



# Le Sueur and Belle Plaine VETERINARY CLINIC NEWS

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## Le Sueur and Belle Plaine Clinics now specializing in small animals

The Le Sueur and Belle Plaine Clinics will now be specializing in small animals!

Beginning March 1st of this year, we will be dividing our veterinary services into two separate businesses. Dr. Susan Jones has purchased and will operate the large animal business as Minnesota Valley Veterinary Services. Drs. Ricci Kelso and Maryann Nelson will now focus exclusively on the small animal practice. The field of veterinary medicine is moving ahead so quickly, with so many new medicines and therapies becoming available every day, we all felt that it makes the most sense for us each to specialize in just one branch of veterinary medicine. Our clinic will now focus exclusively on providing the very best care for your pets!

Dr. Kelso and Dr. Nelson will be working at both the Le Sueur clinic and the Belle Plaine

clinic. They will be rotating between the two locations on a weekly basis.

The Belle Plaine Animal Hospital has new drop-off hours – 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. We hope this will help folks get their pet in to see us even on work days. We also have extended hours until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in Le Sueur, and 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays in Belle Plaine. As always, we are available 24 hours a day for emergencies.

Our mission is to focus on providing your pet with superior life-long veterinary care. We look forward to fulfilling this mission and helping your pet to have a long and healthy life.

Sincerely,

Ricci and Maryann



## Heartworm season is here!!!

Heartworm is a disease spread by mosquitoes. The mosquito bites an infected dog and ingests the heartworm larvae. The larvae (baby heartworm) matures in the mosquito. The mosquito passes it along when biting another dog. We have a lot of heartworm disease in the Minnesota River Valley and surrounding area — 50 cases at our clinics last year. Heartworm is a completely preventable disease.

Care For Your  
**RET**

There are two preventions that we recommend. The first is Heartgard® Chewable pills and the

second is the Proheart 6® injection. The Heartgard® Chewables are given every month year round for the life of the dog. The Proheart 6® injectable is given every six months. We send out reminder cards so the injection is not forgotten.

The cost of treating a 70 pound dog for heartworm disease is approximately \$600. The cost includes bloodwork and x-rays, plus the medication used to kill the heartworms. The cost of prevention for this 70 pound dog is \$65 per year. You can see how inexpensive prevention is compared to treatment.

## Employee Update . . .

# Mary Michels' time shared by Belle Plaine and Le Sueur clinics



Mary Michels, who has a hobby farm just outside of Le Sueur and has been our large animal receptionist in Le Sueur, is now working at both Le Sueur Veterinary Services and Belle Plaine Animal Hospital. Mary spends her morning at the Le Sueur clinic tending to the boarding and pound animals and cleaning at the clinic. In the afternoon, Mary travels to Belle Plaine where she teams up with Annette performing receptionist duties by answering phones, scheduling appointments, and preparing charts. Mary raises chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys on her farm, and also has colored feeder steers, Percheron draft horses, six goats, a pet duck named Uno, and a Blue Heeler mix named Shelly. Three cats have also found their way from our pound to her home. Mary loves to hatch anything in her incubator that will hatch. She is a life-time

member of Le Sueur County Pioneer Power and is the secretary /treasurer of the Minnesota Horse Breeder Association.

## Certified Veterinary Technician added



We are happy to announce the addition of Melissa Snoddy, CVT, to our staff. She will be working in Le Sueur. Melissa is originally from Hastings, MN and graduated from Ridgewater College in 2002. Melissa is an experienced Certified Veterinary Technician having worked previously in Woodbury and Bloomington. For fun, Melissa likes to shop, go to movies and eat out with friends.

## Veterinary assistant joins staff

Melissa Wolfe, our new veterinary assistant, is originally from St. Peter. She graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, with a degree in biology. Prior to Melissa's new position with Le Sueur Veterinary Services, she worked as a wildlife technician for the University of Wisconsin live-trapping white-tailed deer and testing them for chronic wasting disease. In her free time, Melissa loves being outside running or biking, and she also likes to relax by doing yoga.



## New Belle Plaine receptionist

Annette Brooks is our new receptionist at the Belle Plaine Animal Hospital and has lived in Belle Plaine for the past two years with her husband and two children on a 10-acre hobby farm. They raise pheasants, dogs, cats, and rabbits. Annette enjoys spending time with her family and walking her new



St. Bernard puppy, Taffy. She and her children are active in the Belle Plaine Girl Scouts, 4-H, and the Scott County Relay for Life.

# It's flea & tick time again . . .

Both of these parasites can be bothersome, unsightly and annoying for our pets and us.

But, did you know that fleas and ticks can transmit serious, sometimes life threatening diseases?

## FLEAS

Besides sucking blood, fleas can also transmit hemobartonella and tapeworms. We have actually seen several animals that have had most of their blood sucked out by fleas. These animals are anemic to the point of death and require an immediate blood transfusion.

Hemobartonella is a parasite that lives in the red blood cells of cats. Infected cats are jaundice and anemic from this disease. They can die within a few days.

Flea tapeworms are transmitted to dogs and cats and look like dried cucumber seeds that stick to the pet's hair under the tail.

## TICKS

Ticks are prevalent in Minnesota. In this area we have the ticks that transmit lyme disease and ehrlichiosis. Lyme disease can be transmitted to dogs, cats and humans by deer ticks. It causes a fever and then joint problems. Lyme disease can affect other systems in the body as well.

Ehrlichiosis is a disease of the white blood cells that affects dogs. The signs include high fever and lethargy. The best way to prevent these diseases is to keep the parasite off your pets.

We recommend getting flea and tick preventive on your pets before the ticks come out, and apply it frequently. Ticks come out early in Minnesota. Apply tick preventive starting in March and continuing through November.

Please call us for our recommendations on which products to use that work and are safe for your pet.

## Featured dog breed . . .

# Doberman Pinscher



A new feature of our newsletter is a focus on individual breeds of dogs. We are going to start with the Doberman Pinscher. The Doberman is a medium-size mastiff breed that has a sculpted, elegant appearance. It is sleek, well-muscled, powerful, and is usually black and tan in

coloration; although the Doberman can also be red, blue, or fawn. The Doberman is a bold, alert dog with a great deal of stamina standing between 25 1/2 to 27 inches tall and weighing between 66 and 88 pounds.

The Doberman was developed by a German tax collector, Ludwig Doberman, to act as a deterrent against thieves and muggers, as well as aggrieved taxpayers. Mr. Doberman used a variety of breeds, including the German Shepherd, Rottweiler, German Pinscher, and

Manchester Terrier which he bred together to produce the breed we now know as the Doberman.

The Doberman once had a particular reputation for aggression. Although this has now been curbed to a great extent, firm training is still necessary from puppyhood.

Features that are distinctive to Dobermans include a lean, relatively long neck, almond-



shaped eyes, a square body shape, deep ribs, compact catlike feet, and small ears set high on the head — sometimes naturally erect or may be cropped.

# Le Sueur Office Hours and Services



The Le Sueur office is extending its small animal services. We offer surgeries on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and appointments Monday through Friday. Our hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Our boarding facility is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. We offer weekend pick ups at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Our groomer is here every Tuesday. Dr. Kelso and Dr. Nelson will be seeing patients at both Le Sueur Veterinary Services and Belle Plaine Animal Hospital on a rotating basis.



**LE SUEUR**  
**VETERINARY SERVICES**  
700 North Main St., Le Sueur, MN 56058  
COMPANION ANIMALS AND PETS  
**507-665-5264 or 1-800-439-2376**

**BELLE PLAINE**  
**ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
304 S. Ash St., Belle Plaine, MN 56011  
**952-873-VETS or 952-873-8387**

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