

# COUNTRYSIDE'S PAWPRINT PRESS

Countryside Animal Hospital—970-223-7789—vet@countrysidevet.com

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Summer 2018

## SUMMER HEAT ON THE BEAT

### *Working Dogs: Spotlight on the Larimer County K9 Unit*

The Larimer County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit continually proves to be a major asset to local law enforcement and the community. K9 teams respond to violent calls, building searches related to alarms or reports of forced entry, fleeing subjects, searches for missing or endangered children/people, and narcotic calls. The K9 Unit aids in reducing the number of man hours spent on these calls (between 800-1,000 man hours per year), while increasing the safety



of the deputies and the community. These K9 teams also assist in other tactical groups such as SWAT, Northern Colorado Drug Task Force, along with federal agencies. The Larimer County K9 Unit currently has five certified police dogs.

With summer temperatures on the rise, keeping police dogs cool during these hot months can be very challenging since they often sit in parked police vehicles while the officer responds to a call or emergency. Plus, working outside on duty in the summer heat can certainly make work more difficult. In rare cases, extreme heat can even be fatal. Technology is quickly changing that!

A dog can be overcome by heat exhaustion in a matter of minutes. Circumstances can vary depending on the length of time and temperature of the heat exposure, as well as the dog's breed and age. In general, younger dogs may not be affected as quickly as older dogs. Although these highly trained dogs wear special ballistic vests (weighing about 15 lbs) to keep them safe on duty, police departments also protect law enforcement K9s against overexposure to heat with **cooling vests**.

Cooling vests (weighing about 2 lbs) absorb heat from the body rather than using a material to cool the body. This heat-extracting or exotherm technology is also used for military

personnel, medical procedures and sports fitness purposes. To activate the vests, they can be submerged in ice water and are then worn for about an hour. The cooling vests are not bulletproof yet provide some blunt-force trauma protection.



In addition to the cooling vests, *sensor technology* has been designed to read the temperature inside the squad car. When a police dog must be left unattended in the vehicle, a pager-like device on the officer's belt receives a signal from the sensor when the temperature inside the car has risen too high. The sensors can be set to trigger at a specific temperature set by the officer. Thus, the officer can let the dog out of the vehicle right away once signaled.



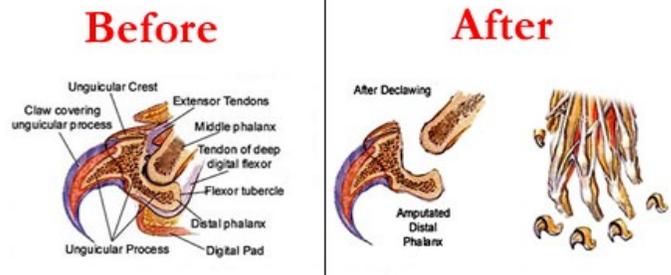
When Larimer County Sheriff's Office K9s retire due to age or injury, they can then be adopted by their loving deputy handler and family to live out their much deserved retirement years. Extensive, long-term medical care for these retired police dogs is common due to their years of hard-working community service. The medical bills then become the responsibility of the deputies and their families. The Larimer Retired K9 Foundation was created by a member of the LCSO K9 Unit to help these dogs enjoy their well-earned *golden years*. For more information, visit <https://larimerretiredk9foundation.com/>.

## Denver Bans Cat Declawing

Denver's proposed bill to ban the declawing of cats passed unanimously 4/30/18 during a Denver City Council meeting. **Denver is the first city outside of California to enforce a cat declawing ban.** The ordinance is effective immediately. In the United States, declawing is prohibited in the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, Culver City, West Hollywood, and Burbank. New York and New Jersey are currently considering similar bills.



Declawing, or onychectomy, is the operation to remove an animal's claws surgically. This surgery involves the amputation of all or part of the distal phalanges (end bones) on the animal's toes. For people, it would be the equivalent of removing the last knuckle on each finger. Declawing is extremely painful and requires the cat to take



pain medication for weeks. It can also lead to physical and behavioral complications for the kitty down the road such as litterbox aversion and a sense of defenselessness. **Countryside Animal Hospital does not perform this procedure, but we are happy to discuss declawing alternatives and the prevention/redirection of destructive scratching.** Knowing your cat's personality and scratching habits will help tremendously in the process of finding what works best for you and your furry companion.

# Countryside's Superstar

## WHISPER

**Meet Whisper!** This dapper **20 year old** fellow is a Siamese mix who comes in for subcutaneous fluid therapy twice weekly at Countryside Animal Hospital to help treat his renal disease. Needless to say, Whisper certainly continues to warm the hearts of his Countryside family each week!!

**Whisper's owner, Laurie, shares his story...**



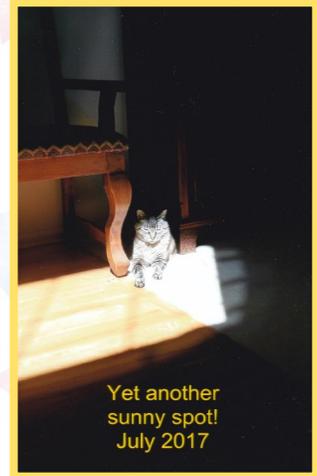
Whisper  
Photo taken  
by Kaela  
March  
2017

"Twenty years ago, in March of 1998, our then 28-year-old daughter rescued Whisper, his mother, and 5 siblings from a drainage ditch in Tempe, AZ. Interviews were arranged and all of his siblings and their Mom went to good homes. However, there was just something special about Whisper and our daughter felt that he should live with us. At the time, we were preparing to move to Fort Collins from Scottsdale, so another daughter opened her home (in Tucson) to Whisper until we were settled into our new home. My husband and I spent the holiday season of 1998 in Tucson and Whisper flew back with us to begin his new life in Fort Collins in January of 1999. I had noticed Countryside Animal Hospital in my travels on Timberline Road when I began living and working here in September of 1998. I stopped in one day and was so impressed by everything about Countryside that I knew it would be the right place for Whisper's medical care. I could not have known then what a long and loving relationship we were about to have!

Whisper was a very handsome animal from the start and his blue eyes are very compelling and wise. He could size up a situation in a big hurry and he decided that the less he had to come for medical attention, the better! He was 11 pounds at his heaviest and had a little paunch that disappeared at 10 pounds...a good fighting weight for him. He got his shots on schedule and aside from a teeth cleaning or two, he was very healthy and let the staff know (via a good hiss!) that he really didn't intend to visit them often. Whisper welcomed our oldest granddaughter into the family almost fourteen years ago with open paws! He was happy to greet our 9 1/2 year old granddaughter whenever she visited from Arizona. Additionally, he was a real gentleman about our taking in two other female cats when he was younger. One of them (a 10-year-old Calico) is with us now and they are buddies. And he was not unhappy when our grand-dogs visited...just curious about Labradors!



Life was good for Whisper until January of 2017 when he seemed lethargic and not interested in eating. The diagnosis was renal disease and we began coming in twice a week in February for subcutaneous fluids that help to flush toxins from the kidneys. The fluids perk him up and seem to stimulate his appetite and he does drink a lot of water too. We changed his crunchy food to a renal support variety and found canned food that he loves with no more than 10% protein. Whisper also has a packet of probiotic (FortiFlora) each day (a small amount sprinkled into each feeding) and the right amount of Miralax in the morning and night time feedings so that he is a "regular guy"! He can count on fresh water (with ice cubes) in multiple bowls morning and night and lots of treats. He does not put up a fuss about going to Countryside for his fluids as he knows all of the vet techs and they are so kind to him. He no longer hisses, but seems grateful for the help he is receiving. His blood work in February of 2018 was full of happy surprises where certain levels were concerned and we are just trying to maintain his weight around 8 pounds at this time. I do get up in the middle of the night to give him an extra plate of canned food as I never want him to feel hungry. We offer as much as he'll eat.



Yet another  
sunny spot!  
July 2017

Last June our granddaughter scooped Whisper up for a picture on her 13th birthday and commented that it was wonderful to spend another birthday with Whisper...#14 is just around the corner! We feel that everyday with Whisper is a blessing and as long as he's enjoying his life, we will keep this routine in place. He continues to move about our home to bask in the sunny spots. We have been given wise counsel by Drs. Kerry and Speights and I like the "HHHHMM" guideline: Hurt, Hunger, Hydration, Hygiene, Happiness, Mobility, and More good days than bad. Whisper is still getting all A's in the above categories and when his grades start to slip from renal disease, we'll make the hard decisions. For now, we just eat and "party hearty" at these milestone birthdays. He is a cherished member of the family and no one is ready to say goodbye quite yet. After all, 20 years is a lot of "Whisper Love!"



**By Whisper's mother, Laurie Beals**

**WAY TO GO SWEET BOY!!**

# Pet Licensing Basics

Gorgeous summer months spark the wanderer in all of us, including our furry companions. For our pets it is all the more tempting to venture outside of the house or yard, so here is the basic information regarding licenses. In the event your pet was picked up by Animal Control, the silver license tag provides **identification and a ticket home**. On a county level, **Larimer County** requires the registration of dogs only. On a city level, **Fort Collins, Wellington and Loveland** require all cats and dogs to be registered; **Timnath** only requires dogs. Therefore, fines would be assessed accordingly if your pet was not licensed at the time he/she was obtained by Animal Control.

## LICENSING MADE EASY:

1. Provide proof that your pet's rabies vaccination is current.
2. Complete the License Application.
3. Provide the required fee(s).

## ANNUAL FEES:

- Animals 4 months to a year of age: **\$12**
- Animals 1 year or older, spayed or neutered: **\$12**
- Animals 1 year or older, not spayed or neutered: **\$35**

## **\*\*\*Fees for Senior Citizens (age 62 and older):**

- Animals 4 months to a year of age: **\$5**
- Animals 1 year or older, spayed or neutered: **\$5**
- Animals 1 year or older, not spayed or neutered: **\$35**



**LARIMER HUMANE SOCIETY**

*Larimer County and Timnath residents may elect to purchase a voluntary Cat License for \$5*

*Replacement License Tags: \$2.50*

## **For more information or to purchase a license contact:**

Larimer Humane Society 3501 E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street, Loveland 80538  
970-226-3647 (extension 201) [www.larimerhumane.org](http://www.larimerhumane.org)

## Urine Lawn Burn

Maintaining lush green lawns becomes the name of the game in summertime. During these hot months, many owners become concerned when their dog's urine causes the lawn to develop circular brown spots. Some of the factors contributing to urine lawn burning include:

- **Type of grass**
- **Concentration of urine**
- **Timing of lawn watering**
- **Quantity of the urine deposited**

### What To Do If Your Dog's Urine is Burning the Lawn

1. Train your dog to urinate in an area specifically set aside for that purpose, like rocks in your yard.
2. Replace the existing lawn with more urine tolerant grass varieties.
3. Frequently water those spots on the lawn where your dog urinates.
4. Encourage your pet to drink an adequate amount of water by always providing fresh, clean water.
5. If there is a **sudden** onset of urine lawn burning from your pet, it may indicate a urinary tract problem necessitating a visit to your veterinarian.
6. It is strongly advised to avoid supplements for your dog that advertise less urine lawn burning as they are not proven effective and could change your dog's urine pH in an unhealthy way.

