

INDIAN TRAIL



ANIMAL HOSPITAL

# Tales from the Trail

March 2025

*Spring is almost here!*

*We can already smell the flowers, hear the birds chirping...and hear the dog shaking his head and chewing his feet?!? For many of you who have allergic dogs and cats, you know these sounds all too well.*

Most of our allergic patients have atopy which is an environmental allergy. The usual culprits are trees, weeds, grasses, dust and storage mites, and yes, cats. Luckily, we have many ways to keep our itchy friends comfortable and prevent flare-ups before they occur. It is important to keep our pets on proper flea control (such as Bravecto, which lasts for 3 months) all year as flea bites can act as “flare factors” for atopy and food-allergic pets.

We also have medications, Apoquel and Cytopoint, that can be given as soon as we recognize that your pet is itchy.



If we stop the itch early, we can stop the development of secondary skin infections and rashes that cause itch, too! We may also utilize skin calming shampoos and sprays, but every pet and family has different needs, so please bring your pet in to see us at the first sign of an allergic ear or skin flare-up so we can help them enjoy the spring with you!



**Indian Trail Animal Hospital welcomes Dr. Kelsey Stover to our team this month! She is a North Carolina native who graduated with her veterinary degree from NC State in 2017. She enjoys all aspects of companion animal medicine, but has special interests in feline medicine and musculoskeletal disease and treatment.**

**Dr. Stover is a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist (Chi Institute) and is currently pursuing her Certified Companion Animal Therapist (CCAT) certification through NC State. In her spare time, Dr. Stover enjoys playing the fiddle and learning bluegrass music with her husband Cory, rock climbing, traveling to new cities/countries, reading, and hanging out with her two dogs Ginny and Dobby, and two cats Raven and Hedwig.**



# Vet Camp 2025

*Vet Camp is back! Registration is open on our website and social media. There are Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon options this year for age-banded groups from Kindergarten to 12th grade.*



*We are excited that our friends at Carolina Wildlife Rescue will be sharing information about the animals in their care again and we'll continue our fun and educational programming. We look forward to seeing our younger animal enthusiasts this summer!*

**VISIT [INDIANTRAILANIMALHOSPITAL.COM](https://www.indiantrailanimalhospital.com)**

**Vet Camp Registration Is Open For 2025!**

We have Saturday and Sunday afternoon programs this year!

See below for more information or [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)



*Rachel Tate is our camp counselor, who grew up in Matthews NC and began working at Indian Trail Animal Hospital at the age of sixteen. Her passion for animals has led her to pursue a degree in Biology at North Carolina State University, where she is a junior. After graduation, Rachel intends to apply to veterinary school and continue to work with animals!*

**Anesthesia Update!** Our brachycephalic friends (*Bulldogs, Frenchies, Boston Terriers, Pugs, and Persian cats, to name a few*) are quite adorable but often present us with specific challenges. One aspect of care in which they need special attention is anesthesia and sedation. Their unique airways can predispose them to breathing concerns pre- and post-operatively and to aspiration pneumonia secondary to regurgitation. **This tendency has led to the updated medical recommendation that all brachycephalic breeds receive anti-nausea medication before their procedure and a pro-kinetic agent called metoclopramide to keep the fluids moving down the tract rather than back up!**

*In most cases, the anesthesia of brachycephalic dogs and cats goes as smoothly as for any other patient, as long as we prepare for and adjust to their needs. Our veterinarians are happy to answer your questions before your brachycephalic breed has their next procedure, but rest assured that we are keeping updated on current medical recommendations for this special patient population.*

