

# Local vet clinic using laser for surgery on pets

The same laser technology being used by doctors on humans is now available for animals at a Georgetown veterinary clinic.

Dr. Tony Pacevicius of Halton Hills Veterinary Clinic said they purchased a carbon dioxide laser three months ago and they are very pleased with the results.

"It's replaced the steel scalpel for us," said Pacevicius. "Instead of cutting with a steel blade we're cutting with a laser."

"You have virtually no bleeding, less swelling and less pain," said Pacevicius. As a result, he said, recovery time is minimized.

He said they have noticed the greatest results in de-clawing cats. Before they began using the laser, cats who underwent de-clawing would have been kept at the clinic for two days, now most can go home the next day. He added individual cases do vary.

Pat Horley who works with her husband Tim, the Canadian distributor of the Accuvet laser (same as the one in the Georgetown clinic), said cats who have been de-clawed using the laser "within five or six hours they're weight-bearing on those feet."

She said there are currently more than 1,300 vet clinics in the United States using the laser and in the past 18 months they have sold about 40 to vets across Canada. She estimates in five years more than half



Dr. Dave Mills performs de-clawing surgery on a cat at the Halton Hills Veterinary Clinic using a carbon dioxide laser while animal health technician Sheri Buker assists. The clinic purchased the laser three months ago and Dr. Tony Pacevicius says the new device greatly reduces the bleeding, swelling and pain pets experience.

Photo by Ted Brown

the vet clinics in Canada will have a carbon dioxide laser.

She explained the lasers, which cost about \$45,500US, are the same type as those used on humans by dermatologists, dentists and gynecologists.

She said they are ideal for vets because they can be used for many different procedures.

"Any surgery where they would apply a scalpel they can apply a laser beam," she said.

She said the laser is absorbed 100 per cent by water, and it hits only the targeted area without touching the adjacent cells.

Pacevicius said they use it in a wide range of procedures including, neutering, spaying, removing skin growths and to do ear, eye and oral surgery.

"It's used everywhere," he said.

"It comes down to the pain," he said. "If we can minimize it this way then we're pretty excited about it."

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

## Tooth Chatter



by  
**ALEX  
TRENTON  
DENTURIST**

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: I believe that I require new dentures but I'm concerned how my appearance will be changed?

A: At the Denture Clinic we always go through a "Wax Try-In" stage. The selected teeth are set up in a wax base and fitted in your mouth. You then have the opportunity to see, in a mirror, exactly how the denture will appear, before it is completed.

As the teeth are only in wax at this stage, we have the liberty to move the teeth about, or even change the particular tooth selection. We never go beyond this step until we have accomplished exactly the natural, pleasing appearance your desire.

Q: What is a permanent processed reline?

A: A processed reline is a way of re-basing your denture from the same type of long care acrylic from which it was originally made. This will make the denture fit more snugly to your ridge.

Q: Will it change the appearance of my teeth?

A: No, it only re-fits the denture to your ridge, no change of tooth position takes place.

Q: What are soft, or cushion relines?

A: A permanent soft rubber lining is applied to the lower denture inside ridge, soft, or cushion relines are excellent alternatives for those who have sensitive oral tissue and tend to get frequent sore spots. A properly applied soft lining can provide years of comfortable chewing and smiling.

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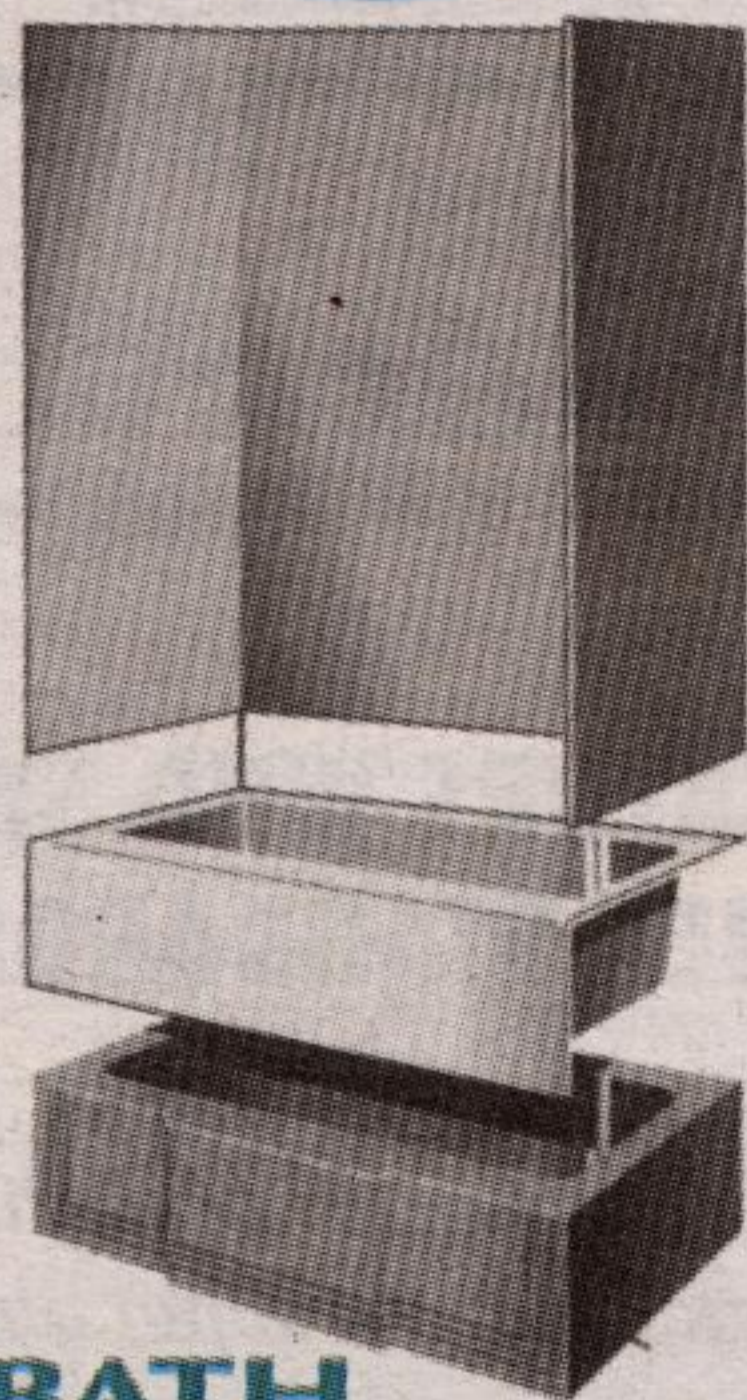
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Refreshments served

# WATER 2 The Sequel

#### Guest Leaders

**Jack Imhof** National Biologist for Trout Unlimited Canada will describe the cycle of how water does the round trip from groundwater to our taps and back to the ground.

**Damian MacSeain** Education Coordinator, Peel Water Festival and **Lesley Radman**, Technical Analyst for Water Conservation in Peel Region will graphically demonstrate what we can do to be more efficient with the water that we have.

For information or to sign up for display space, please contact the following:

Free

Dr. Jim Hamilton  
905-873-9056  
jhamilton@wlu.ca

or Ms. Ruth Kuchinad  
905-877-3676  
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