

The Roundtable

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Caring for Critters

We paws now...
... for information and advice from Dr. Katherine Carter of the River Road Veterinary Clinic in Orrington, who spoke at today's meeting. She offered salient advice about care for the very young cat or dog to the aging pet.

Dr. Carter told of what her hospital recommends for your pet's health exam, the frequency of visits as the animal gets older, and how easy it is for pet owners to overlook conditions that may escalate into more urgent treatment.

"We recommend that a puppy or kitten have a vet visit within one week of your getting the animal," she said. "Then visit your vet every 3-4 weeks until that animal is sixteen weeks old. We like to see pets 3-4 times before they reach 16 weeks."

Annual exams for "senior" animals – any animal that is eight years or older – can help identify health issues. The advantage to taking a young animal to the vet is to establish a baseline for future diagnoses and tracking. Dr. Carter will look for congenital defects in puppies and kittens. Hernias and eye problems, muscular/skeletal issues and dental health are included in the veterinarian's exams.

Dr. Carter recommends that a puppy be taken to a trainer, if only for one visit, so that socialization can occur. Vets can also address behavioral concerns such as unusual bathroom needs.

"A groomer is good for detecting lumps and bumps, as well as mouth/oral disease and ear infections," she said.

She addressed the question of doggie daycare, and suggested that a trained person coming to your house keeps the pet in its accustomed environment. A veterinarian can recommend such individuals.



Dr. Carter is a graduate of Bangor High School and earned her bachelors degree at the University of Connecticut. Her veterinary degree is from Auburn University. She lives in Bangor, with her husband, Matthew. They have two boys, and, as you might expect, an assortment of dogs, cats, and small pets.

“I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals.” *Winston Churchill*

Clean Litter for the Morning’s Announcements

The Bangor Noon Rotary Club invites us to join them on May 6 for a Community Cleanup at City Forest from 9-11 am. **President Kristy Kimball** said that two hours of your time will help it look spiffy.

Also for your calendars:

Rotary Polio Eradication Update Presentation by Past District 7780 Governor Ann Lee Hussey, Thursday, April 27- **tonight!**- 6:30 pm, Lithgo Library Community Room, Augusta. Call Denise Adams, 207-632-4721. The event is free but they want to know how many to plan for.

E-Waste Collection from 9 to 1 on Saturday, April 29, at the Challenger Learning Center. 2017 Biz Expo, Wednesday, May 24 at Cross Insurance Center. **Ken Huhn** says our club will have a booth, and business cards will be solicited for a drawing that will give the winner a gift (TBD).



Spring!

Lisa Wahlstrom explained her process for directing the weekly speaker schedule. Members are chosen at random to invite a “speaker of the week.” She tries to notify the selected member 3-4 weeks before the scheduled meeting. Lisa solicits potential speakers that she can add to her list “which is short right now,” she added. Think about who you would like to hear address the club.

Happy dollars came from **Maureen Hedges** who will go fishing on Saturday. **Paul Miragliuolo** caught a big fish- or maybe it’s the other way around. He announced to the club his engagement that happened on Easter.

Karen Schaller is expanding her business to big islands. She just sent a contract to a client in Alaska, and on the same day received a call from a nonprofit in Hawaii.

Judy Horan spent a lovely time in Orlando soaking up the Disneyland rays.

Les Myers- April 27, 2017