



Thanks to the Georgetown Animal Clinic, pets have the chance to lead happier and healthier lives. Dr. Ross Pezzack is seen here giving Sunshine a check-up at the clinic. (Herald photo)

Pets benefit from health kick

With such a great emphasis on healthier lifestyles in the '80s, it's little wonder that more people are taking precautions to ensure their pets have an equal opportunity to live healthier and happier.

And just as family physicians in Georgetown do their part to keep family members healthy, the Georgetown Animal Clinic and its veterinarians are doing all they can to make life comfortable for pets.

"Most people are open to suggestions we have for their pets," says Dr. Ross Pezzack of the clinic. "People who have had broken bones, or suffer from the flu understand what their pets are going through when they break a bone, or show flu-like symptoms."

The clinic, located at 4 Mountainview South, opened in the fall of 1973 and was owned, at that time, by Dr. Brian Buckrell and Dr. Dave McKewen.

Dr. Buckrell left his practice in Georgetown three years ago to take on the duties of teaching reproduction at the veterinarian school of the University of Guelph. Dr. McKewen accepted a position in Kitchener working with the government several years ago.

Their departure paved the way for Dr. Pezzack and his wife, Dr. Nancy Hull to take over the clinic. They

have operated the clinic for three years and took ownership two years ago.

Today, the clinic has a staff of five veterinarians, who can provide service for pets on a 24-hour a day basis, if needed.

The facilities, while remaining virtually unchanged on the outside since the building was built, have been updated internally to reflect the latest advancements in pet care.

"The clinic was designed very well with input by Drs. Buckrell and McKewen," Dr. Pezzack says. "Most of the expansion has been internal with new equipment added. At some point we may have to look at further expansion, but we'll be well-prepared."

The clinic deals exclusively with domestic pets, as opposed to livestock, and during the peak season which is in the summer, as many as 800 animals may be treated in a month.

Dr. Pezzack says they handle everything at the clinic from preventive disease treatment with vaccines, to offering advice on pet care and feeding, as well as coping with life-threatening diseases and injuries.

There are also limited boarding facilities available for cats and some

dogs, which may require special care, which a kennel couldn't provide.

In general, people are very conscious of the conditions of their pets, and are always open to new measures which can help their animal enjoy a healthier life, according to Dr. Pezzack.

"People are aware to the fact that new vaccines are being developed all the time. They're more health conscious, and if they can prevent disease in their pet, it makes it better."

The importance of pets to particular individuals is something that is scoffed at by many, especially given the way many choose to pamper their animal.

But Dr. Pezzack is convinced pets play an important role in families for various reasons.

"For many people, pets are their children. The value of pets for older people is greater, and it's been proven people with pets can live longer. It's good both emotionally and physically for people to have pets to look after."

And it's for that reason the Georgetown Animal Clinic will be there helping to put patients back on all fours.

A little piece of Hawaii for health spa members

There is a little piece of Hawaii in the centre of Georgetown. At least, that is how one member of the Georgetown Spa and Fitness Centre refers to her club.

The fitness centre, formerly known as the Exclusively Yours Fitness Centre, may not be Hawaii, but week by week, through renovations, the club is evolving into an ideal spot to work out and to relax. Since September the club has undergone some major changes. The remaining changes will be complete by September of this year.

Even without the renovations completed, the "club is sufficient in every way, enough to fulfill everyone's needs," says Krys Woodward, who co-owns the club with her husband Frank. The club is on Wesleyan Street, and also has an entrance on James Street.



Krys Woodward



COMFORT CREATOR-Antonette Digiallonardo is the masseuse at the Georgetown Spa and Fitness Centre. She brought her talents to the centre

A 15 x 31 foot pool for aquatic exercise classes, a spacious exercise room for low impact aerobics, and weight room are just the places for a vigorous workout. The weight room has the newest equipment, including the EM 1-2 machine which can do everything free weights can do. Peck machines, a universal gym, rowing machines, bikes, a treadmill and more are also part of the weight room.

Not all the fitness centre is dedicated to shedding pounds and shaping forms. The pool, sauna, tanning bed and hot tub are good places to relax and to enjoy. Perhaps the best place to languish in relaxation is in the chair of the masseuse, Antonette Digiallonardo.

Mrs. Digiallonardo has been at Georgetown spa since September and has 15 years experience as a masseuse. Body massages, manicures, pedicures and facials are all part of her repertoire.

There are 1,000 reasons why someone should have a massage; everyone has different needs, Mrs. Digiallonardo says. After their first massage many people say, "why didn't I think of this before?" and they frequently ask for a gift certificate for a friend.

last September. Body treatments, pedicures, manicures and facials are just part of her repertoire. (Herald photo)

"I love my job. I get to meet and help many people," Mrs. Digiallonardo says. In addition to working out the problems in muscles, Mrs. Digiallonardo is one of the fitness centre's aerobic instructors. She leads low impact classes and aquatic exercise class.

Low impact aerobics reduces the chance of injury and people enjoy the classes more, she says. The club is dedicated to helping members achieve their fitness goals. The staff will create programs for the needs of members and help them maintain those programs. "They (members) have to be determined. Otherwise they're wasting their money and our time," says Mrs. Woodward. "I take a lot of pride in what I do," she says.

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