



# Paw Talk



A professional publication for the clients of East Valley Animal Clinic

SPRING 2010

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## We Love Our CVTs!

An integral part of the care your pet receives at East Valley Animal Clinic is performed by our certified veterinary technicians, or CVTs. A CVT is someone who has completed a minimum of two years of training at an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited school for veterinary technology, culminating in an associate degree. During their training, they learn about animal care and nursing, laboratory work, radiology, anesthesia and surgical nursing. At the completion of their in-school training, they complete a three-month externship at a veterinary facility, where they further advance their training and skills. They are then eligible to sit for the national certification exam. Once they have met all of these requirements, they are certified veterinary technicians.

Certified veterinary technicians are able to perform lab work and dental prophylaxes, and administer anesthesia under the supervision of a veterinarian. They can also take

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## Boomer, the Amazing Cat

Boomer is a cat with a past! At seven years of age he landed in an animal shelter. He was scheduled to be euthanized there because he was testing positive for coronavirus, which, under rare circumstances, can lead to Feline Infectious Peritonitis. He was "rescued" from the shelter and brought to East Valley Animal Clinic for a second opinion. That was in 1997.

After proving Boomer to be healthy, we found him a wonderful home where he was very happy. Unfortunately, the years passed and Boomer's owner had to move into a nursing home. She couldn't take Boomer with her, so in 2006, East Valley Animal Clinic took 16-year-old Boomer and his 19-year-old roommate, Toby, to live out their lives here at the clinic. Toby lived to be 21 years old!

What makes Boomer so amazing is that he has a very serious medical problem!

Boomer has a heart condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. This disease was diagnosed in October of 2007. It is a serious disease with a poor prognosis, and we did not expect Boomer to live very long after it was diagnosed. Nonetheless, Boomer was started on medication. He currently receives four different medications every day to control his heart problems. "I give credit to a dedicated team that makes sure Boomer gets all those meds every day," says Dr. Ranzinger, regarding Boomer's unexpected longevity. Boomer has had a few episodes where his heart suddenly goes into an abnormal rhythm. One time, he walked into the middle of a staff meeting and collapsed in front of everyone. We rushed to revive him, he responded to the resuscitation, and minutes later went on his way as if nothing had happened! It was like he seemed to know he'd better get our attention—fast!

Boomer is an amazing cat. It is uncommon for cats to live past 20 years, and with the serious medical condition that Boomer walks around with, it is even more impressive. The next time you stop into East Valley Animal Clinic, be sure to say hello to our old grey cat. He's likely back in the doctor's office trying to steal a bite of Dr. Hammel's lunch!



Lovely little Boomer

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radiographs, fill prescriptions and administer medications. They are the ones who provide the nursing care and TLC that is so important when a pet is sick or hospitalized. Because of their education, they are qualified to discuss medications and educate clients on their pet's condition.

Veterinary clinics are not required at this time to employ CVTs. Many clinics will hire friends or family and train them to perform basic animal care. At East Valley Animal Clinic, we employ 12 certified veterinary technicians, because we feel that your pet's medical care is not something to be taken lightly. When you bring your pet to East Valley Animal Clinic, you can be assured your pet is receiving the best care, delivered by a professional who is dedicated to their career.

## Support Your Local Business!

East Valley Animal Clinic prices Frontline flea and tick products and Heartgard heartworm preventive to compete with the most popular Internet pharmacy, Pet Med Express. Come visit us instead. We need your support!

# Meet Jackie

## Treating your pet to a healthy, shiny coat!

Jackie Maines has been with East Valley Animal Clinic since 1993 as our groomer. She has been grooming dogs since 1988, when she graduated from the Twin Cities School of Pet Grooming. Jackie loves animals, and always knew she'd work with them.

Jackie is a very skilled groomer. Dr. Kathy Ranzinger, owner of East Valley Animal Clinic, comments that "Jackie has wonderful animal handling skills, and takes a lot of time with new puppies, to calm them and make them comfortable with being groomed." Jackie's ability to deal with difficult dogs allows her to care for dogs that have been rejected from other grooming facilities. The only downside to Jackie's skill is that she books up quickly. It can sometimes take weeks to get an appointment with her.

Recently, Jackie has expanded her duties at the clinic. She is the newest member of our veterinary team as a veterinary assistant. Her natural abilities with animals make her a big help around the clinic.

Jackie shares her life with her husband; her ten-year-old daughter, Erin; two yellow Labs, Sunny and Roxie; her three cats, Lilly, Baby, and LC (for Little Cat); and a hamster named Cookie.



Jackie and Sunny



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