetener used in many foods) are hazardous to pets.

Watch your kids! Children may make the harmful mistake of sharing their loot. Make sure they know the difference between a treat for them and a treat for their four-legged friends.

Pumpkin can be good for dogs and cats, but too much can cause digestive issues. Rotting pumpkin may harbor bad bacteria; keep jack o'lanterns safely away from becoming a holiday snack.

3. Steer your pets away from dangerous Halloween decorations

Introduce your pets to their safe room before you decorate indoors. Changes to your home can make your pets, especially cats, nervous or frightened. Or they may decide those fake spiders pose an existential threat and need to be killed.

Be aware of which decorations pose threats. Some hazards are obvious, like lit candles (fire hazards and toxic to birds if scented). Other potentially dangerous decorations include rubber eyeballs (choking risk), glow sticks and fake blood (possible poisons), fake cobwebs (can choke or entangle pets and wildlife), potpourri (toxic to birds), and strung lights. Watch out for those candy wrappers and plastic packaging too!

4. Be cautious with pet Halloween costumes

If you do choose a costume for your pet, consider your pet's personality and what type of costume they may tolerate and for how long. Masks and hats that fit around the face, for example, may be OK for the length of time it takes to snap a quick pic, but they can pose dangers and make your pet feel uncomfortable. Best to keep pet costumes minimal.

Keep an eye on your costumed pet to make sure the costume is comfortable and allows your pet to move freely. Also, be sure to remove any chewable parts or objects that could come off and choke your pet.

If your pet appears uncomfortable, take off the costume. Signs of discomfort include folded down ears, eyes rolling back or looking sideways, a tucked tail, or hunching

over.

5. Protect your pets from outdoor dangers

Bring your pets indoors before night falls. Cats are always safest inside with you, but on Halloween, it's especially important to secure all pets inside so they don't run away out of fear of adults and children in costumes.

In case they escape, make sure that all your pets are wearing tags with current IDs and that their microchip is registered with your most up-to-date information. Opening the door repeatedly for trick-or-treaters creates plenty of opportunities for a pet to slip outside and disappear into the night. Proper ID will help you reunite with your lost pet and take a recent picture of your pet that can be used for lost flyers just in case they get lost.

Be aware that not all wild creatures outside will be wearing costumes. You may see nocturnal animals such as raccoons, opossums, and foxes foraging for food while you're trick-or-treating or walking from your car to a party.

Keep the 24-hour ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center hotline handy: 888-426-4435. (The hotline may charge a consultation fee.) If you suspect your pet has eaten something that's bad for them, call your veterinarian or the Poison Control Center immediately.

Upcoming Events

Meet & Greet Adoption Event

October 21

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

[Frankies House of Dog](#)

2665 4th Avenue, Suite 21

Anoka, MN 55303

Online Events

3 p.m. October 8
through
3 p.m. October 22

November 5
through
November 16

White Boxer Coffee Company

Get more details
and place your order
[here on Facebook](#)

ONEHOPE Wine fundraiser

Every bottle gives back

More details to come!
[ONEHOPE online](#)

Meat Raffles

Every Wednesday in November

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

[Owatonna Eagles #1791](#)

141 East Rose Street

Owatonna, MN 55060

[RCBR Event Calendar](#)

2023 National Pet Days



October

[Adopt-A-Dog Month](#)

[Adopt a Shelter Dog Month](#)

National Animal Safety and Protection Month

National Pet Wellness Month

October 11 – 17: [National Veterinary Technician Week](#).

Sponsored by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians of America.

October 31 – Halloween. Fun costumes for everyone!

November

[Pet Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[Adopt a Senior Pet Month](#)

[Pet Diabetes Month](#)

November 1 – National Cook for Your Pets Day

November 4 – 10: - National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week.

First full week of November.

Sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States.

November 7 – National Canine Lymphoma Awareness Day

November 19 – [National Dog Show](#)



The Rainbow Bridge

*... until we meet
again ♥*

Addie Lou

Crossed the Bridge 9/29/23



I am beyond devastated my sweet Addie Lou passed away a couple of weeks ago. She was the light of my life, and I feel so empty without her.

She was my one-in-a-million dog. The only thing she ever asked was to be right by my side. I know that Cade will always refer to Addie as "I once had this amazing dog growing up."

We had a daily routine, and we savored every minute of it. She taught me to be present, to love unconditionally, and to be grateful for the simplest things in life; ironically, they are also the things that made me the happiest. She reminded me our time is borrowed so enjoy every moment.

We had a lot of fun adventures in our life together, memories I will cherish for the rest of my life. She loved going on walks, hikes, camping, being on the boat, going for rides, and snuggling on my lap. She was fiercely loyal, protective, and my best friend. I never thought that the pain would be so intense. But at the same time, maybe it's so intense because the love was too.

Loving you changed my life and losing you has done the same. The bond I shared with you was the stuff of legends. It was truly an honor to be yours. **THANK YOU** for the beautiful ride – forever wouldn't have been long enough with you. You will forever be my pot of gold at the end of every rainbow. Love & miss you forever my sweet girl!

Pickles

Crossed the Bridge 9/16/23



Stephanie D: I was Mr. Pickles's first foster. I saw his ears in the picture from the shelter and I was hooked. He came to me scared, extremely sick, and weak. I took the time to advocate for an ER visit on his first day with me and that was the best thing to help him at first. He ended up needing to be neutered fast due to an infection on his gherkins and it was discovered he had cancer. Once that painful stuff was removed, he became a dog and it was fun to see him grow in that regard. Mr. Pickles played with toys and tried to play with my boys. He loved cuddles, ripping up toys to make it snow inside, and just being by his human in general. Unfortunately, he continued to be weak in his back legs and it was really hard for him to climb stairs, so I made the decision to find a foster that did not have stairs or as many stairs in their home. This boy blessed my heart and will always live there with the others that I have loved that have passed on.

Michele K: Pickles was a sweet pup. During his short time with RCBR, he loved being in the same room as where all the activity was taking place, even better if he got to say hi to visitors and then curl up in a soft dog bed. He enjoyed barking at whatever his pup family was barking at and playing with a tennis ball. Pickles did not let his muscle weakness slow him down - he loved being outside and exploring the yard.

Ziggy

Crossed the Bridge 9/13/23



When I first saw Ziggy on the website, I wasn't looking for another dog. I was looking for a friend who lost his dog earlier in the year.

Ziggy was much too big for my friend, so I kept looking for him, but I just couldn't get Ziggy out of my head. I had kept on looking on the website to see if someone adopted the big boy. Nobody had.

Finally, I just couldn't stand it anymore. He needed a home. Lolly my other rescue Boxer, needed a playmate. And I needed another friend.

Ziggy was the perfect gentle giant. Just so sweet and loving. He was super laid back and chill and just went with the flow. Lolly and he became best friends instantly. He didn't mind her excited energy and she didn't mind his laid-back style. Yin and Yang if you will.

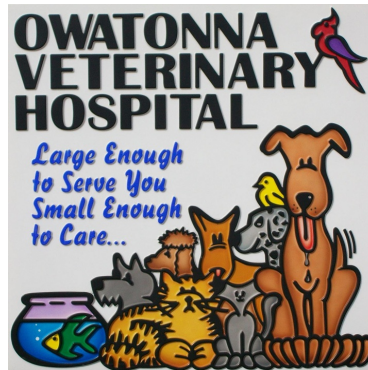
They would play and play in the backyard chasing each other around and around. Then they would lay together and sometimes even lay on each other lovingly. I even caught them giving each other kisses every once in a while.

I am so honored to have had Ziggy in my life. I couldn't have asked for a better companion for me and Lolly. He was a big boy, but his heart was even bigger and I we'll miss him dearly.

Thank you to our Partners



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Links to help:

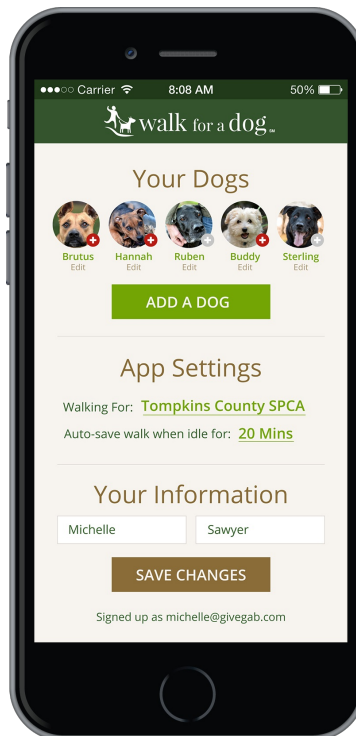
[Walk for a Dog / Wooftrax](#) - walk your dog and earn points that translate to donations for RCBR.

[Amazon Wishlist](#) - purchase from our wishlist and have it sent directly to us.

[PayPal Donate](#) or [PayPal Giving Fund](#) - if you prefer to just donate cash, we're set up through this fund.

[Chewy Gives Back](#) - purchase from our wishlist and have it sent directly to us.

[eBay for Charity](#) - support us by donating at least 10% of the proceeds from the sale of your item on eBay.



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[More Info](#)

Mission Statement

Rejection Collection Boxer Rescue (RCBR) is a non-profit, all-volunteer, foster-based organization dedicated to providing loving homes for Boxer dogs - especially seniors, medically challenged, and those needing to start over again in an unfamiliar world.

We offer quality care for whatever time is left; it is not about the quantity of days, but rather the quality and amount of love that can be shared during those days.

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