

Blue Ravine News

YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS OUR CONCERN

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Introducing Dr. Laura Rotz and Dr. Andrew Connors

Dr. Laura Rotz grew up in the Northern Bay Area where her love of animals began early in life. Her childhood was spent caring for everything from dogs and horses to tadpoles. Following high school, Dr. Rotz attended California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo where she studied Animal Science as part of the pre-veterinary program. During her time at Cal Poly, she continued to be involved in the veterinary world outside of school by working as a small animal technician and volunteering at wildlife sanctuaries.

Dr. Rotz graduated from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary medicine. After veterinary school, she returned to California to be closer to her family. Dr. Rotz lives in Cameron Park with her Chihuahua mix Dusty and her cat Dimitri. Her interests outside of work include hiking, snowboarding and traveling.



Dr. Laura Rotz



Dr. Andrew Connors

Dr. Andrew Connors graduated from Washington State University veterinary school in 2000 and practiced medicine in Southeast Florida until moving to Folsom in 2019. He and his spouse Tammy have two beloved kitty cats named Remi and Kitten Pants.

Dr. Connors is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys mountain biking, hiking, kayaking, backpacking, and four-wheel driving. He also has a strong interest in international travel and has visited more than 60 countries.

Dr. Connors is very pleased to join the Blue Ravine Animal Hospital family!

May is a Busy Month: National Pet Month, Pet Cancer Awareness Month and National Chip Your Pet Month

National Pet Month

National Pet Month celebrates the pets that enrich our lives and encourages responsible pet care every day of the year. Whether they are our companions, comedians, confidants, or protectors, our pets are always there for us. National Pet Month celebrates this bond and encourages us to provide our best friends with everything they need for a happy, healthy life long into their senior years.

First, potential parents must choose well when they first welcome a new pet; it's a commitment for life! Pets need socialization, proper exercise, nutrition and appropriate veterinary care. Also, be aware that emergencies can happen at any time, so be prepared—travel with care and be sure to have any equipment you may need. And give your pets a lifetime of love!

Here are some ideas for celebrating National Pet Month with your special friend:

Go Exploring -- Look for a dog-friendly park or restaurant near you that you haven't visited before — then go enjoy. (Your cat might also like going to the pet store to see the fish and the birds.)

Make some new toys, treats, or beds for your animals. You can find many various easy-to-follow DIY tutorials online. All your cat needs is you hanging some bird feeders right outside the window so she can watch the goings-on with a comfortable perch near the window.



Have A Photoshoot -- Taking photos of dogs and cats who don't like to sit still can be difficult: let your pet run the photoshoot instead of you. Follow them around with your camera or phone and snap pictures of them living their normal lives — then print the photos and put them in picture frames or create an Instagram account for your pet.

Watch TV and Snuggle -- Get cozy on the couch and watch some pet-themed movies and shows.

Water Games -- Your dog might love swimming in the lake or running through the sprinkler.

Go For a Walk -- Walks aren't just for dogs — you can take your cat on walks, too. Train your cat to walk in a harness and leash and begin taking short walks around your neighborhood.

Play Hide-And-Seek -- This is an especially fun game for cats, who will love stalking you as if you're their prey. Dogs enjoy hide-and-seek, too, especially when you reward them with a treat when they find your hiding place.

Brain Teasers -- Boredom busters are a great way to pass the time and strengthen your pet's problem-solving skills. One favorite is the 'Muffin Tin' game: Put some treats in a muffin tin, cover each section with a tennis ball, and let your pet sniff out the treats.

Regardless of how you celebrate National Pet Month with your pet, your furry friend will just be happy you are spending some extra time loving and pampering them throughout the month!

National Pet Cancer Awareness Month

Cancer is the number one disease-related cause of death for dogs and cats.

Any dog can develop cancer at any point in their life, though some breeds are more genetically predisposed. The Veterinary Cancer Society reports that Golden Retrievers, German Shepherd Dogs, and Rottweilers can have up to a 70 to 80 percent chance of developing cancer over the course of their lives.

Older dogs are also more at-risk, and the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation reports that up to half of all dogs over age ten will develop cancer. Overall, one in four dogs will likely develop cancer in their lifetime.

Cancer may be caused by a variety of environmental and genetic factors. With early recognition, diagnosis, and treatments, pets have a better chance of successfully recovering with treatment than ever before.

What are the Signs and Symptoms of Pet Cancer?

- Suspicious lumps that develop on or under your pet's skin (these should be biopsied by your veterinarian)
- Enlarged stomach

- Wounds that do not heal
- Sudden and persistent lack of appetite
- Coughing and difficulty breathing
- Lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea and changes in urination

Possible Treatments include:

- Surgery
- Radiation
- Chemotherapy
- Continuous research is being conducted

If you detect any of the above mentioned symptoms, contact your veterinarian! As responsible pet parents, we need to be aware of the ways we can fight cancer and teach others to do the same: know the signs and symptoms, detect the disease early, and be aware. Also, keep your pets healthy with a high-quality food diet, exercise, and regular visits with your veterinarian. For more information, call Blue Ravine Animal Hospital – 916 984-0990.



May is a Busy Month: National Pet Month, Pet Cancer Awareness Month and National Chip Your Pet Month (cont'd.)

National Chip Your Pet Month

The statistics about lost pets may concern and shock you. The American Humane Association estimates that one in three pets will get lost or stolen at some time during their lifetimes. A study from the American Veterinary Medical Association claims only 22 percent of lost dogs who enter shelters are reunited with their humans. However, that percentage jumped up to more than 52 percent when the dogs had microchips.

How microchips can help you: A microchip is a tiny computer chip—about the size of a grain of rice—that your vet can implant beneath your pet's skin, usually between the shoulder blades. Each microchip has a unique number, which gets entered into a pet database. (When a chip is implanted in your pet, you enter the chip number into a pet registry.) Veterinary hospitals, animal shelters, and humane societies — as well as many police stations — have microchip readers. Anyone with a scanner can



quickly run it over your dog's shoulders to read the microchip information. When they contact the registry they can find contact information for you or that pet's owners.

Although your pets might wear collars with ID tags, collars can fall off or break. Having a microchip means that people have a better chance of locating where your lost pets are. However, microchips can be used as an addition to ID tags, not a replacement: having both ID tags and microchips gives your pet the best chance of being returned to you if they get lost.

If your pet is not microchipped, contact your veterinarian today; the advantages to a microchip far outweigh any inconvenience – 916-984-0990.

The Pros and Cons of Rattlesnake Vaccine

If your dog lives, plays, or accompanies you on hikes where rattlesnakes live, you may have heard and wondered about a rattlesnake vaccine. According to Red Rock Biologics, one vaccine producer, approximately 300,000 dogs and cats are bitten by venomous snakes each year in the United States.

The rattlesnake vaccine was developed to protect against the venom of the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake. It does not protect against venom from the Coral Snake, Water Moccasin, or Mojave Rattlesnake.

According to Red Rock Biologics, this vaccine works by generating protective antibodies against the rattlesnake venom, which neutralizes the venom itself. They claim that dogs experience less pain and have a reduced risk of permanent injury from bites when they are properly vaccinated. They also acknowledge that while the vaccine may reduce illness if the dog is bitten, immediate veterinary care is still essential. To vaccinate or not is a very personal decision, for



you, the pet parent. *If you do decide to use this vaccine, it's important not to develop a false sense of security. Owners need to understand that this vaccine will not eliminate the need to take the dog for care if it is bitten.* It may buy some time to get him to the veterinarian; then again, it may not.

According to the protocol, dogs need to be inoculated at least 30 days before any potential exposure to rattlesnakes -- full antibody protection is not reached until 30 days following the vaccination -- and should get a booster shot annually in our area unless exposure is truly a year round concern.

Some vaccinated dogs do not react severely to a bite and recover quickly when bitten -- around 25- 30% of all snake bites are dry, meaning they inject no venom -- and maybe the dog would have been fine anyway. There are also anecdotal reports of there being no difference, whether vaccinated or not. Owners need to understand the potential risks and limitations of vaccinating or not; that is a decision to be made by you and your veterinarian.

Dr. Dale Wallis, creator of the anti-venom vaccine has said: *"Where we've lost dogs is when the owners waited. Your best medicine in the case of a snake bite is your car keys."*

(See page 4 for Rattlesnake Aversion and Avoidance Training.)



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Rattlesnake Aversion and Avoidance Training

Canines and rattlesnakes meeting up in nature have the potential to harm your dog, and if you delay in getting care, it can be tragic. If you reside in an area with a dense population of rattlesnakes, you might consider introducing your dog to rattlesnake aversion and avoidance training to protect against a potentially serious and fatal bite.

Rattlesnake training is aimed at keeping your dog safe from rattlesnakes on your property or when out in nature. Trainers use live rattlesnakes which are humanely muzzled or have had their venom neutralized or they may use fake but look-alike rattlesnakes. The humane muzzling prevents the snake from biting but also keeps the rattlesnake safe and enables it to breathe naturally. The training process requires placing a rattlesnake in a pre-planned area within your home or on your property and allowing your dog to approach the rattlesnake from a distance. Through use of an electric shock collar the trainer sends a signal to your dog to stop at a certain point leading up to the area where a rattlesnake has been placed—the idea is that your dog will come to understand what a ‘safe distance’ is. Electronic collars with a shock or vibration setting should not cause your pet any harm or pain but it may cause brief discomfort. Trainers may also use a hidden speaker to activate a sound similar to a rattlesnake’s rattle when it gives a warning. The dogs are also taught to avoid the shed skin of a rattlesnake.

Your dog’s physical safety and mental well-being are top priority during these exercises. When successfully trained, the dog has a better chance of avoiding the rattlesnake by staying a safe distance from it.

An Alternative: Positive Rattlesnake Avoidance Training

Positive reinforcement rattlesnake training is becoming more popular for people who do not want to use electric shock collars. You can now find classes in a number of places. If you don’t live close to one of these trainers but have rattlesnakes in your area, look for a local positive-reinforcement trainer and ask if you can arrange private training that is appropriate for your dog. For those confident in their training skills, you can also try an online course.

Be safe during rattlesnake season and call Blue Ravine Animal Hospital to discuss whether to vaccinate—916-984-0990!

BLUE RAVINE OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday, closed.
For emergencies outside regular office hours, please call MarQueen Pet Emergency & Specialty, 916 757-6600
or Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, 916 362-3111.

www.blueravineanimalhospital.com

COUPON

Mention this newsletter and be entered to win a Summer Fun Activity Pack!

Backpacks typically include such items as a Tumbler, Glasses, Frame, Chew Toy, Ball Chucker, Leash, Poop Bags, Tick Puller and/or a Cone of Shame game.

Call or e-mail Blue Ravine — 916-984-0990 or staff@blueravineanimalhospital.com — to mention the newsletter and enter your name in the drawing!

One backpack will be awarded. Offer expires June 30, 2022.



BLUE RAVINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
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