

# The Wintergreen Post

Volume 1 Issue 1

Spring2002



## Pet Profile – Stella Sapanek

Breed: Lab Cross  
Color: Reddish Blond  
Age: 12 Years Old  
Veterinarian: Agawam Animal Hospital  
Favorite Kennel Activity: TLC walks in the orchard  
~Owned and Loved By Maxine Sapanek~

Stella is a delightful guest. Everyone on the staff is very fond of her. She is a good eater and enjoys her frequent TLC time. She loves to run and bark with her neighbors! During her "snowbird" stay she has become our official greeter.

### Is Pet Overpopulation Really A Problem?

Absolutely! In the United States alone, more than 50,000 puppies and kittens are born each day. For every pet with a place he can happily call home, there are 4 companion animals who are homeless, neglected or abused. Millions of these animals enter America's animal shelters and 30 to 60 percent of them have to be destroyed each year because no one wants them - that's 4 to 6 million animals!

#### What can you do to help?

- Spay and neuter your dog(s). Local organizations such as the NSPCA provide financial assistance to those who need it.
- Express your thanks to veterinarians who reduce their spay/neuter fees and work with their local shelters to assure only neutered or spayed animals are placed.
- Encourage leash laws which will help keep dogs safe and either at home or with their families.
- Educate others about this pet overpopulation problem. People who know the facts can make the right decisions.

*For every pet with a place he can happily call home, there are 4 companion animals who are homeless, neglected or abused.*

### Breeding Your Dog

I know I can find homes for all the offspring my dog will have when I breed her/him. So, it's fine if I go ahead, right?

Making sure you have homes for all the puppies is a good first step. You also need to be sure the breeding will produce quality puppies. Have the male and female dogs had a medical exam to be sure they are healthy? Are they free of venereal diseases? Are they free from hereditary problems such as hip dysphasia in dogs? Are their vaccinations up-to-date, and have they been wormed? Do you know what food and equipment you will need to give the mother and puppies proper care? Are you ready to pay the extra veterinary costs if there are problems with the pregnancy or delivery? You see, a lot goes into responsible breeding.

IN 6 YEARS, ONE FEMALE DOG AND HER OFFSPRING CAN BE THE SOURCE OF 67,000 PUPPIES.

IN 7 YEARS, ONE CAT AND HER YOUNG CAN PRODUCE 420,000 KITTENS.

*Above Information from [www.peteducation.com](http://www.peteducation.com)*

### From Your Veterinarian

#### Mosquitoes carry heartworm threat to dogs

Dr. James Hayden  
Easthampton Animal Hospital

Heartworm is a contagious disease of dogs that is spread by mosquitoes. Historically the disease started in the southern United States and then over a period of time the disease has spread over most of the United States. Areas that are near bodies of water or wetlands tend to have more cases of heartworm because mosquitoes spread the disease.

Mosquitoes spread the disease by taking blood with immature heartworm, called larvae, from the dog with heartworm and then giving it to a dog without heartworm. Over a six month period the larvae grow into adult heartworm measuring 5 to 10 inches in length. This adult heartworm then reside in the right ventricle of the heart, thus the name heartworm.

As the heartworms multiply in the heart this can cause a number of problems for the dog. Because the heart is a pump, the heartworms interfere with the pumping action of the heart so one of the first signs one sees is a cough. If the dog is not treated, the cough gets worse and then other signs develop such as exercise intolerance, weight loss, fainting, seizures and finally death.

Because heartworm is such a serious disease, the dog should have an annual blood test for heartworm. If the dog does not have heartworm, a monthly medicine is given to the dog so that the dog does not develop heartworm. If the dog does have heartworm there is treatment available.

The treatment is done at a veterinary hospital where the dog will receive four intravenous injections of an arsenical drug to kill the adult heartworm. After three weeks, during which the dead adult heartworms are eliminated from their body, the dog receives another drug to kill the microfilariae or baby heartworm. Most dogs can be treated for heartworm successfully in this two-stage treatment. Even though we can treat heartworm, one

should have his or her dog's blood tested annually.

All dogs should be placed on a heartworm preventative regardless if they are indoor or outdoor dogs. As long as your dog is exposed to mosquitoes, your dog can still get heartworm no matter how careful you are with your dog. The development of a monthly preventative should make heartworm an easier disease to prevent.

---

### Grooming Tip - Nail Trimming

Your dog's and cat's nails should be trimmed regularly. Overgrown nails are uncomfortable for your pet, as well as hazardous to your floors and furniture! Nails are trimmed as a regular part of a Wintergreen grooming, and are available as a separate service as well.

Or, you can do it yourself. With a good pair of nail clippers you can tackle this chore at home. Be careful not to cut past the quick (the soft center of the nail which carries the blood supply). On light colored nails, the quick is easy to see. On dark nails, use caution and trim just a little at a time. Don't forget the dewclaws (a thumb like extra nail which is found on many pets on the lower leg an inch or more above the paw). The dewclaws don't get a chance to wear down naturally on hard surfaces, so they can grow faster than regular nails. If you should cut a nail too short, use styptic powder to stop the bleeding, then keep your pet quiet for a while until you are sure the nail is healed.

In extreme cases, nails can grow around in a full circle and cut right into the pad. Please don't let this happen to your canine and feline friends. Check nails regularly and get them clipped as needed.

A helpful hint for getting your pets accustomed to having their nails done: handle your dog and cat's feet regularly. During playtime or obedience training sessions, give the feet firm, gentle squeezes while speaking encouragingly to your pet. A little time spent getting him used to being handled will pay off in the future when you – or the Groomer – are giving pedicures!

---



### Employee Profile – Elizabeth Powers

You'd be hard put to find a photograph of Elizabeth without a dog in it. From collecting "365 reasons why Elizabeth needs a dog" (a daily photo calendar for her mother), to current studio shots with her beloved American Staffordshire, "Haley", a four legged friend is sure to be there. And with good reason. She just loves dogs, plain and simple. Elizabeth recently updated our website [www.abka.com/wintergreen](http://www.abka.com/wintergreen), inner office publications, and ad copy. Her imagination, computer expertise and helpful, friendly professionalism make her a valued asset in the Wintergreen family.

### Kitty Korner Why Do Cats Purr?

According to Bruce Fogle, a veterinarian with a keen interest in animal behavior and author of *The Cat's Mind*, the original function of purring was to enable a kitten to tell his mother that "all is well". This often occurs during nursing. A kitten can't meow and nurse at the same time, but it can purr and nurse without any problem. The mother often purrs back, reassuring the kitten.

Older cats may purr when they play or approach other cats, signaling they are friendly and want to come closer. Cats also purr when they are contented, such as when they are petted, again giving the signal "all is well".

Strangely enough, cats can also purr when they are distressed. Sick and injured cats, and those in veterinary offices often purr. It is thought that this is the cat's way of reassuring and calming herself.

---

### Events – Past & Future Reigning Cats & Dogs

In June of 2001, Wintergreen Kennels hosted a pet fair, *Reigning Cats & Dogs*. The event included a Canine Good Citizen Test evaluated by Canine Learning Center, Avid Micro-chipping by Dr. Owen of North King Animal Clinic, a State Police Dog Demonstration, a Service Dog Demonstration by Leslie Pirnie of Canine Learning Center, Trigger Point MyoTherapy by Terry Vogel & Stephanie Chmura, as well as members of Greyhound Options and the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Shelter. There was also a Dog Show with categories such as Longest Ears, Best Costume, Largest & Smallest Dog and the Longest Stay.

Did you attend? If so, let us know opinions and ideas! Should we do it again?

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

#### Northampton Rabies Clinic

April 6, 2002

Smith Vocational HighSchool – Dr. Nancy Lewis Owen

9 – 10:30 a.m. for dogs & 10 – Noon for cats

\$10/animal; please bring most recent vaccination records.

#### Southampton Rabies Clinic

April 6, 2002

Highway Dept. – Fomer Road – Dr. Hayden  
From 1 – 2 p.m.

**New England Spring Classic Cluster**

April 19 – 21, 2002

The Springfield Kennel Club's "Spring Show" will be held at the BIG E, West Springfield, MA  
For more information, visit the Springfield Kennel Club's website at [www.SpringfieldKennelClub.org](http://www.SpringfieldKennelClub.org)

**Easthampton Rabies Clinic**

April 20, 2002

Public Safety Complex – Payson Avenue – Dr. Hayden  
From 1 – 2:30 p.m.

---

A Gift Certificate To Wintergreen...  
What A Great Gift!  
Looking for the perfect gift for Mom for Mother's Day?  
Or a special thank you for the pet sitter?

**Wintergreen Kennels' Gift Certificates** can be used for both boarding and/or grooming services. They are available in any denomination and good for one year from the date of purchase.

*Wintergreen Gift Certificates...*

*...because a clean pet makes a great gift!*

---

**Pets In Politics**

The following are some political pooches:

--FDR's Scottish Terrier was named **Fala**.

--**Liberty** was a Golden Retriever who belonged to Gerald Ford.

--Jimmy Carter's dog was called **Grits**.

--Ronald Reagan's Bouvier des Flandres sheep dog was named **Lucky** and his Cavalier King Charles Spaniel was called **Rex**.

--**Millie** was the English Springer Spaniel who lived with George Bush. Her puppy **Rex** also joined the --Bushes at the White House.

--Bill and Hillary Clinton owned a Chocolate Labrador named **Buddy**.

The following are some feline friends of White House families:

--**Shan** was Susan Ford's Siamese cat while her father was in office.

--**Ying Yang** was the name of the Siamese cat who belonged to the Carters.

--The black and white cat who lived in the White House during the Clinton Administration was called **Socks**.

---