



Tail Waggin' Times

The latest in innovative holistic treatments blended with conventional medicine.

www.riversideanimalclinic.net

Mobility Class Coming to Riverside

Our team is now offering a Dog Mobility Class for any dog that needs help improving its movement and physical well-being. Many dogs face the issue of reduced mobility due to age, arthritis, weight or genetic issues. Our class will teach you how to improve mobility, identify and work through your pet's trouble spots and learn techniques developed in our holistic program to prevent long term disabilities. You don't have to be a client of Riverside Animal Clinic McHenry to attend the group. The instructor is our much-loved and knowledgeable veterinary assistant Nancy.

Please come fifteen minutes ahead of time to give your pet a chance to settle in and have a relaxing cup of tea while getting to know the other pet owners in this class. Reservations will be limited and we will use the space in our pet store to hold our sessions.

Mobility Class will be held on Tuesdays starting March 6 through March 27 at 6:30 PM at Riverside Animal Clinic. Cost is \$40. Please bring a yoga mat and comfort items for yourself. Mats are provided for your pet. Dogs attending this class must be comfortable and quiet in a group environment to maintain the quality of the class for other attendees. Please consider your dog's ability to stay calm in a group before registration.

[RSVP for Dog Mobility Class](#)



Holistic Medicine Solves Complicated Case Involving Troubling Behaviors

Cloud enjoyed most days romping with her owner around a horse farm. She'd been happy her whole life and well-loved. With at least one long daily walk and many adventures weekly, Cloud

was a well-adjusted and very well cared for Australian Shepherd. With gorgeous blue eyes and a wavy gray merle coat, Cloud was admired many times a day by all the people she'd come to know. Her life was about as good as it gets for a dog.



Then some troubling behaviors started to happen when Cloud was 9. They didn't really seem like much of anything at first. Weird behaviors. Certainly not a list of symptoms that would grow into a long list of unknowns that didn't fit any conventional veterinary medical diagnosis. It started with licking the floor. Her owner could justify this in a lot of ways. Itchy tongue? Boredom? Tastes good? But after months the floor licking became more intense. A need, not just an odd behavior anymore. The intense need to lick that floor came with a new symptom. This time weight gain came on. And for what reason? An active busy dog even busier now with her intense floor licking obsession. The solution seemed to be to up the exercise and cut her food. She was getting older. It made sense.



And when cutting back and walking more didn't end the weight gain and the cycle of constant licking of the floor, something else had to be done. Veterinary appointments continued and so did the mystery of the weight gain, the compulsive licking and now irritability and constant panting in the evening. "Could be a lot of things," they said. When it wasn't any of those conventional diagnoses, it was time to see a specialist.



The specialist was in internal medicine. Cloud lay quietly for her abdominal ultrasound while her owner looked on and waited for what she hoped wasn't grim news. The ultrasound was needed to check her internal organs, especially her adrenal glands, liver and kidneys. All of those were clear which was a relief. The specialist said the dog was simply fat and that was the root cause of all of her unsettling behaviors. With advice to diet and exercise, Cloud was dismissed.

Knowing Cloud was getting worse by the

day, her owner spoke with Dr. Carlson about Cloud's health. And within minutes, the long road of mysterious symptoms and suffering turn a sharp turn for the better. "Have you heard of Sundowner syndrome?" said Dr. Carlson. "No," her owner said. This had never been considered in all the appointments for Cloud.

Sundowner syndrome is associated with cognitive dysfunction in humans but in dogs it's part of a complex mix of symptoms caused by atypical Cushing's disease. Sundowner syndrome is marked by repetitive behaviors (floor licking), agitation (panting), irritability and restlessness. Sometimes dogs displaying this syndrome become clingy. Cloud would only settle down at night if she knew that everyone in the house was in bed.

Dr. Carlson prescribed a list of inexpensive natural and integrative treatments for Cloud. One of the most important was upping her B12. He directed the owner to make and freeze ice cube trays filled with raw hamburger and corn in a 3:1 ratio. Cloud got some raw beef and benefitted from the vitamins and amino acids daily. With that natural hit of nutrients, Dr. Carlson then layered on a group of medications, natural and pharmaceutical grade. He chose lignans, a flax derivative that supports adrenal function. Also in the mix, a dose of melatonin and the drug amitriptyline.

Healing started slowly. Cloud looked forward to her afternoon beef and corn snack. And after a couple of months she looked like her old self. She was trim again, stopped licking the floor, quit panting all evening and settled into sleep without worrying what everyone else was doing. She does like to stay close to her owner but is now feeling as close to her old self as possible. This is great news around the horse farm as Cloud attends many local horse shows and is watching over the barn for her owner again. Good work, Cloud and Dr. Carlson is so happy with your recovery!

[More on the Riverside Holistic Program](#)



February is Pet Dental Health Month and Responsible Pet Owners Month

February is Pet Dental Health Month. We have added service and discounts to our pet dental cleaning prices this year. All prices are good through the end of April. Remember, our team has dozens of years of experience in dental cleaning, extractions, radiology, sealing and minor restoration, Dr. Carlson performs all extractions and the services you receive include a full panel blood, not just a partial panel. See the coupon for reduced cost dental cleanings below.

Also, this is Responsible Pet Owners month. Coming in February we will post a series of informational blogs to our website www.riversideanimalclinic.net. The posts range in content from handling divorce and pet "custody" according to the new Illinois law, saving money for pet care and planning for pet care in your will.

[Read the Riverside Animal Clinic Blog](#)

Dental Cleaning

10% OFF

+ Free Nail Trim and

Go Home Dental Care

Kit

Schedule Your Pet's Appointment
via Email

We are celebrating Pet Dental Health Month with 10% off your pet's cleaning, pre-anesthesia blood screen and fluids. Also, our caring staff will offer a free nail trim for your pet and a go home kit to help you care for your pet's teeth at home for a total of \$54 in savings. Dental special valid Feb-April 30, 2018

Buy a Cold Laser Package of 3, Get a Free Treatment

Responsible Pet Owners Month Special Wellness Discounts: Total Body Health Lab, Basic Custom Holistic Test or any pet store item 10% off through February 2018.

Jim Carlson DVM CVA CVTP | Riverside Animal Clinic McHenry | 815-344-7716 | riversidemchenry@gmail.com | www.riversideanimalclinic.net

