

FIREHALL 4

• ANIMAL HOSPITAL •

February 2024 Newsletter

We love our Firehall 4 Family! Will you be our Valentine?! This month stop by our Valentine's Photo Booth to join the raffle for a Pet Spa Day!! Your furry family member will be Valentine's Day ready after a bath, nail trim, and ear cleaning topped off with a cute Valentine's bandana!

A CLEAN MOUTH SAYS "I LOVE YOU!"

February is Dental Awareness Month! Here are AAHA's 10 facts you need to know to protect your pet's oral (and overall) health!

- ♥ Dental disease begins early in life! By the age of three, most dogs and cats have some degree of dental disease.
- ♥ Dental disease is one of the most common health issues in veterinary medicine.
- ♥ Dental disease ultimately leads to significant, chronic pain in pets.
- ♥ Dental x-rays are essential for diagnosing dental disease as half of their teeth lie under the gumline and can't be seen!
- ♥ Anesthesia makes dental evaluation and treatment safer, more effective, and less stressful for your pet.
- ♥ Non-anesthetic dentistry is stressful, unsafe, and ineffective.
- ♥ Removing plaque and tartar from teeth beneath the gumline is vital.
- ♥ While brushing our pet's teeth is a great way to slow down the progression of dental disease, it is not effective in removing disease already present.
- ♥ Homecare is an essential part of taking care of your pet's oral (and overall) health.
- ♥ Not all dental products are created equal. You can find a list of recommended products here! <https://vohc.org/accepted-products/>

Early detection and treatment of dental disease is vital to protecting your pet's mouth. Did you know we offer free dental consultations with a trained staff member? Well, it's true!

Schedule your pet's free consultation today!

BEFORE A DENTAL CLEANING



AFTER A DENTAL CLEANING



SIGNS YOUR PET MAY HAVE DENTAL DISEASE

- ♥ BAD BREATH (HALITOSIS)
- ♥ EXCESSIVE DROOLING
- ♥ BLOOD LEFT ON CHEW TOYS
- ♥ PAWING AT THE MOUTH
- ♥ REDUCED APPETITE
- ♥ CHEWING ON ONLY SIDE OF THE MOUTH
- ♥ DROPPING FOOD
- ♥ RELUCTANCE TO EAT OR PLAY WITH TOYS

GET TO KNOW A TEAM MEMBER

Jessica Stevens, Pet Stylist



Jessica is a certified groomer who will be joining our team this month! She has been grooming professionally since 2007. In 2010, Jessica opened Classic City K9 Grooming which operated until 2022 when Jessica retired from full-time dog grooming.

She is AKC SAFE certified and regularly attends continuing education seminars. Her goals with dog grooming are to provide a positive experience for both the client and the dog.

She lives outside of Athens with her husband and daughter, their Pug mix Boo, and two horses.

We are so excited to have Jessica join our team and we can't wait for her to meet our amazing patients!

DID YOU KNOW WE'RE AAHA CERTIFIED?

AAHA certification is achieved through exceeding stringent quality standards that encompass all aspects of veterinary medicine, from pain management to medical record-keeping, and committing to a path of continuous improvement. Unlike the human health world, accreditation of animal hospitals is voluntary. An AAHA accreditation is just another indication that our hospital offers high quality, gold standard medicine – which not only positively impacts our patients, clients, and team but also raises the bar for the entire veterinary profession.

Learn more about our AAHA certification and what it means for your pet here: [AAHA](#)



FALL IN LOVE WITH LOVE!

Love is a sweet terrier mix that was brought to us from Athens Clarke County Animal Control after being rescued from her unsanitary living conditions in September 2023.

Despite being severely malnourished, weighing only 9lbs with severe muscle loss, and having almost no fur on her body, she was always very affectionate and trusting of us here at Firehall.

Love presented to Firehall severely anemic and hypothermic. One of her eyes had a severe corneal ulcer requiring intensive therapy to avoid surgery.

After receiving a life-saving blood transfusion and intravenous fluid therapy, Love continued to surprise us with her amazing resilience.

Love spent many nights and weekends at Dr. Noellert's house so she could be monitored closely.

Since her hospitalization, Love has been fostered through Athens Clarke County Animal Control and has been renamed Jin. We receive frequent photo and weight updates from her foster mom and are so happy to hear that she is thriving.



MEET A PATIENT

Dior Barnes, Banana Pied Ball Python

Dior is a banana pied ball python that was a 16th birthday present for his owner.

Dior is a very calm fella that loves to be held and enjoys napping with his mom. He is a joy to have as a pet and is dearly loved by his mom and her family.

Our team loves when Dior visits Firehall as he is so relaxed for his appointments and such a joy to work with.



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