

# Midnight's



# Mewsing

Patton Veterinary Hospital  
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## Employee Spotlight



Jenn Scott

Jenn was adopted here in December of 2007. She lives in Manchester, PA. She graduated from Red Lion High School and currently attends Harrisburg Area Community College for Medical Assisting. She loves working with animals and making them feel better. She also has a fascination with medicine and how things work. She has rescued an Irish Setter named Molly. And just recently adopted Bryar, a 10 week old German Short Hair Pointer which was part of a litter dropped off at a Animal Control in West Virginia.



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# Senior Wellness

By: Becky Latterman



Did you know that your beloved pet is aging much faster than you? An elderly pet ages at least 4 human years every 12 months. Large dogs age much faster than the smaller dogs and cats. Dogs and cats are considered senior pets at 5-7 years and up.

Just like humans, older pets develop arthritis, diabetes, kidney/liver dysfunction, heart and lung problems, hormone imbalance, cataracts, oral disease, cancers and decreasing brain function. Pets may also experience behavioral changes such as decreased physical activity, less interaction with family members, and confusion or disorientation, as well as changes in sleeping habits or loss of house-training. Some of these changes are very hard to detect; this is especially true with cats, which are very good at hiding signs of illness. Many health problems and behavioral changes can be prevented or treated by close observation and regular veterinary visits, giving you the

opportunity to lengthen and enhance the quality of time you have with your pet.

For senior pets, regular veterinary visits every 6 months are recommended. Be sure to tell your veterinarian about any physical or behavioral changes. Your vet will advise you on an appropriate diet according to your pet's age and activity level. Monitoring your pet's weight is very important: avoid feeding snacks and table scraps, make sure your pet has clean, fresh water, provide moderate exercise (never let your pet overexert itself), avoid extreme heat and cold, and to prevent stress keep a consistent daily routine. If possible, keep household changes to a minimum. Most importantly, be patient and provide extra emotional support for older pets, just as you would for an older relative or friend.

Our veterinarians and nurses will help your pet maintain dental health by recommending professional teeth cleanings and showing you how to clean pets' teeth at home. To assist you with

health care decisions for your aging pet, he or she may recommend a blood chemistry test, complete blood count (CBC), urinalysis, thyroid screening (T4 test), blood pressure measurement, radiographs (X-rays to check heart and lungs), and fecal exams, among other things.

With proper attention, care and nutrition, as well as regular visits to your veterinarian, you can help increase the length and quality of your pets life and enjoy their companionship for years to come.



## Microchipping By: Nicole Kidd



**Did you find a  
pet with a  
microchip tag?**

**Go to  
[www.petmicrochiplookup.org](http://www.petmicrochiplookup.org)**

Microchipping is one of the easiest ways to protect your pet if he or she gets lost. A microchip is a small, grain of rice-sized identification chip that is implanted under the skin, over the shoulder of your pet. Microchips are implanted almost painlessly; pets feel only a pinch similar to a bee-sting. If you are concerned about your pet feeling any pain, microchips can also be implanted while a pet is under anesthesia or sedated. Pets with microchips have a much higher success rate of being returned to their owners if they are lost. If someone finds your pet, they are able to bring him or her into a local veterinarian or animal shelter to see if there is a microchip. Each chip has a unique identification number that can be called into the pet recovery service and then can be linked back to the registered information so that you can be contacted.

It is important to keep this information up to date if you move or change phone numbers!

Common myths about microchips:

- Microchips are expensive and have to be done on a yearly basis.

False: Microchips cost \$40.00 at the Patton Veterinary Hospital and they last for the lifetime of the pet. They can be implanted during any appointment at PVH.

This fee also includes the registration to the pet recovery service.

- Microchips can move around in the pet and can even fall out.

True: Once implanted, a microchip can often move around within the pet. This is why it is important to scan stray animals all over the body in case the microchip migrated from its original placement location. And while it is very rare for a microchip to

fall out, occasionally this does happen, but it is usually immediately after placement.

- Microchips can show you where your pet is all of the time.

False: A microchip does not work like a global positioning device (GPS). It is not battery powered and it cannot track where your pet is from home if he or she goes missing.

-Pets do not need to be microchipped as long as they always wear a collar.

False: Even if a pet wears a collar all of the time, it may get lost or the tags may fall off. A microchip is a permanent ID and is great as back-up protection for those pets who already wear a collar. It is important to microchip both dogs and cats! It also provides positive ID that you own the pet.

## A Weighty Issue By: Rebecca Dougherty & Tammy Rineer

Sugar: how can something so sweet cause so many problems? In the ideal world, it doesn't, but for those who are unlucky enough to not have a properly functioning pancreas, sugar, or more correctly, glucose, can cause life threatening problems. Glucose produces the energy that a body needs for cell function; insulin regulates the flow of glucose to the cells. When the pancreas begins to malfunction the body's stores of glucose begins to break down fats and proteins.

Cats and dogs both can become diabetic. It is usually seen in pets that are overweight. Some breeds, like Schnauzers, are predisposed to diabetes. Symptoms of diabetes include drinking and urinating more and/or eating more but losing weight. Cats can sometimes go into remission with proper diet (usually an all canned food diet) and weight loss, dogs are usually insulin dependent for life, but weight loss is still critical for optimal health.

Testing for diabetes usually in-

cludes a full chemistry and complete blood count to rule out any other associated problems. Additionally, a urine sample should be checked to rule out glucose or ketone levels in the urine. Normal blood glucose levels are between 80-120, if the levels are higher, a fructosamine level is checked to get an accurate idea of what the blood sugar has been over the past two weeks. Once your pet is diagnosed diabetic and is put on insulin, it is VERY important to have follow up glucose/fructosamine checks, as well as any routine blood work our veterinarians recommends. If your pet's glucose level drops too low it can result in hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) which can result in coma and potentially, death. Signs of hypoglycemia can include lethargy, weakness, lack of coordination, seizures, coma and death. Hypoglycemia is an **EMERGENCY** situation; karo syrup should be kept on hand and can be rubbed on the gums while our veterinarian is contacted. Follow up glucose checks are important while the

proper dose of insulin is reached. It is best to start with a low dose of insulin and work up to higher levels, as required.

Diabetes is a very serious disease that can lead to complications with many other organ functions. Having to give twice daily insulin injections 12 hours apart at the same time every day can lead to some major lifestyle changes. Going on vacation, or even away for the day becomes a tremendous undertaking, as boarding or pet sitting requires someone who is capable of giving injections, AND of being able to recognize signs of hypoglycemia. As a pet owner, maintaining your pet at a healthy weight, with regular exercise and a proper diet is critical to keeping diabetes at bay.



The PVH kids club was created to lead children to an exciting future in helping to care for their pets. We recently enjoyed our 1st meeting with 16 children & their parents. The meeting started off with a tour of the hospital, then Leslie went over the complete exam their pet receives when they come to the hospital. The meeting would not be complete without lots of cool examples that included samples of items we have taken out of pets (just 1 reason to pick up your toys), parasites & we had a trip to the lab area to look at a parasite under the microscope.

If your children would like to join the fun give us a call. Our next meeting date will be on **Monday, October 24 at 6:30**. We will discuss reptiles.

**KIDS!**  
Want to have fun learning about pets? Join our Kids Club and come to our meetings and become responsible pet parents

October is Pit Bull awareness month

## American Pit Bull Terrier (Pit)(Pit Bull)(Bull Baiter Dogs)

### The Breed By: Leslie Leffler



'Stubby'

The Pit Bull is well known for its loyalty, strength, and intelligence. Recently the breed has been unfairly tagged as aggressive and dangerous. Dating back to 50AD to 410AD the breed was widely used for fighting dogs, until a new sport called baiting was introduced. Baiting originated with butchers who kept dogs to handle unruly bulls that were herded for slaughter. When bulls acted up the dogs would clamp down on their nose until the handler was able to take control. They would showcase their dogs inside pits where spectators would come to watch these muscular masses fighting bulls. Hence the name 'Pit Bull'. Eventually the sport was made illegal by the British parliament in 1835. They then

turned to a different activity called ratting – where the dog would be placed in a pit with a various number of rats and it would be a race against time as to who would kill the most rats in the shortest amount of time.

Over the years, the American Pit Bull Terrier has become a beloved symbol of America. In World War I, a pit bull named Stubby captured the heart of the nation. Stubby was the unofficial mascot of the 102nd Infantry Division and was credited with saving the lives of several of his human comrades. For his valiant service, Stubby won several medals and was even awarded the rank of sergeant! He came home from the war to a hero's welcome and went on to become the mascot for Georgetown University. Over the years, many famous Americans have owned pit bulls. Mark

Twain, Theodore Roosevelt, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Thomas Edison, Woodrow Wilson, John Steinbeck, Helen Keller, and Fred Astaire have all been proud to own dogs of this breed. The actor Ken Howard (the father on the TV show Crossing Jordan) even credits his pit bull with saving his life. For years, RCA recording company looked to a pit bull as its corporate logo. But, perhaps the most famous pit bull was Petey, the adorable ring-eyed cutie featured on the TV show Little Rascals.

Despite the breeds uphill battle to combat notoriety, and establish in the end respect, the breeds disposition lays in the hands of the handler. These dogs are capable of amazing feats of strength and endurance, and can make wonderful pets, but It is important to find a sport or activity you both enjoy.



**To find out more information on the breed go to:**  
[www.pitbulllovers.com](http://www.pitbulllovers.com)  
[www.PitBullTrainingHandbox.com](http://www.PitBullTrainingHandbox.com)  
[www.ProjectPitBull.org](http://www.ProjectPitBull.org)

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Local Shelters

York County SPCA  
(717)764-6109

[www.ycspca.org](http://www.ycspca.org)

August 16th—Sept. 16th  
1/2 Price Cat Sale

Animal Rescue Inc.  
(717)993-3232

[www.animalrescueinc.org](http://www.animalrescueinc.org)

Woofstock

Sept. 18th

See website for wish lists

Tails End Rescue  
Wrightsville

(717)927-8021

Animal Poison Control



Cats have a third eyelid that is rarely visible. If it can be seen, it could be an indication of ill health.

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**We're on the web:**  
[www.pattonvethospital.com](http://www.pattonvethospital.com)