HILLSIDE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Wondering what we do in our spare time? We help animals! Here are some of the organizations we support.

Dee's Orphan Kitten Fund – several team members help out each year by fostering kittens, assisting new owners and fundraising. www.deesorphans.com

Scritches Rat Rescue – Lyn, assistant, founded Scritches Rat Rescue in 2014 in response to all the rats that were being neglected and abandoned in Victoria. She has been a tireless advocate for responsible rat ownership.
www.facebook.com/ScritchesRatRescue

Vets for Pets – Dr Kristin Zajaczkowski is the new coordinator, taking over from Dr. Jane Vermeulen in 2017. Several staff members volunteer to help the pets of low-income and homeless pet owners at Our Place Society.
www.vetsforpetsvictoria.com

Thank you for voting for us! We continue to be in the top three of the "Best in the City" awards for eight years!

Meet our new team members!

We had to say good-bye to several staff members this year but we are excited to welcome some new faces!
Here is a bit of information on our new team members:

Dr. Michelle Lareau moved to Victoria after graduating from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon. She is currently teaching herself how to play chess and paint.

Dr. Kristin Zajaczkowski moved to Victoria (her home town) when she graduated in 2015. Kristin and her husband have matching sneakers with pictures of their dog and cat!

Ashley is the newest member of our rehabilitation team and she moved to Victoria from Medicine Hat, Alberta specifically to work with us.

Carlie, receptionist, enjoys "longboard dancing".

Amy, receptionist, loves scaly and slimy animals like frogs, lizards and snakes.

Missing some familiar faces? Here is what they have been up to since leaving the Hillside team:

Kerri, our long-time receptionist, is now back in school and studying to become a community support education assistant.

Dr. Laurie Gaines moved to Ontario with her husband and is working on a Master's degree in shelter medicine.

Megan, receptionist, moved to Saskatoon to attend veterinary school and she will graduate as a veterinarian in 2021!

Lori, registered veterinary technologist, welcomed a daughter and will return in April 2018.

DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 35% of Canadian households have a dog and 38% of households have a cat.

The term "veterinarian" comes from the Latin word "veterinae" which means "working animals"

Dogs have 42 teeth.

Over 75% of pet owners buy Christmas presents for their pets!

Sensitivity to catnip is genetic and only 50% of cats will experience its effects.

A group of pugs is called a "grumble".

About 1/3 of a dog's brain mass is devoted to smell!

Kitty litter was invented in 1947 by Ed Lowe

OUR TALENTED TEAM

Many of our staff members have hidden talents. Alexia, vet assistant, is a painter when she is not holding animals! She recycles old windows and other furniture.

Dr Lesia Hyzka is a talented Pysanka artist and is always busy at easter creating beautiful decorated eggs.

Unusual Toxins

Here is a list of "unusual items" that you may not know are unsafe for your pets. If you think your pet has been exposed to something unsafe, please bring any packaging or photos to help the veterinary team.

Wild mushrooms – many mushrooms can be lethal to pets so be careful when walking and remove any mushrooms from your yard.

Blue-green algae – be mindful when taking your dog for a swim at some of the local lakes as blue-green algae can be fatal to dogs if consumed. Always read the notices that are posted at lakes to see if there is a warning.

Marijuana – dogs, and occasionally cats, can be exposed to marijuana in different forms in the home, at beaches and on the street. Although rarely fatal, pets can become disoriented and uncoordinated.

Xylitol – we are seeing more xylitol in products such as gum, vitamin supplements, peanut butter and toothpaste as people seek alternatives to sugar. Xylitol is not safe for pets to eat and can cause severe damage.