

PATTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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Office hours:

Monday–Friday 8am – 8pm
Saturday 8am – 2pm

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Kat

Patton Veterinary Hospital would like to introduce Kat! Kat joined our team in August of 2019 as a Client Relations Specialist. Since then, she has taken on many new roles, including employee mentor, safety coordinator, and a unique tech assistant role.

With seven cats (and one pup) at home, it's no surprise that Kat has become a cat advocate for our hospital. Her thoughtful consideration helps us ensure the best care for our feline friends. To better her ability to advocate for our patients, Kat attended the annual Cat Conference held by the AAFP (American Association of Feline Practitioners) in 2022. This education was in addition to her Fear Free and Cat Friendly certification!

At PVH we strive to work as a team
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Travel Safety

More and more people are traveling by car with their pets these days, both for daily errands and vacations. Here are a few tips to make your trips safer and more enjoyable.

First and foremost, while traveling in your vehicle your pet should be secured. Just as a child should be in a child seat, a dog or cat should either ride in a crate or buckled in with an appropriate harness. Airbags can be lethal to an unrestrained pet, as can the force of slamming into a car seat or windshield after even a 35 mph crash. Emergency personnel responding to an accident are faced with an enormous challenge if they have to deal with securing an injured, frightened animal prior to administering first aid to both the owner and the pet. Unrestrained pets often escape from vehicles after an accident and disappear from the scene. Some states require pets to be restrained while in vehicles.

While many dogs love to ride in the car with their heads out the window, it's a dangerous practice. Gravel, insects and other debris could easily impact your dog's eyes, causing severe damage, and particles entering their nose or mouth could cause infections.

Any time you travel, you should bring the following for your pet:

- Identification (consider a microchip and/or a tattoo, as collars and tags can get lost)
- Current rabies tag
- First aid kit
- Water & bowl

For vacations, plan in advance!

- Look up the name, telephone number and location of emergency vets where you will be traveling.
- Keep your vet's phone number with you.
- If your pet is on medications, including heartworm preventative, be sure to take an adequate supply
- If your pet is on a special or prescription diet, be sure to bring enough with you.
- Current vaccination status & medical history (your vet can easily print this out).
- Be sure your pet is accustomed to car travel prior to your vacation, or consider boarding instead.

Finally, never leave your pet unattended in a parked car!

Help for Motion Sickness

Does your cat or dog get car sick? No one likes feeling nauseated, including pets, and this can make pets fearful of getting into the car, adding to the stress of bringing your pet for routine veterinary care. It can also be stressful for pet owners, anticipating the need to clean up a mess in the car on every car ride.

If your pet experiences motion sickness, Patton Veterinary Hospital can help. Ask our team about medications like Cerenia to give at home before a veterinary visit. Cerenia is a safe, non-sedating pill that can be given the night before or as late as two hours prior to a car ride to prevent the nausea and vomiting associated with motion sickness for 24 hours.

Let us help make your pet's car ride a little smoother and reduce stress and anxiety before their next trip to the vet.



By Dr. Sabrina Walters





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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

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and look for ways to serve our community. Kat is a great example of these values as she's always willing to lend a hand. This has allowed her to participate in many new experiences. For example, Kat donated her time and effort to coordinate supplies and delivery for our PVH Christmas food drive. She's also assisted in many emergency situations and can be counted on when times are tough. Perhaps the most precious example of Kat's compassion involves a special kitty named Turk. Turk was a beloved pet of our own Dr. Schmidt and anytime he came to visit us, Kat was there to love on him! Though he has now departed over the Rainbow Bridge, we know Turk lived a wonderful life and enjoyed many parades through the hospital in Kat's arms.

When not at work, Kat often finds herself outside enjoying nature. She loves to garden and go hiking where she can unwind and get some fresh air. She can also be found curling up with a good book at home while snuggling her kitties (and maybe having a nap). She's always had a deep love for animals and even dreamed of becoming a veterinarian someday. Working at PVH has allowed Kat to share her dedication and compassion for animals every day. We're proud to have her with us!

Why Do Pets Get the Zoomies?

We've all seen it. You come home and your dog makes multiple mad dashes around the coffee table or, for no apparent reason, your cat starts zipping around the living room. Yep, your pet has the zoomies! Ever wondered why pets suddenly get that burst of joyful energy?

The "zoomies" actually have a scientific name: Frenetic Random Activity Periods, or FRAPs. While FRAP occurs more frequently in puppies and kittens, any pet of any age may experience this phenomenon. It is thought that this crazy racing behavior is a way for pets to release pent up energy. Zoomies generally indicate happy behavior, but, if excessive, they could indicate an underlying behavior issue such as anxiety or overstimulation, or your pet may need more physical and mental stimulation if he or she has the zoomies frequently.

Zoomies can occur out of the blue, but sometimes they are associated with a novel or stressful event such as after a bath, if a dog has been crated or confined all day, or during play. Dogs may get the zoomies when you return home, late in the evening, after defecation or when something exciting happens. Cats may get zoomies for similar reasons—most commonly cats experience FRAP when they have pent up energy or during play. Some kitties may take a lap around the house after using the litter pan.

Zoomies are not harmful to your dog or cat, but do make sure pets are safe and cannot run into things or hurt themselves. Sometimes FRAP behavior gets a little out of hand, and pets could be accidentally injured if they zoom into furniture or walls, or could injure themselves on slippery surfaces.

Do other animals experience the zoomies? It seems that many animals can experience FRAPs. Horses, rabbits, guinea pigs, and ferrets all can do the zoomies, and animals such as giraffes, elephants, tigers, wombats and others have been caught in zoos and in the wild experiencing episodes of wild play that qualify as FRAP or "the zoomies" as well.

If your pet is having the zoomies at inopportune times, such as when you are trying to sleep, providing more play, activity and stimulation during the day may help. Otherwise, just enjoy the zoom while it lasts—it means your pet is excited and happy and they usually give us a good laugh when the zoomies hit.

For more information, check out this article:

<https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/riney-canine-health-center/health-info/what-are-zoomies>



Seasonal
TIP

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

We've all heard the phrase "the dog days of summer," referring to those hot and sultry July and August days when the sun seems to beat down relentlessly, but do you know where the phrase originated?

The brightest star in the night sky is Sirius, the "Dog Star," which is part of the constellation Canis Major, the "Big Dog."

This star is so bright that the ancient Romans thought the Earth received heat from it.

In mid-winter, you can see Sirius in the southern skies. During summer, the star rises and sets with the sun. The Romans believed the star added its heat to the Sun's, and named this period of time "the dog days."

The constellations today do not appear in exactly the same place as they did during ancient Rome, so today the "dog days" occur between July 3 and August 11.