

# OUR STORY



The practice began in 1977 by a large animal veterinarian working out of his home with one ambulatory vehicle. From that humble beginning the practice grew to be known today as Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center. We set the standard for all veterinary care throughout Coweta County and were the first to offer 24 Hour Emergency Care to our clients. We were also the first to be accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and have maintained that accreditation since 1991. Our experience, dedication, and commitment has made this practice one of the most progressive, successful, state-of-the-art Hospitals in Coweta County. We accept nothing less than excellence from our doctors and staff.

## Our Mission

It is the mission of Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center to be **the premier veterinary hospital** by setting the standard of excellence and providing the highest quality of Veterinary Care.

## Our Core Values

**Excellence  
Commitment  
Compassion**



## Our Vision

Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center will be the most highly regarded companion animal hospital in Coweta County. Our patients and their owners will be treated like family and will be provided the very best customer service and medical care available.



The Standard of  
Veterinary Excellence

Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center is among the 12 percent of animal care facilities in the nation certified by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). To achieve AAHA distinction, our hospital passed comprehensive inspections of our veterinary practice, management, facilities and medical equipment.

Commitment to the AAHA Standards and the Accreditation Program demonstrates that we have chosen to be measured by an outside organization against the most rigorous published standards in the industry.

Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center  
24 Hospital Road  
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Phone: 770 253-3416  
Website: [www.dogwoodvet.com](http://www.dogwoodvet.com)

# OUR DOCTORS

**Our philosophy is simple:** We pledge to give all our patients the highest quality medical and surgical care, treating each pet as if it were our own. We are your partners in pet care, and we're happy to provide support and information enabling you to give your pet the best possible care at home, including proper nutritional advice, wellness programs, and senior care.

Good communication between doctor and owner is a very important part of pet care, so we encourage you to ask us questions about the treatment we give your pet. We promise to give you the information you need to make well-informed decisions regarding your pet's health from pediatric to geriatric.



**Dr. Pamela Johnson-Crosby** started out with a BS in Mass Communications in 1987. However, she realized that her true interests lie in Veterinary Medicine. Graduating in 1995 she joined Dogwood and in 1999 she became a partner. Her focus is in total wellness specializing in dermatology, cardiology and internal medicine.

She continues to challenge herself and the staff to provide the best care using the latest veterinary techniques and medical advances. Constantly researching new ideas and treatments, she brings the latest in veterinary care to Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center.



**Dr. Wayne Morris** grew up in Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia with his DVM degree in 1978. He worked in Coweta County as a large animal veterinarian specializing in bovine reproduction. In 1985 he and his business partner built Dogwood Veterinary Hospital. Retiring from large animal medicine in 2000 his current focus is in orthopedic surgery, general surgery, veterinary orthopedic manipulation and dentistry.

Dr. Morris well known for his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) repair, one of the most common knee injuries in dogs. Performing over 15 surgeries per week, Dr. Morris is also experienced in other surgical procedures such as mass removals and gastro-intestinal surgery among others. Your pet is in capable hands with Dr. Morris and his years of experience.

**We are Your "Other Family Doctor" !**

**Our staff** is a GREAT team, with the right mix of skills and backgrounds, and has been carefully chosen to provide the best care for your pets. All staff members participate in continuing education programs and have special interests or areas of expertise within the practice. All, of course, have pets of their own.

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# HOURS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

**HOURS:** Monday through Friday --- 7:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Sunday - Closed

We open our doors at 7:00 am (8:00 am on Saturday) and do not close for lunch. Understanding that time is valuable we make every effort to be accommodating to our clients by extended hours, being on time for client appointments, and offering emergency services.

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**EMERGENCY SERVICES:** We provide local 24-hour Emergency Service for our regular clients.

For Emergency Service please dial our regular office number:

**770 253-3416**

When you call our number for Emergency Service after hours, you will reach the Voice Mail system for Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center. Follow the instructions given in the recorded message. One of our veterinarians will be paged and will return your call promptly.

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**CHARGES FOR SERVICES:** Fees charged for services are based on amounts needed to maintain the high quality of care we are proud to provide. Payment is required at the time of service. For your convenience, we do accept all major credit cards, and Care Credit. Please call and speak with one of our account specialists to see if you qualify for Care Credit.

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**WEBSITE:** Please visit our website at [www.dogwoodvet.com](http://www.dogwoodvet.com) for monthly specials and important newsletters. Also sign up for **PET PORTALS**, a FREE personalized, private, secure website where you can:

- ◆ View your pet's health information
- ◆ Order prescription refills
- ◆ Request appointments
- ◆ Post photos of your pet
- ◆ Search our extensive online pet health library
- ◆ Print proof of vaccinations

If you're not using your Pet Portal yet, log on today to discover the benefits of managing your pet's health online! To log on to your Pet Portal, visit our website at [www.dogwoodvet.com](http://www.dogwoodvet.com) click on, "Pet Portal LOG IN, Get a FREE Portal!"

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# PAIN AND STRESS MANAGEMENT

**C**LASS IV LASER THERAPY is a high-power therapy laser provides safe, non-invasive solution for pain management, wound healing and rehabilitation!



K-Laser received its FDA clearance for human use in January, 2005 and became available to the veterinary profession a year later. Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center was one of the first to invest in Class IV Laser Therapy for its patients.

High-energy laser therapy can penetrate deeply into the body to diminish pain and stimulate healing. Many pets suffer from chronic pain due to arthritis caused by hip dysplasia, spondylosis, traumatic injury, etc. A class of drugs, non-steroid anti-inflammatories (NSAIDS), has provided significant relief from pain, but long-term use of these drugs can have some undesirable effects. In addition, some animals are NSAID-intolerant.

Cats are particularly sensitive to some of these medications, so there are fewer pain-management options available for the feline patient. K-Laser provides a safe solution for them.



K-Laser is a new type of therapeutic laser that can provide remarkable relief from chronic pain. During each painless treatment, laser energy increases circulation, drawing water, oxygen, and nutrients to the damaged area. This creates an optimal healing environment that reduces inflammation, swelling, muscle spasms, stiffness, and pain. As the injured area returns to normal, function is restored and pain is relieved. Treatments last about 2 - 5 minutes per site and are completely comfortable for the patient.

**D**IGITAL RADIOLOGY provides a quick, easy way to assist in the diagnosis of bone issues, muscular skeletal, gastrointestinal, and other internal organs.

Just like a digital camera, radiographs (x-rays) are instant and accurate reducing the stress on your pets. They provide a permanent record that could be emailed for further study.

**L**ASER SURGERY is the most advanced surgery technology.

The precision of the Laser allows our surgeon to only affect or remove the target tissue, leaving the healthy surrounding tissue untouched. The laser seals nerve endings and blood vessels resulting in ***less pain, bleeding, and swelling thus reducing healing and recovery time.***

**Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center employs the very latest equipment to care for and monitor your pet during all procedures.**

# OTHER SERVICES

## **E**ducational Services - At Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center we believe that prevention is the best medicine!



We offer **Nutritional Counseling** not only to maintain your pet's proper weight, but also to help with common allergies and certain disease processes (kidney, liver, and cardiac conditions), as well as specially formulated food to help with dental care.

Many owners do not realize that their pet may be overweight. Weight and nutrition are important aspects of pet care and they should not be overlooked. Overweight pets face several dangers such as: Heart disease, painful joints, increased risk of arthritis, increased risk of diabetes, and problems during anesthesia and recovering from surgery. Pets with healthy weights (as recommended by your veterinarian) can live up to two years longer!

**D**ental Services - **Pets with routine dental care typically live longer and healthier lives.** Pets with dental disease constantly release bacteria from their mouth into their bloodstream (i.e. bacteremia), resulting in inflammatory changes in the heart, liver, and kidney tissue in otherwise healthy animals. This problem may be exacerbated in pets that already have other existing disease.

### **PERIODONTAL DISEASE IS A MAJOR HEALTH RISK FOR YOUR PET.**

- It is the *most common disease* in small animal practice.
- It is **PAINFUL**. Most frequently, pets with oral pain "suffer in silence".
- It is **PREVENTABLE** (the term for prevention is "*prophylaxis*").



**D**ermatology - **Pets, just as people, suffer from allergies and skin issues.** We specialize in getting to the root of the problem. Constant licking, hair loss, bald spots, vomiting, and diarrhea could all be signs of an allergy. We utilize special testing and treatment to help solve dermatology issues facing our pets.



**We also specialize in other pets such as Reptiles, Guinea Pigs, Rabbits, and Ducks, as well as "Pocket Pets" -- Hamsters, Rats, and Mice.**

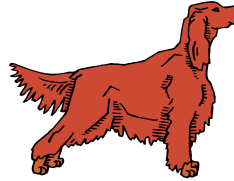
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# WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Many humans still believe that one human year is equal to 7 animal years. That is not very accurate, since dogs and cats reach adulthood within the first couple of years. Other factors such as breed, nutrition, health, living conditions, and activity level all play an important role in the age of your pet.



Calculate the age of your cat:  
Consider the rapid growth and aging during the first two years and then add four human years to each cat year.



Calculate the age of your dog:  
Consider the rapid growth and aging during the first two years and then add four human years to each dog year.

Cat Years	Human Years
5 months	10 years
8 months	11 years
10 months	13 years
1 year	15 years
2 years	24 years
3 years	28 years
4 years	32 years
5 years	36 years
6 years	40 years
7 years	44 years
8 years	48 years
9 years	52 years
10 years	56 years
11 years	60 years
12 years	64 years

If you own a young pet between 16 weeks and 7 years of age, the time to achieve and maintain "wellness" (i.e. great health) is now. Dogs and cats age much more quickly than we do. Even if you bring your pet to the vet once per year, that can be compared to you or I only going to see our physician every seven years. It is during these years that proper diet, exercise and habits, will play the greatest role in preventing future illness. We have several broad goals in seeing you and your pet twice per year:

Dog Years	Human Years
5 months	10 years
8 months	13 years
10 months	14 years
1 year	16 years
2 years	24 years
3 years	28 years
4 years	32 years
5 years	36 years
6 years	40 years
7 years	44 years
8 years	48 years
9 years	52 years
10 years	56 years
11 years	60 years
12 years	64 years

1. **To do a physical exam** to detect signs of illness before they become severe. Some of the most common things your veterinarian looks for includes underlying ear and eye disease, skin lumps and hair coat abnormalities, dental tarter and gingivitis, body conditioning (overweight or underweight), heart murmurs, arrhythmias, abnormal chest sounds, lymph node enlargements, abdominal organ enlargements, and skeletal diseases such as arthritis.

- To provide diagnostics and treatments** that promote wellness. Examples of diagnostics include heartworm/lyme/ehrlichia testing in dogs, leukemia/AIDS testing in cats, fecal parasite detection and baseline blood and urine testing in both cats and dogs. Examples of treatments include vaccinations, dewormings, heartworm and flea/tick prevention, dental care, and diets/supplements.
- To educate and guide you** in developing habits to promote wellness in your pet. This may be our most important role: to pass along to you the most recent knowledge and medical advances that can help your pet lead a long and healthy life. The amount of material we need to cover during a routine annual exam can seem overwhelming. So please hold onto your seat because it is information you need to know in order to make educated decisions regarding your pet's well-being.

You can "slow the clock" and promote healthy, long lives for your pet by having your pet examined every six months for a wellness check and vaccinations.

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# PROTECT YOUR PET

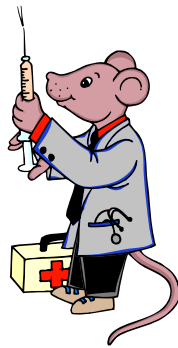
Your pet depends on your protection in many ways. The common things they need are shelter, food, water, exercise and love. However, diseases spread by other animals are an ever pressing threat to the health of your pet. We live in a high risk area for diseases spread by other animals such as ticks and mosquitoes. Benjamin Franklin was right in saying **“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!”**

**Vaccines are an important protection for your dog.**

**DHLPP:** This vaccine is for canine distemper, parvovirus, hepatitis and leptospirosis. These diseases are typically spread by dogs, fox, coyote, raccoons and rodents.

**Rabies:** This viral disease is fatal for dogs and cats. Rabies are almost always transmitted via the bite of a rabid animal (often a skunk, raccoon, fox or bat).

**Bordetella:** This vaccine is for an upper respiratory infection that is highly contagious between dogs.



**Vaccines are important for both inside and outside cats.**

**FVRCP:** This vaccine protects against Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Chlamydia and Panleukopenia. Transmitted by saliva, mucus and other secretions of acutely ill cats.

**Feline Leukemia:** The feline leukemia virus can infect cats by saliva or nasal discharge, biting, or sharing food and water dishes.

**Rabies:** Rabies is mainly transmitted through the bite wounds of infected mammals and is highly contagious.

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Year around Heartworm Prevention is crucial in Georgia! Heartworms are easy to prevent in dogs and cats by a simple monthly pill or topical, however, very dangerous and costly to treat once the pet gets heartworms. Year around Flea and Tick Prevention is also necessary to prevent transmission of disease.

Proper nutrition is a MUST! Don't be fooled by the label on the bag of dog food or cat food. If you are not familiar with what makes up the ingredients listed it can be quite misleading. Allow us to educate you or give you a recommendation about the proper food for your pet. Good quality food can be tailored to the type of pet you have to prevent and/or manage health issues that are common among that breed.

Take care to feed your pet only pet food (no table food), feed measured amounts once or twice a day, and limit treats. Remember to always provide lots of fresh, clean water at all times.

Other ways to protect you pet:

- ◆ Microchip your pet. A small chip is implanted just under the skin between the shoulder blades and if your pet is lost or stolen a simple reader will identify your pet and help reunite you with your pet.
- ◆ Identify toxic foods and plants and keep them out of your pets reach.
- ◆ Remember Dogwood Veterinary Hospital and Laser Center provides **24-HOUR EMERGENCY CARE!**

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# SENIOR HEALTH CARE

**Old age is not a disease**, but age increases the chance of a health condition and is often manageable if caught early enough. Both cats and dogs are considered “Senior” at the age of seven with consideration of their breed, health, nutrition, and activity level. Diseases and conditions that are commonly known to affect older people also affect our companions: Kidney, Heart and Liver Disease, Tumors, Cancer, Diabetes, Depression, and Arthritis to name a few. Understanding these changes and how you can provide for your pet’s needs are essential to **quality of life**.

## What's happening to my older pet?

Body parts affected by the aging process.



In the early stages some of our senior problems may not be obvious and the gradual onset of health problems, in an apparently healthy pet, often go unnoticed. Diagnostic tests such as a complete blood panel, complete blood count, thyroid levels, urinalysis, thoracic and abdominal radiographs or ultrasound are an important means to evaluate your pet’s health.

### Steps to Better Health --

You are the one who cares for your pet - day in and day out - and therefore you may notice subtle changes in your pets behavior or physical abilities. Take a few moments to review the signs of possible problems, then discuss them with your veterinarian. What may look like normal signs of aging could actually be early signs of a manageable health condition.

#### SIGNS OF POSSIBLE PROBLEMS:

- Just not acting right
- Difficulty climbing stairs or jumping up
- Change in sleep patterns
- Increased stiffness or limping
- Weight change (gain or loss)
- Discoloration/tartar on teeth
- Bad breath/red or swollen gums
- Change in hair coat or skin
- New lumps or bumps or itching
- Vocalization
- Increased thirst
- Increased urination
- Loss of housetraining
- Less interaction with family
- Coughing
- Tires easily
- Confusion or disorientation
- Behavioral changes - aggression, fear or shyness

#### A SENIOR EXAM MAY INCLUDE:

- Physical Examination:** A through examination of the patient including a complete inspection of the Heart, Lungs, Ears, Eyes, and Teeth.
- CBC/Biochemical Profile:** An extensive series of blood tests that will evaluate your pet’s internal organs, including Heart, Liver, Kidneys and Pancreas.
- Thyroid Panel:** A blood test to measure the level of thyroid hormones in the blood. If left untreated, thyroid disease can cause serious health problems.
- Radiographs of the Chest and Abdomen:** These will show if there are any major or minor abnormalities in the chest or the abdomen.
- Blood Pressure Test:** Older pets are subject to high blood pressure.
- Electrocardiogram (ECG):** Monitors heart rate and electrical rhythms for abnormalities, if needed.
- Urinalysis:** This checks for abnormal levels, which can indicate diseases including liver disease, kidney disease and diabetes.
- Urine Culture:** Detects bacterial infections or any other abnormalities.
- Fecal Analysis:** A stool check for internal parasites.
- Ultrasound Screening:** Diagnostic testing to check the heart and abdomen.

NOTE! Cats hide symptoms and pain much more than dogs. So keep a close watch for changes in your aging cat.

**If your pet exhibits any of these conditions please discuss them with your veterinarian.**

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