

AGAH

“PAW PARENTS”

A COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Spring 2021, Volume 2



Hello! We are looking forward to welcoming you back inside the hospital, which will re-open on July 1st! Your understanding and patience throughout this challenging time has been greatly appreciated. Below, please find information which will guide you through this process. Thank you!

Welcome
Back Inside!

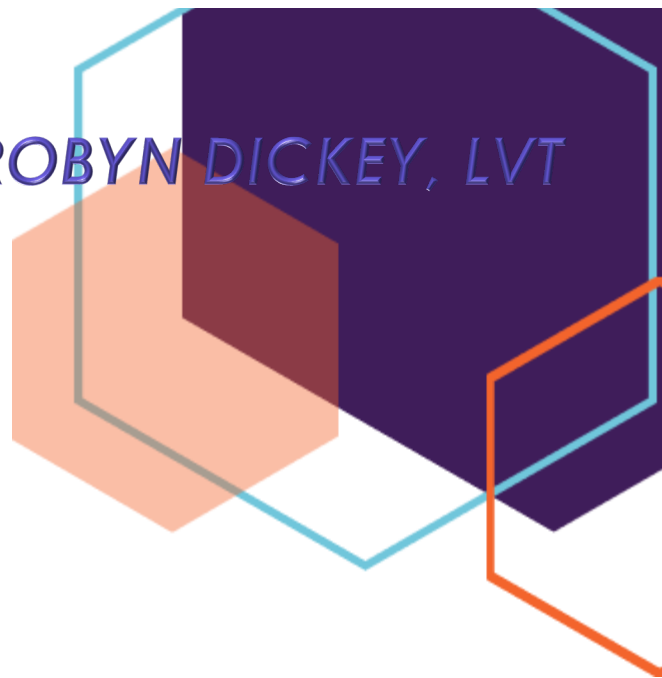


Aquia-Garrisonville
Animal Hospital

Here's What You Can Expect!

- Please stay in your car until a staff member comes to get you
- **We are only allowing 1 person per pet (max of 2 people for multiple pets) in during appointments**
- Masks are required if you are not fully vaccinated. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, we encourage you to do so
 - Our fully vaccinated staff may choose to not wear a mask
- We ask for social distancing in the exam room, when possible
- We will explain the checkout process after your appointment to prevent congestion in the lobby

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT ON ROBYN DICKEY, LVT



We have been happily associated with and proud of Robyn since December, 1999, who has been a Licensed Veterinary Technician since 1995! Her varied responsibilities at AGAH include performing exams, administering vaccines, venipuncture, radiology, offering anesthesia, triaging emergency patients, inpatient and outpatient nursing care, administration of medications, client education, laboratory responsibilities and much, much more! She also provides new employee education and reviews prior to the end of their training. It is extremely important to Robyn that patients feel better after surgery and assisting their owners in understanding what continued treatment is necessary and how to provide the care necessary to keep their pets safe and comfortable as healing proceeds. Personally, she enjoys going to the beach, reading, scrapbooking, and traveling. While at home and relaxing, she loves her time with her two cats, Flash and Raven, and her Great Dane mix, Lil Anne. We at AGAH all believe Robyn is awesome...and in the words of a fellow LVT, Jackie, "She is always in a good mood and so much fun to work with! Her knowledge and compassion is evident in everything she does!" Congrats, Robyn, our Spotlight Employee!!

Pets are humanizing. They remind us we have an obligation and responsibility to preserve, nurture and care for all life.

Lyme Disease...what is it and how does it affect your pet?

Lyme disease is a tick born disease that is now endemic in Virginia. It is carried by the deer tick or black-legged tick, which is very common in the woods of Stafford and the surrounding counties. Acute Lyme disease can cause fever and swollen joints, causing the dog to appear as if “walking on eggshells”. Additionally, your dog may first be diagnosed by a positive test that we utilize when we test annually for heartworm using the Idexx 4DX test. The first time your dog is diagnosed with Lyme disease, an antibiotic will be prescribed to help reduce the clinical manifestations of the disease. Unfortunately, once a dog contracts the disease, it can be very difficult for the body to fully clear so bloodwork and urine samples will need to be followed throughout the pet’s life to monitor kidney functions if the body is unable to fully clear the organism.

To help prevent Lyme disease, we advise regular flea and tick control plus an annual Lyme disease vaccine, especially for those pets that live near or frequently explore a wooded area. Treating the yard and having it fenced to help prevent the infestation of wildlife can offer additional protection for both you and your pet. If your pet does get a tick on them, do not use your hands to remove it. If the tick has recently attached, you may be able to remove it by “spinning it”. To accomplish this, put saline eyewash on a Q-tip and spin the tick with the moistened Q-tip until it releases. Then place the tick in rubbing alcohol to kill it. If it does not immediately release, then use gentle traction using fine tweezers.

This article contributed by AGAH veterinarian, Dr. Margaret Minnich