

# MOSTLY CATS

December Newsletter • 2004

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## Easier Access Better Parking More of the Same Great Service

With *easier access* and better parking, our new home at 4901 N. Perryville Road, provides Mostly Cats' clients and employees with lots of nuances. We expect to move into our new facility around late December or early January. This new location north of Riverside Boulevard at the Windsor/Nimtz Roads intersection provides *easier access* using the Rolex Parkway service road and features two or three times the parking spaces.

Walking from the parking lot, clients will be greeted by a rustic limestone entrance with tall vertical double paned windows. The windows brighten our larger lobby and reception area with natural light that warmly glimmers on the tan quarry tiled floors, granite covered counters, and light maple cabinets.

As you enter our exam and treatment area, you may notice that we've doubled the number of rooms to help reduce your wait time. Each private room boasts a different color theme with wainscot on the lower half of the wall and matching room decorations

portraying different animals. We've also added more treatment cages and a separate ventilation system in the isolation ward.

Our new facility also features an expanded grooming and boarding area for our cat clients, which provides more privacy, four feet by four feet exercise area, and its own ventilation system.

Since we love dogs too! They will now have their own area with indoor runs. For those dogs requiring extended treatment or surgery, we'll also have a secured outdoor run approximately 10 feet by 20 feet making it *easier* and safer for your pet and our employees to access.

We've also upgraded our computer system for better record keeping and *easier access* to client records. It allows us to electronically track the history of your pet's treatments, ailments, lab results, and x-rays. In addition, we've added a more efficient phone messaging system.

We hope you visit us soon at 4901 N. Perryville Road; call us to make an appointment at 815-885-2200.



## When was the Last Time Your Cat had a Vacation?

The next time you take that business trip or family getaway, be sure to reserve your cat's private vacation spot in our new clinic at 4901 N. Perryville Road. After all, your cat needs a vacation too! During its stay with us, your cat will enjoy clean, comfortable surroundings, healthy meals of premium quality food with lots of love and play time provided by our dedicated and caring staff. Our expanded Tender Care boarding facility now includes a plexi-glass viewing area dedicated to most cat's favorite pastime --

bird-watching. Once our cat clients hear the good mews, we expect to fill those spots fast. So, make your reservations today by calling 815-885-2200.



## Laser and Video Technology

State-of-the-art laser and video technology helps us diagnose and treat ailments with more precision, less pain and quicker recovery time.

A safe alternative to traditional surgery, the laser is used for procedures such as: spaying and neutering; cyst, lump, tumor and wart removal; and is very beneficial for declawing. Your pet recovers quicker because the intense beam of light precisely targets the affected area and seals nerve endings and small blood vessels during the procedure, resulting in less pain, less bleeding, and less swelling. Laser surgery also minimizes side effects to healthy surrounding tissue and reduces bacteria that may cause infections.

With our Video Vetscope System, we can diagnose, treat, operate and store images of ear canal problems for future reference or share with specialists across the country. Because of its portability, we can show owners a closer view of their pet's ear problem right in the exam room.

## Preventive Medicine Helps Your Pet Live a Longer Healthier Life

Although we've encouraged most of our clients to move to three-year vaccines, your pet should have an annual exam to check for potential ear problems, a dental cleaning, or look for other health issues. Clients with older pets should consider an exam every six months or so. At Mostly Cats, we are moving towards preventive medicine for our patients, especially early detection of ear and teeth problems. A semi-annual or annual exam, allows us to diagnose and treat medical problems early, which in many cases will be easier on your pet and your checkbook. Call for us today for an appointment.



## Watch for these Symptoms

Call us for an appointment if you see the following signs that your pet may be ill or need treatment: missed meals, hiding, litter box problems, missing hair, rubbing the mouth on furniture or on you, can't close their mouth all the way, new odor from the mouth or ear, constant scratching of the body, hair-loss, lesions or sores, sleeping more than usual or being lethargic.

## Does Your Pet Have Ringworm?

Ringworm is the common name for dermatophytosis, a superficial fungal infection of the skin. There are many types of ringworm but the most common type



Cat with hair-loss above eye.

of the cat ringworm is *Microsporum canis*. Ringworm is also known as a zoonosis, a disease that can be passed to humans.

Ringworm is spread by both direct and indirect contact with a contaminated environment. Its microscopic spores are extremely resistant and can circulate in a home, cattery, shelter, or animal hospital waiting for any opportunity to colonize.

Those pets most susceptible to ringworm include:

- Puppies and kittens
- Pets with weakened immune systems
- Specific breeds such as Persians, Himalayans, and Exotic Shorthairs
- Pets under stress from hospitalization, a new home, surgery, or boarding
- Pets taking medications including corticosteroids
- Pets with open skin defects like scratches or extremely dry skin





Signs of ringworm may resemble many other skin-related problems, so it's important to have a veterinarian make a diagnosis as early as possible.

Some common signs include:

- Scaly, hairless patch or patches usually around the head, ears, face and feet, but may appear anywhere.
- Oily dirt on chin like chin acne
- Patches of missing hair all over the body resembling a "moth eaten" look
- Sensations of feeling itchy but not consistent itching
- Asymmetrical hair-loss

On people ringworm looks like a red ring with hair loss in the center and resembles a worm-like shape under the skin – hence the name ringworm.

A variety of methods may be used to diagnose ringworm on pets. The most common method used is a Woods light (also known as a black light) that you shine on the pet's fur. Not all strains of ringworm show up using a Woods light, but one type — *Microsporum canis* — glows an apple green color using this method.

Another method includes taking a culture from the affected spot by plucking hairs from the edge of the lesion and culturing the fungus on two special media. The culture helps us to identify the type of fungus,

which is extremely important in determining the proper treatment and can sometimes lead us to the source of the infection. For instance, we diagnosed cattle ringworm with a cat once, an indication that the source of the infection was mostly likely in the barn where the cat lived.

Treatment and research over the years has changed dramatically and is sometimes controversial. The main purpose of treating ringworm is, of course, to cure the infected pet. However, we must also prevent future infections or stop it from spreading by treating the pet and it's environment. At Mostly Cats we treat each case individually using the safest method for each household situation.

Frequent hand washing is always recommended as a deterrent to spreading ringworm or any infectious disease among people and pets.

Length of treatment for ringworm varies with each case and should be continued as long as needed. Treatment may be needed through the hair life cycle, which is about six weeks.

The earlier we diagnose ringworm and start treatment, the better it is for your pet and your family, so call us for an appointment at the first sign of trouble.

## Meet our Mascot



### *Where in the World is Henry?*

Henry came to us about two years ago known as Sparky, but we changed his name shortly afterward because Henry better matched his personality. You see Henry is a laid back fella who likes to make his bed in the strangest of places.

"Henry may have had some spark in his younger years, but we haven't seen it," explains Sherry Edgren, business manager at Mostly Cats.

Henry is a Persian cat with long white hair, and you may have noticed him laying around the clinic in



whatever comfortable spot he can find. His favorite place used to be close enough to anyone with a chicken or fish treat. However, Henry has food allergies, so we've had to stop giving him treats and keep him on a prescription diet.

You might find Henry curled up in the storage cabinet behind the reception desk, in Sherry's office next to the computer, or cuddled in any soft furry bed displayed in the lobby. Next time you come in for an appointment, don't be surprised if you see a note posted on a doorway or cabinet that reads "Henry is in here!"

## Mostly Cats Veterinary Clinic

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Visit our web site at  
[www.mostlycats.com](http://www.mostlycats.com)

### Address

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4901 N. Perryville Road • Loves Park, IL 61111  
p: 815-282-CATS (2287)  
f: 815-636-4407

Please make a note of the new phone numbers for our new location:

p: 815-885-2200  
f: 815-885-2280

### Clinic Hours

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Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 7 am – 6 pm  
Tuesday and Thursday: 7 am – 8 pm  
Saturday: 8 am – Noon

### Emergency Numbers

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There may be hours when your veterinarian may not be available such as evenings and weekends, so here are some emergency numbers.

Animal Emergency Clinic of Rockford  
Nights, Weekends and Holidays  
4236 Maray Drive  
Rockford, Illinois  
815-229-7791

Animal Poison Control Center (APCC)  
24 hour assistance  
888-4-ANI-HELP (888-426-4435)



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