

# Foxridge Mews & News



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## ***SPRING IS HERE!***

It seems the groundhogs' predictions about an early spring were quite accurate this year! While the clinic's mailbox did take a hit during a snowstorm, it has otherwise been such a mild winter.

We have been enjoying getting to meet many long-time and new patients these past months! We are always looking for ways we can serve you and your pets better, and welcome any suggestions! Please email us at [info@foxridgevetcare.com](mailto:info@foxridgevetcare.com).

## ***ABOUT US***

*Our vision:* We left behind a corporate-owned practice because we wanted to practice high-quality, individualized medicine while also providing staff with a positive, supportive working environment. We witnessed first-hand how corporate control of veterinary practices can reduce the quality of patient care by raising prices, reducing support staff, and limiting time spent with patients. We want to take the time to get to know you and your pet and work together to find the best treatment plan for everyone.

# MARCH IS PET POISON PREVENTION MONTH!

Even the most conscientious owner will likely have a pet ingest something they are not supposed to at some point. Sometimes the substance is not harmful or causes nothing more than mild digestive upset, but other times it can be life threatening.

The most important thing is to get help immediately if you believe your pet has ingested or come into contact with a toxic substance. The earlier treatment is initiated, the better the outcome. The Pet Poison Helpline is a 24/7 animal poison control service that provides veterinary advice over the phone if you are worried that your pet has ingested something toxic during hours when our clinic is not open.



According to the Pet Poison Helpline, these are the most common dog and cat poisons:

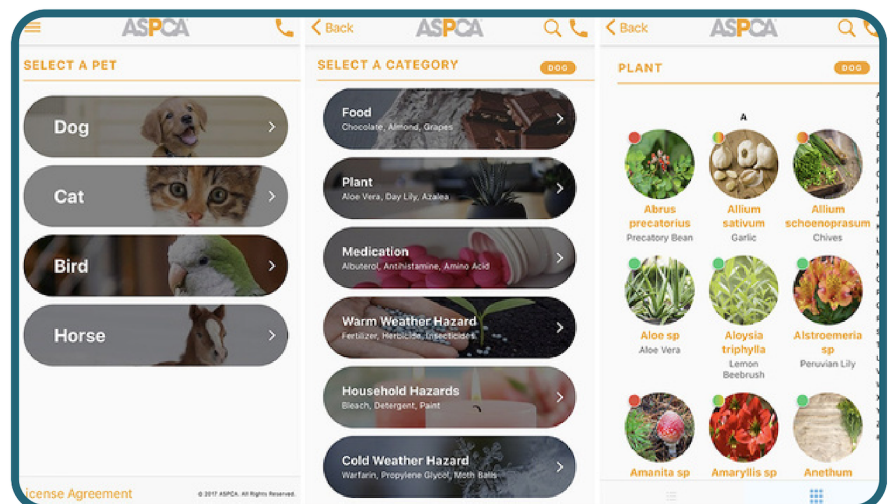
## Top 10 Dog Toxins

1. Chocolate
2. Rodenticides
3. Anti-inflammatory medications (ibuprofen, carprofen, naproxen)
4. Xylitol (sugar-free candies, diet foods)
5. Grapes and raisins
6. Anti-depressants
7. Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
8. Vitamin D supplements
9. Stimulant/ADHD medications
10. Fertilizers

## Top 10 Cat Toxins

1. Lilies (Day, Tiger, Easter)
2. Topical flea/tick meds for dogs
3. Household cleaners
4. Anti-depressants
5. Essential oils
6. Anti-inflammatory medications (ibuprofen, carprofen, aspirin, naproxen)
7. Rodenticides
8. Stimulant/ADHD medications
9. Onions and garlic
10. Vitamin D supplements

Another helpful resource is the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center (ASPCA APCC) app. This free mobile app, available for both iPhone and Android phones, contains information on over 300 toxic substances with pictures, potential severity, and potential signs of toxicity. It also allows you to contact the ASPCA's Poison Control Center by phone.



Dogs are much more likely than cats to get into toxins, but one feline toxicity we are especially worried about this time of the year is lily poisoning. Easter lilies are beautiful, but all parts of the plant are highly toxic to cats, resulting in acute kidney failure.

**No Lilies for Kitties**

Many cat lovers don't realize the danger of these common flowers. Protect your feline friends and don't bring these lilies indoors or gift them to homes with cats.

**Cats & Lilies Don't Mix**

TIGER LILY      ASIATIC LILY      DAY LILY      JAPANESE SHOW LILY      EASTER LILY

Noliliesforkitties.com

## Reyna's Turkey Day Tale

Vets' pets get into toxic things, too! Dr. Allen's dog, Reyna, ate an entire bottle of children's ibuprofen on Thanksgiving day in 2022. The toxic dose for her weight was 900 mg, but she had ingested 2,400 mg. Dr. Allen acted fast and induced vomiting and gave activated charcoal to absorb any medication not vomited up. The biggest risks of medications such as ibuprofen are gastrointestinal ulceration and bleeding, and kidney damage. Reyna was started on GI protective medications and given IV fluids for several days to help her body combat the effects of the toxin. Thankfully, Reyna made a full recovery.



# NEW OPTIONS FOR CHRONIC PAIN IN PETS

## REFERRAL PROGRAM

Refer someone to Foxridge Veterinary Care and **both** of you will receive \$25 off your next visit!

Pain from osteoarthritis (OA) is extremely common in our pets: it is estimated that **at least 1/3 of all dogs, and 80% of dogs over 8 years of age, have evidence of pain** from this disease, according to the Morris Animal Foundation. The prevalence in cats is even higher: **60% of cats 6 years and older, and 90% of cats over 12 years of age have evidence of this disease**. Pain from OA affects our pets' well-being, and their relationship with us. Chronic pain can cause loss of interest in activities pets used to find enjoyable, as well as behavior changes such as fear and aggression. Your dog or cat may not be "just getting old" or "grumpy."

In the past, veterinary medicine has had limited options to relieve chronic pain. We relied on non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs, such as carprofen, similar to ibuprofen for humans), dietary modification, weight management, joint supplements, and complementary medical therapies (chiropractic, laser, acupuncture) to help relieve the pain of OA.

While NSAIDs can greatly improve dogs' comfort, they do come with the risk of serious side effects, such as stomach ulcers and kidney and liver damage. Some dogs cannot tolerate these drugs due to significant GI upset, or are on other medications, such as steroids, that prevent their use. There are no NSAIDs approved for long-term use in cats. In addition, we as owners have to remember to give the medication every day or twice daily, and our pets have to be willing to take them!

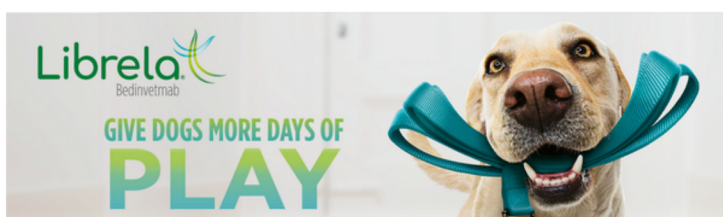
Thankfully, we now have new tools in our toolbox to address chronic pain from OA. Nerve growth factor (NGF) is a substance made in the body that is elevated in inflammatory conditions such as OA, and results in both acute and chronic pain. Solensia for cats and Librela for dogs are species-specific monoclonal antibody treatments. The antibody binds to NGF, preventing it from activating pain receptors. Solensia and Librela have been used in Europe for several years and have finally received FDA approval here in the United States in September 2022 for Solensia and November 2023 for Librela.

Solensia and Librela are monthly injections given at your veterinary clinic. While it may take two or three doses to see full benefit, the results are often noted much sooner. Both doctors, and many of the staff at Foxridge have used these drugs in our own pets and have noticed great improvement in their comfort! Side effects are minimal to rare, most commonly pain at the injection site, although vomiting and diarrhea have been reported. Similar to a vaccine, there is a small risk of serious allergic reaction.



**Is OA affecting your cat?**

[CatOAChecklist.com](http://CatOAChecklist.com)



**Does your dog have signs of OA?**

[DogOAChecklist.com](http://DogOAChecklist.com)

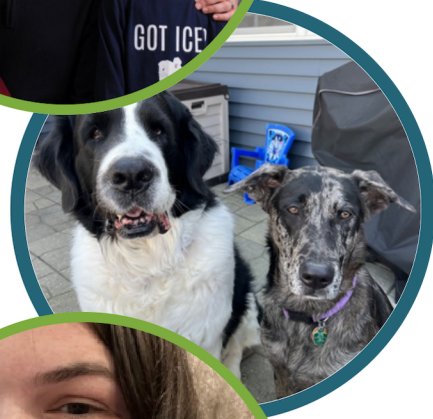
It can be difficult to notice signs of OA and pain when you see your pet every day, but a thorough veterinary exam can allow us to pick up on changes early. We can then work together to develop a treatment plan to delay progression and improve your pet's comfort and happiness.

# GET TO KNOW THE STAFF: DR. ALLEN

Dr. Sheryl Allen Gould is happy to be a veterinarian and owner of Foxridge Veterinary Care. She grew up in the tiny town of Footville, WI and went to Orfordville Parkview High School. Sheryl attended UW-Madison for undergrad, receiving her Bachelor's degree in Biology. In college, Sheryl played trombone in the UW Marching Band and played club ice hockey. There she also met her husband, Erik, playing intramural volleyball.

Dr. Allen graduated from UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine in 2014 and then did an intensive 1-year internship in small animal emergency, medicine, and surgery at Purdue University. She has previously worked at veterinary clinics in McFarland, WI and Beloit, WI, prior to becoming one of the founders of Foxridge Veterinary Care.

Dr. Allen lives in Evansville, WI, with her husband, Erik, and two boys: Derek (7 yrs) and Dawson (5 yrs). Dr. Allen still enjoys playing hockey and volleyball, as well as watching her boys' play many sports. As a family, they love to travel the world (now up to 16 countries). Dr. Allen is a skilled baker, renowned for her "litter box cake", made for the staff to celebrate Vet Tech Week. She shares her life with dogs Macy (9 year old Newfie/St Bernard) and Reyna (2 year old Lab/Shepherd/Cane Corso); cats Zephyr (15), Nick (10), and Pebbles (3); and hamster Zam, short for Zamboni.



*Yum!*



## Connect with us!

- 📞 608-836-0600
- ✉ info@foxridgevetcare.com
- 🌐 www.foxridgevetcare.com
- 📷 @foxridgeveterinarycare
- 📘 /foxridgeveterinarycare

