

Tuxedo Animal Hospital
All for the Love of Animals
by
Brian Campbell

If you are planning to be a veterinarian, it is very helpful to have a deep and abiding love for animals. This is especially the case for both Dr. Stavros Iacovides and Dr. Pat Dorval, co-owners of Tuxedo Animal Hospital. Both admit to having a love for animals from a very young age and both turned that passion into a lifelong career.

Tuxedo Animal Hospital has been operating since the 1990's, but Dr. Iacovides joined the staff in 2002 and Dr. Dorval in 2003. During that time, many things have changed for the Hospital. Stavros said, "It was pretty quiet when Pat and I first started here. Originally, it was just the two of us. Now we have four full time veterinarians and one part time veterinarian. Plus we have a great support staff that backs us up."

"So it has really grown," Pat added.

Tuxedo Animal Hospital currently has 12 to 15 staff, most of which are full time, and some of whom have been around longer than Stavros and Pat. They consist of four full time and one part time Animal Technologists; receptionists, pre-veterinary students and veterinary students, who could be doing everything from holding animals, walking dogs, cleaning kennels, taking x-rays and much more.

They are truly a full service Veterinary Hospital. In addition to offering general medicine, surgery and dentistry. "Stavros does Endoscopy work," Pat said. "He is one of the few veterinarians who do that."

"We have added reproductive medicine," Stavros stated. "So breeders can come and consult with one of our veterinarians."

They also offer animal physiotherapy and acupuncture, provided by Sylvia Lavalee, who is a qualified human and animal physiotherapist. "She is very busy," Stavros said.

Other than general medicine, each veterinarian has their own speciality. Stavros specializes in Endoscopy; Pat does feline medicine and surgery; Dr. Jonas Watson is very good with exotic animals; Dr. Joselyn Bongiorno is great with dentistry with small animals. Stavros said, “Everyone offers different strengths in different fields.”

The average day at Tuxedo Animal Hospital would see around 50 animals, consisting of regular appointments and surgical appointments coming in regularly. Every veterinarian has a surgery day where, officially, all they do is surgery, although they often see appointments as well. The veterinarian handling appointments is seeing a patient every 15 minutes to half hour.

“It can be quite unpredictable,” Pat said. “Some days are smooth, and some days are anything but routine. We never turn a sick animal away. If someone calls with a very sick animal, we find a way to see them.”

“It is very interesting being a veterinarian,” Stavros said with a laugh. “You can have your surgery hat on for about an hour, then you are a microbiologist for half an hour, then a dermatologist for 45 minutes, then all of a sudden it is trauma and life in the ER.”

But, no matter what is thrown at them during the work day, Stavros and Pat wouldn't have it any other way. “We have a great group of people here. It is nice to come to work and see the people that we have here,” Pat said. “Our clients are great, and it's nice to work with animals. It's enjoyable.”

“When you are part of a team and you enjoy your teammates, it makes it easy to come to work,” Stavros added. “And the challenge of making a sick pet feel better, or just to see the people and pets you've formed relationships over the years. That can be very rewarding.”

Although many of Tuxedo Animal Hospital's patients come from Tuxedo, they can range all over in the city, and even beyond. “In fact, we have clients in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut and in Churchill,” Stavros said. “We have been going there every September since 2003, to we do spay and neutering, and see ant treat pets for four days straight, 14 hours a day.. We used to set up in the hockey rink, but recently they have begun setting up a makeshift vet clinic for us. We send one vet and support staff every year, so all doctors take turns.”

“Churchill is newer. One of our vets go up twice a year to service the pets in Churchill,” Pat added. “And sometimes people send their pets from Rankin Inlet and Churchill down to us.”

“Everybody who works within these four walls is so dedicated to the pet’s wellbeing,” Stavros said. “The number one goal is to make sure that your pet is as comfortable as possible.”

Pat added. “I am always impressed with the love and dedication that pet owners have for their animals.”

To find out more, go to tuxedoanimalhospital.com check them out on Facebook, or drop by the hospital and say hello.