

The PAW Print

News for the families of our animal friends



Leaving Your Pet Behind When You Travel

By Katie Hayes, Lodging Manager



Borneo

While it would be nice to have a house sitter to watch our pets every time we need to leave, it's not always practical. No one wants to leave their pets behind, but, often, they can't come on vacation or travel with us for business. In addition, some of our furry friends don't mind being away from home, but other pets find boarding stressful.

If you can make your pet's lodging experience safer and more enjoyable, both you and your pet will have more fun while you're away. You need peace of mind that your pet will be well cared for when you're gone.

Eastside Animal Hospital offers full-service lodging and a home-away-from-home when you have to be away. Amenities for pets that stay at Eastside include:

- **Cuddle time** – Our lodging staff adores loving on your pets when they stay with us.
- **Veterinary-supervised meals and care** – Food provided at Eastside is vet-approved, and we monitor your pets for any changes in health while they stay with us.
- **Playtime** – Your cat or dog receives one-on-one play time with our lodging staff.
- **Strolls** – Dogs are given "outside time" each day to stretch, walk about, and get some stimulation.
- **Pool time** - Weather permitting, we offer dogs time to frolic in our kiddie pool (please see the photo of Borneo, who stayed with us recently).
- **Daily updates** (if you want them) – Our lodging staff will be more than happy to provide daily updates about your pets and how they are doing during their stay with us.
- **Manners Matter** – We offer professional obedience training for our canine visitors who may need a little extra assistance with manners.

Veterinary Ultrasound: saving Fox's life

By Dr. Shea Gatewood

Technology is constantly evolving within the veterinary community. Ultrasound is now a safe, non-invasive way to image the inner workings of a pet's body without requiring painful surgical procedures or exposure to radiation. Veterinarians need many intensive hours of advanced training to obtain detailed images through the use of ultrasound.

With proper training, a veterinarian can see the insides of an **animal's liver, kidneys, bladder, gastrointestinal tract, and heart**. We can even see **developing fetuses**. The list goes on. We use this imaging technology, sometimes in conjunction with x-rays and/or blood work, to diagnose and treat diseases.

With advances in medicine, like the ultrasound, we can cure many diseases that once seemed impossible – especially in the case of Fox, a sweet-natured Fox Hound. He had a large mass in his abdomen. With the power of ultrasound, we learned the mass was attached to his spleen, and Fox was at risk for internal bleeding. Fox needed surgery, which led to a great success story for him and his family.

Our patients cannot tell us their source of their pain or illnesses, but the use of ultrasound enables us to better determine a proper diagnosis and treatment plan. Fox's health and outcome were greatly affected for the better with the use of ultrasound, and, for that, we are all grateful.



Fox, after treatment

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On My Mind

Some things that happen never should. In veterinary medicine, we call them a “zebra” because they don’t look like their common cousin, the horse. Sadly, I now have personal experience with such a zebra. I just diagnosed my wonderful 18-month-old Doberman, Miles, with congenital renal disease. His kidneys aren’t formed like they should be,

Dr. Laura Strong and Miles

and they don’t function properly. His life will likely be short and he will require special food, medication and continual monitoring to determine what treatment options will best extend both his quantity and quality of life.

If you looked at Miles at this point, you would never know he has an illness. He is showing absolutely NO SIGNS of disease. He is happy, has good body condition, and if I took him to any veterinarian in the country for a physical exam, he would be pronounced the vision of health. That’s what I thought too. However, his pre-anesthetic bloodwork told a different story. Having agreed with the breeder to delay neutering until 18 months of age, I did not run pre-anesthetic lab work or any health screening lab work (except for heartworm tests and fecal checks) prior to his surgery. He was healthy, and I thought I would wait until the time of surgery.

What a complete shock when his lab work returned with abnormalities. No one on the Eastside team wanted to tell me the bad news. My kids are out of the house now, and this dog is my “empty nest” companion. He came into my world after my beloved Dachsund, Daisy, died from cancer last spring. Dr. Gatewood compassionately delivered the sad news to me and my husband. The bottom line is there is no cure for Miles’ disease, but we can help others through this experience.

Here are some heartfelt thoughts from me to all of our clients:

- Eastside will ALWAYS recommend lab work during a **pet’s first year of life**. With more and more rescue pets coming to us already having been spayed or neutered, we miss the opportunity to recommend pre-anesthetic lab work.
- Some diseases can **only be detected** by running tests on blood or urine. We find abnormalities in about **10 percent**, and early detection is vital. We recommend lab tests during your pet’s **first year of life**, at the age of **six**, and, **every year after 12**.
- Please consider **pet health insurance** to give your pets the best care possible throughout their lives. We endorse **Trupanion** (www.trupanion.com).
- Our team will always recommend the best care for your pets. PLEASE know we will never make unnecessary suggestions, and know tests and/or blood work are vital to early detection for longer, healthier lives.

Special note: In honor of Miles, we are extending special pricing on wellness screens for pets under the age of six. Pets who have been in within the last six months can come for lab testing only, and do not require an exam. Please call us to schedule your pet’s check up.

With Kind Regards,

Dr. Laura Strong

Hospital Owner/Director Eastside Animal Hospital

Professional Spotlight

In each issue, we feature one of our 40 dedicated Eastside team members. This fall, we’re throwing the spotlight on **Practice Manager Karla Kennedy**:

In January, Eastside added Karla Kennedy as our new practice manager, and have been gladly getting to know her and her pets this year.

Karla said she’s always had a passion for animals. It was a love for pets that lead Karla to pursue an associate degree in veterinary technology. After college, she worked in a veterinary hospital in her hometown in northern Ohio, but had the desire to advance her education and career. Karla then earned an additional degree in animal science at Purdue University, followed by an MBA at Capital University in Ohio.

Qualifications aside, it was Karla’s clear enthusiasm for the wellbeing of pets, her positive energy, her desire to learn, and her strong commitment to client care that made her the perfect fit for our team. Karla said, “The best part of every day is experiencing the human-animal bond, and seeing our clients and the love they have for their adorable fur-kids.” When asked about her new work environment, she stated, “The Eastside team consists of people who wholeheartedly have a passion for the best patient care and best medicine possible.”

Karla’s 12-year-old Rottweiler, Sassy, has a complicated medical issue, but Karla said she’s been able to experience first-hand the thorough medical and emotional support provided at Eastside. “Though this is a painful experience, it has only increased my belief that Eastside is the best,” she said.

Karla resides in Elizabethtown, Ky., with her husband, Tim; Rottweilers, Sassy and Aegis; pug mix, Puddles; and, Jackie O, a Pomeranian mix. In her spare time, Karla is active in Rottweiler rescue, is an avid runner, and enjoys spending time with her own furry, four-legged friends.



(LtoR) Sassy, Karla, Puddles, Tim, Jackie O, and Aegis Kennedy

A Home Away from Home

In addition to a full range of veterinary and wellness services, Eastside also offers an exceptional **home away from home** for your dog or cat. We have experienced and dedicated **kennel/boarding, training and grooming** staff that truly cares about your pet's experience.



Boarding, Exercise, Training, and Grooming Services

For additional details and pricing information, please visit our website at www.eastsideanimal.com.

- **Small dog hotel** – for dogs under 25 lbs.
- **Standard dog accommodations** – for larger dogs up to 100 lbs.
- **Deluxe dog accommodations** – for extra-large guests or multi-pets. Area provides 50% more space than our standard run.
- **Kitty Condo** – offers standard 2+’ x 2+’ room with resting bench.
- Movies are available for viewing and fleece blankets provided.
- **Kitty Penthouse** – deluxe, 5 x 5ft, room-with-a-view accommodations
- **Strolls** – one-on-one leash exercise
- **Playtime** – individually-tailored time/can include pool time (weather permitting)
- **Manners Matter** – one-on-one training for puppy and adult guests
- **Fitness Fun Package** – one-on-one athletic romps through our canine playground with vet health assessment
- **Grooming** – bath, brush out, and pedicure, as well as professional/breed-specific clipping services

Veterinary & Medical Services

Wellness Services – include complete examination, puppy/kitten/senior wellness programs, nutritional counseling, and weight loss programs

Internal Medicine – includes trauma and critical care, diagnostic testing, radiology, ultrasonography, and screening for hypertension and glaucoma

Surgical Services – include elective sterilization procedures (spay/neuter is recommended), tumor removal/biopsies, declawing, urinary tract (removal of bladder stones/biopsies), orthopedic (fracture and ligament injury repairs), and reproductive tract (c-sections, prostate) *Many surgical services are performed with state-of-the-art laser equipment. Usage of this technology minimizes pain and bleeding and quickens recovery time.*

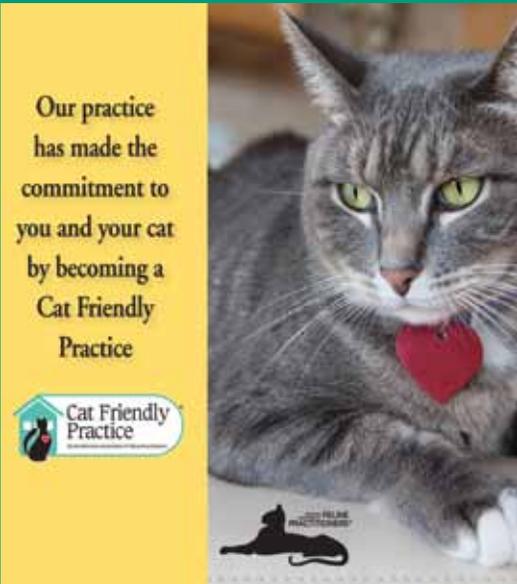
Dental Services – include dental cleanings and wellness programs, dental surgical procedures, and digital dental radiology



AAHA accreditation – Eastside Animal Hospital is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association (since 1988). AAHA accreditation means that we voluntarily adhere to more rigorous standards, set by a board of peers, and are reviewed on a regular basis. Eastside is one of only three practices in all of metro Louisville and the only one in southern Indiana accredited by AAHA.

Whether a routine check-up or a special visit, Eastside is committed to ensuring that cats get the best care possible, and so we implemented the **Cat Friendly Practice (CFP)** program. We took a fresh look at our hospital to determine what could be done to make the visit more positive for cats AND their owners. The **American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP)** pioneered the CFP program to create a positive environment for felines and provide

medical care that supports the cat's unique needs, such as knowledgeable staff members who understand feline-friendly handling. Our goal is to provide you and your kitty with a welcoming, comfortable place that will ultimately lead to the improved health of each and all of our feline patients.



“Leaving Your Pet Behind ” continued from page 1

- **Fitness Fun** – We also offer additional stimulation through challenges that require physical activity, agility, balance, and problem-solving skills.

There are things that YOU can do to help minimize the stress or fear associated with a strange environment, whether or not your pets stay at Eastside:

- Bring your pets’ **own food, treats, and toys** to make them feel more at home and minimize stomach upset. If the facility provides food, be sure the menu is designed to be gentle on the stomach.
- Choose a facility that offers daily **exercise and activities** for stimulation and positive experiences to make the stay more pleasant for your pets.
- Get the **contact name, phone number and/or e-mail** of the staff person in charge of your pet to check in with during your time away.
- Ask what the procedures are for any **emergency or health-related issues** for your pets while they stay away from home.

In addition, **Adaptil** for dogs and **Feliway** for cats are collar or spray products that can reduce anxiety. Adaptil and Feliway are safe, synthetic forms of pheromones that **help dogs and cats feel safer and more relaxed** in their surroundings, including home. These products can greatly improve comfort for your pets by allowing them to feel confident, calm, and secure.

Next time you need to go out of town and cannot bring your pets, please ask us about our lodging for dogs and cats, ways to make their stay more enjoyable, and products that reduce their stress while you're away. We want to help in any way we can, and love having your pets stay with us.

What's everyone BARKING about at Eastside?



New & Improved Paw Portal – We are simply purring about the new free Pet Portal app, called “**AllyConnect**,” for iPhone and Android users. This app allows you to refill prescriptions and make appointment requests whenever it’s most convenient for you. Easily check your pet’s vaccination due dates and health records online at eastsideanimal.com/login. The new and improved Paw Portal is ready and waiting for your activation. Download the free app and visit our website, and you’ll be able to make those middle-of-the-night requests and refills. We’re “yappy” to hear from you!

Microchips Save Lives – From now through the end of the calendar year, any pet that is up-to-date on wellness services is eligible to receive a FREE Microchip (a \$42.50 value)! This offer does not include the one-time national enrollment fee of \$17.99. When your pet carries all of your information on a microchip that any vet or shelter can scan, the odds of your pet finding his/her way back home are greatly increased. Please call us today to get your pet microchipped!



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Creature Feature



Mark Sullivan and Scout

“Creatures” Feature is a more appropriate title for this section of our Fall 2015 *Paw Print*, since the goal of **The Mark Sullivan Animal Care Foundation** is to help as many creatures and their humans as possible. Founded in December 2014, the Foundation was established by friends and family to continue the memory of Mark J. Sullivan. Mark’s compassion for all animals – and the love and companionship that Mark experienced with his pets – were evident to everyone who met

him. Mark’s daily interactions with his pets provided comfort and relief during his own health struggles. He was never happier, even on his toughest days, than when holding his pets, tossing a ball, or shaking a box of treats to see their excitement and joy. Although his surviving pets, Max and Zoey, were placed in a happy home and are loved deeply, his friends said they surely must miss Mark’s infectious laugh and big smile.

It is the principle belief of the founders of the **Mark Sullivan Animal Care Foundation (MSACF)** that everyone benefits through daily interaction with pet family members. The Foundation’s goal is to help keep pets healthy and in the arms of their human family during trying situations. The MSACF seeks to provide support for:

- pet owners who live on a fixed income and struggle to provide care for their pets
- pet owners who are disabled, and
- those suffering from an unforeseen crisis and struggle with the financial burden of pet ownership

Eastside Animal Hospital is proud to be a partner with this wonderful organization. It is an honor that Mark Sullivan chose Eastside as the ideal veterinary hospital and trusted that his pets would receive the best care here. Through this partnership, and with the generous assistance of MSACF and additional community support, we will be able to ease a burden together for those who are struggling through a life hardship.

For more information about the MSACF, please visit www.msanimalcarefoundation.org, find the Foundation on Facebook, or contact msanimalcarefoundation@gmail.com.

If you’d like to help, donations can be made at the Eastside Animal Hospital front desk or through a PayPal link on the homepage of www.msanimalcarefoundation.org and the right side of the **MSACF Facebook** page.



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