



# NVH Pawprints

Newtown  
Veterinary Hospital

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## Dog Activities to Keep you and them from being bored! By: Jill Schaffling

Need a solution for that energetic puppy you just brought home? Or a distraction from chewing on your shoes for that older dog you've had for years? Sometimes all it takes is giving your pup a job! There are many activities out there for both you & your dog to enjoy, some of which only take a few minutes a day to learn how to do but will keep your pup out of danger & out of your shoes!

A very popular sport in the area is agility. Agility coursing is an activity which requires the dog & owner to run a course where various obstacles have been set for the dog to run through, over & around. Such obstacles could be

seesaws or teeter-totters, weave poles, jumps & ramps that your dog has to maneuver through. All of these are done without a leash or bribes for the dog so it can take a little while before some dogs get to a competition level but most dogs love to please their owner & are willing to work simply for that. Of course, during training, most dogs learn with treats & slowly get weaned off as they learn more. An owner uses vocal & physical cues to tell the dog what he or she needs to do. In competition, dogs are timed & judged for faults & the total is added up for a final score. The fastest dog with the least amount of faults is the

winner. Dogs usually compete in different height & ability courses so you don't have to worry; your Chihuahua won't be against a Great Dane! Some competitions are based on the breed of the dog but others will let any healthy animal participate, pure-bred or not. There are many great websites around that sell the equipment for backyard use or you can find training facilities that will work with you & your pet.

A fun & amusing activity to watch is dog carting. Its very similar to what you imagine when you think of sledding except the

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### Fun Animal Facts:

- Cojo the 1st gorilla born in captivity, was born at the Columbus Zoo, in Ohio, in 1956 and weighed 3 1/4 pounds.
- The elephant, as a symbol of the US Republican Party, was originated by cartoonist Thomas Nast and first presented in 1874.
- A 1,200 pound horse eats about seven times it's own weight each year.

## We are Moving - It's Official!!!

The county inspectors will be coming on February 9th. As long as all is approved we will receive the keys to our new building and be able to start

transferring supplies as of the 11th.

We will then be closed for business the 13th-15th for training and moving computers etc.

Our reopen date is Monday, February 16th at the new facility.

We are very excited and hope that you are too!!

## The Importance of Dental Care



*"To his dog, every man is Napoleon; hence the constant popularity of dogs."*  
- Aldous Huxley

*"Man is dog's idea of what God should be."*  
- Holbrook Jackson

Our pets are living longer now than in the past. Today, we have better preventative medicine along with improved diagnostics to treat many diseases.

Oral disease is now the number one health problem diagnosed in pets! It is essential to provide our pets with sufficient dental care, both professionally and at home.

The cause of periodontal disease (gum disease) is the same in dogs and cats as it is in humans. It is an infection resulting from the build-up of soft dental plaque on the surfaces of the teeth around the gums. The bacterium in plaque irritates the gum tissue;

if that plaque is allowed to accumulate, it leads to infection in the bone surrounding the teeth.

Your pet may be letting you know that they are headed in this direction. There are certain warning signs you can watch for:

- **Halitosis**, bad breath, is the most common effect noted by owners.
- The gums become irritated, leading to bleeding and oral pain. Your animal may lose his/her appetite or drop food from their mouth while eating.
- Excessive drooling and/or pawing at the face/mouth.
- Swelling under the

eyes - this may indicate a **tooth root abscess**.

As a pet owner you can help prevent periodontal disease in your animal.

- **Oral exams by your veterinarian at annual visits.** A thorough exam can identify potential problems such as fractured or abscessed teeth and periodontal disease.
- **Chew Toys.** Our pets' teeth are much more sensitive than humans and have 50% less enamel coverage. Kong toys, Greenies or Pedigree Dental

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## Open House March 21st!



Now that our move is official, we are planning our Open House!

Once we have been in the new building for a couple of weeks we will hold an Open House on a Saturday for all of you to come tour our new facilities.

We are very excited that it is finally happening, we felt like this day would never come!

Our Open House will occur on March 21st from 12pm to 4pm. Refreshments will be provided and our staff will take you on a tour

of the building so you can see everything we will be doing in the future.

So save the date and come join us!

Contact us for more details.

## Dog Activities continued from page 1

cart or 'sulky' has wheels attached to make it easier over land. Many dogs can be taught to pull a cart if they are comfortable with a harness. It does require specialized gear that is available over the internet. Dogs can pull 3 times their own body weight in a cart, so large dogs can pull people and a cart. While multiple smaller dogs can be hooked together to achieve the same goal. So, whether the dog is pulling firewood or children around the neighborhood, it still gives the dog a sense of achievement and alleviates boredom that often causes unwanted behaviors, not to mention burning off those extra calories that sometimes lead to overweight pets!

Disc dog is an easy

sport to learn which can take only minutes a day to train. If your dog loves fetch, it's even easier to teach. In disc dog, a handler (you) throws the disc or Frisbee and the dog runs to catch it in mid air. In competition, dogs are judged on how many discs they can catch over certain distances and is sometimes timed. There are also competitions based on a choreographed performance of various catches in height and distance. Divisions are based off of the skill and experience of the handler. A great aspect of this sport is that every dog, whether pure-bred or not can learn and participate in this activity. Training a dog

can take a little patience at first and a lot of short throws but once they understand the concept, most dogs are very enthusiastic about going further and higher for the disc.

Obedience, racing, showmanship and hunting are just a few more activities out there for a curious owner to find. All have their benefits to the dog's mental and physical well-being. Most dogs will become much better pets and a lot of unwanted behaviors dissipate over time when a dog learns it has a job and a place in your pack. Many activities have levels and courses designed for even the most beginner in a sport and don't take very long for you and your pet to learn.



*"Ever consider what they must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul - chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!"*  
- Anne Tyler

## Dental Care continued

bones that soften as the dog chews are good options.

- **Brushing your pet's teeth.** Bacteria and food particles combine to form plaque. If plaque is not

removed, mineral in the saliva combine with the plaque and form **calculus**, also known as tartar, which adheres strongly to the teeth. The tartar is irritating to the gums and causes an

inflammation called **gingivitis**. Using a tooth brush/paste formulated for animals should be used. Human tooth-paste contains fluoride that is unsafe for our animals to digest.





## Newtown Veterinary Hospital

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### CALENDAR

February 7th - Suzanne's Birthday  
February 10th - Miriam's 13th Anniversary  
February 11th - Rob's Birthday  
February 12th - Jill's Birthday  
February 13th-15th - CLOSED for MOVE  
February 14th - Erin's Birthday  
Valentine's Day  
February 16th - REOPEN at new location  
107 Penns Trail  
February 19th - Laura's Birthday  
February 22nd - Ashley's Birthday  
March 21st - Open House 12pm to 4pm

## Our four-legged friends who have passed away

Bows Kalin, Sammy  
Bacchia, Bucky  
Bertles, Montana  
Conrad, Sam Marotta,  
Kiki John, Buckeye  
Wellman, Yogi  
Pawluczyk, Sam  
Tomlinson, Rusty Merrill,  
Cody Cabbage, Bruno Bental,  
Ziggy Khatwani, Jake Johnson,  
Millie McKee, Daisy Brainard,



Licorice Beehler, Chloe  
McCafferty, Bart  
Montgomery, Simba  
Langbein, Tuffy Todd,  
Jazzy Aldridge, Monya  
Gutman, Dottie  
Rannie, Darla Egnoto,  
Lancelot Schettino, Rossi  
Allutto  
We Will Miss Them All

## Importance of Dental Care

- **Feeding a hard/dry diet.** Dry food, biscuits, and newly-formulated abrasive diets can be beneficial in removing plaque above the gum line. Discussing nutrition with your veterinarian can help decide which food is best for your pet.

At Newtown Veterinary Hospital we have the latest technology and equipment to offer your pet quality dental care.

General anesthesia and pre-surgical blood work are required for this procedure to ensure the safety of your pet during this procedure. A dental cleaning consists of:

- **Ultrasonic scaling** to remove the plaque and tartar from the teeth above and below the gum line.



- **High water powered flushing and dental rinses** are used to remove bacteria from the mouth.
- **Fluoride treatment** is placed to strengthen the teeth and help decrease the rate of plaque reattachment.
- **Digital dental radiographs** are taken to examine the teeth below the gum line. This tool will help determine if extractions are necessary by showing the roots of the teeth. If extractions are necessary, these are done with high-speed drill and dental equipment. Post-extracted gums are closed using absorbable sutures.

www.peteducation.com and www.vohc.org