

Riverside Gazette

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Issue 1

Meet Sandy

Sandy, a 13-year old Terrier Mix, has been coming to Riverside for rehabilitation. 2 years ago, Sandy suffered a ruptured disc and since he's rear legs have been paralyzed. After surgery at Virginia Veterinary Specialists, he began acupuncture and electrotherapy with little improvement. When Riverside Rehab opened in February, Sandy was one of our first patients! Using laser therapy and swimming, the muscles in his back legs are getting stronger.



The water's buoyancy allows Sandy to spend a little time in a natural upright position; allowing us to exercise and stretch the muscles in his rear legs. Being in the warm water helps alleviate stiffness in his joints and reduce any pain. He has started wagging his tail and even moving his legs on his own! He is not quite strong enough to stand yet but we are definitely making progress. We will keep you up-to-date with Sandy's continued improvement!



10 Year Anniversary

June 20 is our 10 year anniversary and we're throwing a party! All week long, June 20 - 25, we will have specials and deals, ending with an Open House!

2006 EXAM PRICING ALL WEEK

- **Mon:** 50% off ProHeart6 with Combo Heartworm Test
- **Tues:** Free CBC with Chem Panel
- **Wed:** 2006 Merial Pricing
- **Thurs:** Buy 2, Get 1 Royal Canin
- **Fri:** 50% off Swims
- **Sat:** Open House 1p - 3p

Join Us For The Fun

Saturday, June 25 1p - 3p will be our Open House to celebrate 10 years serving the pets and families of Central Virginia!

We will be offering hospital tours, have swimming demos, adoptable pets, and food & drinks.

Also, we will be offering a **\$5 RABIES SPECIAL**, to benefit Friends of Bedford County Animal Shelter!



FeLV: What Is It?

One of the most diagnosed causes of disease in domestic cats is Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV). This retrovirus severely hinders the cat's immune system. With a weakened immune system, the cat is more likely to contract a range of infections and diseases, such as anemia, kidney disease, and lymphosarcoma. FeLV is highly contagious and spreads easily among cats that share food bowls and litter boxes. Since an infected cat may not display symptoms immediately, it is highly recommended to test any cat before introducing into a home with other cats.

How It Spreads

The virus is passed through body fluids (saliva, nasal secretions, urine, feces, and blood). It is usually passed through direct contact, mutual grooming and sharing litter boxes and food bowls. Even though FeLV does not live long outside of the body and is easily killed with household cleaners, it is highly contagious and spreads easily among unvaccinated cats.

Healthy, vaccinated cats over three months old are very unlikely to contract the virus from another cat.

Young kittens are most susceptible, but cats who are allowed outdoors are at an increased risk of infection. Unfortunately, there is no cure for FeLV and the survival rate is commonly less than three years. Infected cats usually show no immediate symptoms; which is why Riverside recommends testing and vaccinations for all cats with an unknown background and any

cat that will be outside, exposed to other cats.

Prevention is always the best treatment. Be sure your cat is tested and vaccinated regularly.

Let Us Fill Your Pet's Medications

There are several reasons why it is important to have your pet's medication filled by veterinary professionals.

Human pharmacists are not trained in veterinary medicines & dosages. There are several drugs which are used by both humans and animals; however, the strength and dosage can differ greatly between the two. Veterinary professionals use different shorthand when writing prescriptions. This again is something human pharmacists are not trained in and not used to seeing. These things make it difficult for human pharmacists to properly fill and label your pet's medications. Giving a sick pet the wrong medicine or dosage could have fatal results!

Medications filled in human pharmacies are dispensed in orange pill bottles. Medications filled in veterinary pharmacies are usually dispensed in blue or green bottles. Believe it or not, there is a reason! Having your pet's medications in a differently colored bottle makes identification extremely easy. You do not have to worry about accidentally giving your medication to your pet or vice versa.

So the next time your pet needs medication, please consider letting us fill it for you. Is your pet's life really worth the pennies you might save?

Doctor's Notes

Howdy y'all! I can't believe it will be 10 years since the birth of Riverside! It is truly a blessing to me!

As many of y'all know, I graduated vet school from Texas A&M in May 1998. Since then I've been in Bedford County and had the opportunity to work with many owners, pets, and other vets; I am very thankful for all of them!

My motto of practicing is to treat the pet patient as if they were mine. I strive very hard to be caring, compassionate and understanding to the 'pet parent' - as does my wonderful staff. I appreciate the support of the community and try to give back with support to our local animal shelter and animal rescue groups as well as FYAA, Bedford Elementary Basketball & T-Ball and Crosspoint Church.

Looking back over the years since 2006, I think that we can all agree that life has changed. With all the dynamic differences that we encounter on a daily basis, I want to stop and say a simple "Thank you". Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Riverside and her growth and stability. I want to give thanks to the good Lord, who lead me to birth Riverside. Thank you to you, the faithful 'pet parent' who trusts in me to care for your 'furbaby'.

It has been and always will be my pleasure to care for your four-legged family members. I hope and pray to continue caring for all of God's creatures in the best way possible. Thank you again for 10 great years!

I am very truly yours!
Lora Ryan, DVM '98