

Pet Health Is A Priority For Barnesville Animal Clinic

By: Karen Carpenter

Pets are an important part of many people's lives. Pet owners want to look after the health of their furry friend as much as their own.

Barnesville Animal Clinic fills an important need in the community. They look after the four-legged friends that occupy a special place in many local homes.

Veterinarian Katie Ptak and Kathie Klumper and staff primarily treat dogs and cats at their clinic located in the industrial park. The doctors can look after larger agricultural animals but their clinic focuses on the smaller family pets.

Barnesville Animal Care Clinic initially was opened by Wayne Jacobs, DVM, in the mid 1990s. The office was located on Front Street.

"I purchased the practice in July 2013 and renamed it Barnesville Animal Clinic," said Katie Ptak, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Ptak later brought her sister Kathie Klumper, DVM, into the clinic on a part-time basis.

Pet owners are the first line of defense in an animal's health. "Owners are generally very

attentive to their pets," said Ptak. "They do a great job of noticing changes to their pet's behaviors or general health."

"If any change is noted at home, that is a common reason for owners to schedule an appointment with us for their pet," continued Ptak.

It is best to take the pet to the veterinarian for an exam at least once a year.

"Think of a physical exam as a diagnostic test that is screening all the different systems within the pet's body," explained Ptak.

"If there is any change or concern that is noted, then it can be addressed before it progresses. We offer blood tests to screen the health of the internal organs such as the liver and kidneys."

"Any pet could benefit from these tests since changes can occur at any point in the pet's life," stated Ptak.

Having a good check-up at the veterinary clinic for one's pet can have an impact on the owner as well. Owners usually feel better once they know their pet is healthy.

If a problem is noted in the health of the pet during the exam, it can be upsetting to the owner as well.

At Barnesville Animal Clinic,



Staff at Barnesville Animal Clinic include, left to right, front row - Katie Ptak, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Kathie Klumper, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine; back row - Kari Wilson, Licensed Veterinary Technician, Mariah Richard, Licensed Veterinary Technician, Bethany Ouse, Licensed Veterinary Technician and Amanda Haick, Veterinary Technician. Expert health care for pets is available locally.



Katie Ptak, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and owner of Barnesville Animal Clinic holds Leo. Dr. Ptak is examining the friendly feline and treating him for an ear infection.

guidance is given on a pet's weight. If a pet is overweight, a change in food or amount of food given may be suggested.

When an animal is losing weight for no apparent reason that can also be cause for alarm and should be checked out with the veterinarian.

Importance is put on preventative care at Barnesville Animal Clinic. That includes annual exams, vaccinations, flea and tick products and heart worm products.

"We don't believe every pet needs every available vaccine," said Ptak. "Instead, we like to discuss with the owner which vaccines the pet will benefit from based on their lifestyle."

"Our clients get information during their visits. The puppy/kitten visits provide several different appointments to address questions that new owners may



have," said Ptak.

The most common ailments the local veterinarians treat are ear infections, periodontal disease and allergies.

The staff at Barnesville Animal Clinic includes veterinarian technician Amanda Haick and licensed veterinarian technicians Bethany Ouse, Mariah Richard and Kari Wilson.

Pet owners can be assured that professional service is available in Barnesville to assure the health of their best and furry friends.

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