



La Jolla Veterinary Hospital's Annual Newsletter

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Giving Back

These are some of the ways we were able to serve both the animal welfare community and the La Jolla community in 2018. Thank you for your support. We could not have done this without YOU!

- Donated over \$10,000 worth of items, food and medication to The FOCAS Program at Rancho Coastal Humane Society throughout the year. *If you have items that you no longer need for your pets, feel free to drop it off at La Jolla Veterinary Hospital. Rancho Coastal Humane Society will pick it up on their weekly visit.
- Raised over \$30,000 at the "Paws and Pints La Jolla" event for life-saving surgeries with The FACE Foundation and care for homeless animals in The FOCAS Program at Rancho Coastal Humane Society.
- Examined, treated, distributed health certificates and flew 52 dogs to safety with The Wings Of Rescue organization during the California wildfires.
- Donated over \$3,000 to The FOCAS Program at Rancho Coastal Humane Society in memory of all the furry family members that passed away at La Jolla Veterinary Hospital in 2018.
- Donated over \$6,000 to local La Jolla schools in order to raise funds for various education enhancements.
- Fostered multiple litters of kittens through the FOCAS program. These kittens are cared for by our staff in their homes and in our boarding facility. They are vaccinated, dewormed, treated for any medical conditions, socialized and spayed or neutered at La Jolla Veterinary Hospital. They are then transferred back to the FOCAS program when they are ready for adoption.

A new veterinarian and extended hours

Not only are we the only veterinary practice that is open 7 days a week in La Jolla, but also we are now open until 9:00 pm, Monday through Friday!

The closest animal ER to La Jolla requires a trek on the freeway that not only is inconvenient but also can be detrimental to your pet if your furry family member needs medical attention immediately. We have always strived to walk the walk when we state our core values as providing the best medicine possible and extraordinary client care. We try to think outside of the box and be progressive. (cont'd on page 2)

A new veterinarian and extended hours (cont'd)

We listen to our clients. We want to better our community, and this is the next step. When we had limited hours on the weekends, our answering machine was full of messages on Monday morning from La Jollans who were sometimes desperate to see a veterinarian during closed hours. Instead, they were forced to go to an emergency room. We decided a few years ago that being available 7 full days a week for La Jolla was a service we wanted to provide. We have never looked back, and our clients love it! Extending our hours is the next step.

The new urgent care hours not only address a pet's urgent needs, but also allow clients the flexibility to schedule even wellness appointments outside of typical business hours. There are also reports of ER visits for more minor problems (such as a broken toe nail) which can be addressed easily and quickly. Previously a trip to the ER was the only option and could quickly change the course of your evening. This new availability at La Jolla Veterinary Hospital is the answer.

There are also true medical emergencies in which time is of the essence, and getting stuck on Torrey Pines in order to get on the freeway could potentially prevent a positive result.

A client at La Jolla Veterinary Hospital said this about the new extended hours, "I myself have an epileptic, geriatric dog with special needs. I have been in a situation where his seizures escalate late at night and have driven to the ER in a state of anxiety, watching him seize for the lengthy trip on the freeway. It is excruciatingly terrible for him and for me. Upon arrival he is usually given a shot of valium, and his body relaxes. He is immediately better. Every time this has happened to me personally I think, wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a veterinarian closer to home?" His seizures have been under control with preventative medication for a few years, but she says she will never forget those nights.

La Jolla Veterinary Hospital says they want to be empathetic to the needs of their community and provide more for the animals. "That is why we are here." Although there will still be referrals to specialty hospitals for unique scenarios, this changes pet care in La Jolla for the better.

***New* Frequent Boarding Program**

It's simple; STAY 10 NIGHTS, GET 1 NIGHT FREE!

Many of our clients utilize the boarding services we offer in the kennel portion of La Jolla Veterinary Hospital because they have come to expect a certain standard of care for their beloved furry family member. We take great pride in being able to care for all of our veterinary patients but especially, the pets that require extra care or medical treatments. It is an added peace of mind that in the case of a medical need, the veterinarian is available to ensure your pet is getting the care he or she needs.

Mention the "Frequent Guest Program" and we will apply this additional benefit to your pet's stay. *Free nights apply to individual reservations only

For any inquires related to this program, you can email us at happypet@lajollavet.com.

Our veterinarians in 2018

Dr. Lidja Gillmeister

Dr. Gillmeister welcomed her first child in November of 2017 and returned to work in March of 2018. His name is Marcus and he was born 9lbs, 3oz. We are thrilled for her and her husband as their family enters a new and exciting chapter. Her fur baby, Clark Kent, turned 10 years old in 2018 and he is still equally the sweetest and goofiest Vizsla at the practice.

Dr. Carrie Bone

Dr. Bone and her family purchased their forever home in North County this year. She has spent much of her free time learning the art of design by remodeling and furnishing her new home. Her daughter, Finley, is having a very successful year in water polo while her dog "Larry Bird" (or The Big Lebowski as some of the staff call him) turned 11 this year. He is one chill "dude" of a dog.

Dr. Marilyn Seals

Dr. Seals has been with La Jolla Veterinary Hospital for over 30 years! In 2018, she decreased her working hours significantly and is deservedly enjoying most of her time with family and traveling almost constantly. In 2018, She spent time in Paris, France, traveled multiple times to visit family in St. Louis and spent lots of time with her twin sons and her grandchildren on the East Coast and in Bakersfield, CA. She continues to attend as many San Diego Padres games as she can and is a very active member of her church in North County.

Dr. Julie Breher

In 2018, Dr. Breher traveled throughout California with her family. She also traveled to Arizona and Colorado with her family and continues to be an avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast. Her son Jake attends La Jolla Country Day and enthusiastically accepted the position as the school newspaper's cartoonist where he has been able to showcase his unique talent as an animator. Dr. Breher's chocolate Labrador named "Clyde" turned 7 years old in 2018 and is part of the La Jolla Veterinary Hospital staff. He executes his daily tasks as the office greeter with great enthusiasm!

Dr. Arash Sarlati

Dr. Sarlati joined our team in 2018. His passion for rescue animals led to his departure from a successful career in economics to pursue his dream of becoming a veterinarian. He worked in the La Jolla community as an animal advocate, animal rescue coordinator and as a member of the La Jolla Veterinary Hospital staff before attending UC Davis Veterinary School. His return to La Jolla is not only a professional decision for Dr. Sarlati, but also a deep personal commitment to the La Jolla community. Upon his return to San Diego this past year, he settled in a home located in the neighborhood of North Park with his rescue dog named "Arthur."

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Paws and Pints La Jolla 2019

Save the date! La Jolla Veterinary Hospital hosts La Jolla's largest animal charity event every year at The Lot in La Jolla. This year, the event will be held on June 7th and will feature many new opportunities to raise funds for both The FACE Foundation and The FOCAS Program at Rancho Coastal Humane Society. The event was founded in memory of one of our beloved clients, Peggy Howell, who was the founder of The FOCAS Program. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this event and/or volunteer to assist with this event in any capacity, please email Stephanie Coolidge at steph@lajollavet.com

We hope to see you there!

Our staff. Giving credit where credit is due:

We have one of those most genuine, compassionate and competent staff in the veterinary industry. They are whole-heartedly dedicated to your pet's well being and most of them consider animal-welfare a lifestyle, not just an occupation. We are very proud to have many employees who are with us for just a short while before shipping off to veterinary or medical school. We also have members of our staff who have been here for many years and La Jolla Veterinary Hospital is home for them. Rest assured that your animal is in the hands of people that care more about animals than almost anything else in the world.

Here are few photos from our annual staff-appreciation party:

