

Community Pet Hospital opens in Firestone



Photo by Jen Reeder

Dr. Terry Watrous, right, examines Barkley, a 13-year-old Sheltie mix, while Michelle Luft, a technician assistant, assists.

By Jen Reeder
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FIRESTONE – Firestone has a new resident: Community Pet Hospital opened its doors on Nov. 17. The satellite branch of the Thornton veterinary facility – which has been in service since 1959 – will cater primarily to cats and dogs.

“We’re very excited to be part of the Firestone community,” said Jim Nash, hospital administrator. “One of our core values is to offer the highest quality of medicine, compassion and care to all of our patients.”

Nash said the hospital uses the same medical equipment available to humans, which is used in an x-ray machine room and a surgical suite for operations ranging from routine spays and neuters to advanced fracture repairs and exploratory surgeries. Records are stored electronically and linked to the 24-hour emergency critical care practice in Thornton so that if a local pet needs overnight attention, it can be easily transferred south to the facility. It also saves the pet owner the

additional expense of an exam.

“There will be a continuity of care that other hospitals can’t provide,” Nash said. “Their medical history, lab results and radiographs would be available immediately to the attending doctor.”

But the Community Pet Hospital is a full-service operation in its own right, with four consultation rooms, an isolation unit for contagious pets, a run area and a comfort room for euthanasia.

“It’s more comfortable,” Nash said. “We can create a space that’s a little more like home, a nicer way to say goodbye to a family friend.”

As people extend their lives, they also want their animals to live longer, which has led to a higher demand for geriatric care, Nash said.

“There’s so much more focus on wellness – it’s not just about getting shots,” he said.

A major component to that approach is dental care, which adds years to a pet’s life by cutting down on bacteria in the body, according to Dr. Terry Watrous, the hospital’s primary veterinarian.

“Whenever they eat, if they have

enflamed gums, bacteria can get into the bloodstream,” Watrous said.

That bacteria impacts liver and kidney function in cats and can even lead to heart problems in dogs, he said. The hospital provides dentistry services to prevent these problems, providing teeth cleanings, extractions and digital dental radiographs.

Community Pet Hospital takes a progressive approach to vaccinations, rotating them within a three-year protocol based on the needs of the animals that are discovered during exams, as well as their lifestyles, Nash said. The hospital also implements a “lifetime surveillance” of each pet based on laboratory tests and exams.

“It provides a baseline for when a pet is sick, and allows us to identify a disease or potential disease and catch it before it gets too far along,” Nash said.

The hospital staff invites the community to attend the grand opening on Dec. 13 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Guests will enjoy food, drinks and prizes while touring the hospital and asking staff questions. Nash is also hoping there will be an exhibition by the Colorado Disk Dogs, a Frisbee dog club.

Dr. Watrous, who works in the hospital five of the six days it’s open, is eager to get started.

“I’m definitely looking forward to meeting people and establishing relationships with pets and clients in the area,” he said.

Appointments are encouraged but walk-in visits are also welcome, Nash said.

Community Pet Hospital is located at 6050 Firestone Blvd., Suite 203, in the King Soopers Plaza. For more information, call 303-652-5222, or visit www.communitypethospital.com.



Photo by Jen Reeder

Vet Tech Kaley Rea comforts Princess, a 13-year-old domestic shorthair, before her teeth cleaning at Community Pet Hospital on Nov. 20.

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