



May 2010

**Beckett & Associates
Veterinary
Services, LLC
Links**

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Beckett & Associates Veterinary Services, LLC online pet store allows you to buy all your pet supplies instantly and at your own convenience. We offer everything from pet health products, to toys and treats.

No time to go to the pet store, that's okay [Order Online](#) and have your pet supplies delivered to your home.

**Contact
Beckett & Associates
Veterinary
Services, LLC**

860-659-0848
1269 Main St

Beckett & Associates Announcements



Due to overwhelming success, we are extending the "Haul-In" Discount to any appointments made during the week. We will also be offering another Saturday, MAY 29th!

- You haul your horses to our clinic (no farm call)
- Scheduled appointment time
- Preventative care exams, vaccinations, Coggins testing, dentals & sheath cleaning all available
- 5% OFF your Total Bill!



[Contact us](#) today to schedule your appointment!

Are those expired medications on my shelf safe to use?



Often times horse owners have accumulated a menagerie of medications over the years. In an effort to be non wasteful and save money, clients often ask veterinarians whether or not it is safe to use these drugs if they are expired. Little is known about the risk involved with administering expired oral medications however, the expiration date is the time in which the drug can be expected to work effectively. Therefore, in order to achieve the appropriate response to treatment, it is best to use non expired medications. This will save money in the long run with quicker response to therapy, fewer veterinary consultations, and avoiding potential medical emergencies due to expired drug administration.

Emerging Therapy for Osteoarthritis in Small Animal

Platelet Rich Plasma Therapy by Dr. Andrew Flint

Osteoarthritis is a major problem in small animals, especially with dogs. Arthritis occurs after injury or often to dogs which are very active at a young age. The clinical signs of arthritis include trouble rising, pain when walking or after playing,



Glastonbury, CT 06033

Office Hours

Monday - Friday:
7:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Saturday:
8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.

24-hour Large Animal
Emergency Coverage

Helpful
Reminders

Are you planning on showing or traveling with your horse or farm animal this year? Be sure to contact us ahead of time so we can ensure your pet has all of the proper paperwork and tests before heading out of town.

Pet seasonal allergies are quite common. Symptoms may include a discharge from eyes, itchy ears and itchy skin. Treatment can include medications, allergy testing, food changes or bathing. Our doctors will help you determine which options are best for your pet.

The heartworm medications Heartgard & Revolutio aren't just for Heartworm – they are also for internal parasites. By staying on one of these products year-round, your pets' incidence of internal parasites, including the zoonotic parasite hookworm, will be drastically reduced!

limping, or generalized stiffness. There are numerous current treatments available to help alleviate the pain and inflammation associated with arthritis. Current therapies include non-steroidal drugs such as Metacam and Rimadyl, joint supplements, Adequan to help lubricate the joints, laser therapy, and acupuncture. All of these treatments can work very well and have been used for many years to great effect. For those pets which are still having problems there is a new treatment now available.

Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) therapy utilizes your pets own blood to treat arthritis. Platelets are involved in clotting, but also have anti-inflammatory action which is useful in helping your pet. PRP has been used in horses for a few years in helping treating tendon injuries and joint problems, and within the past year has been available for small animals. Beckett and Associates is one of two hospitals in the state who offers this new treatment.

The procedure entails sedating your pet, drawing their blood, and then filtering the blood. The filtrate is then injected into the affected joints. This is all done in our hospital and does not require an overnight stay. The filtered blood has a high concentration of platelets, white blood cells, and progenitor (stem) cells. These three cells help alleviate the pain from arthritis.

Most pets show an improvement within the first few days after treatment. This initial improvement lasts roughly two weeks. After that time there is a period of one to two weeks where the pet will show clinical signs once again, they then rebound and show great improvement, being able to live an active pain free life. The first phase is due to the anti-inflammatory aspect of the treatment, and the second happens as the body responds to the treatment. The first dog injected is still doing well almost one year after having the treatment. This new treatment is very promising and is available here at Beckett and Associates.



Protect Yourself and Your Pet: Be Online Pet Pharmacy A.W.A.R.E.

Compliments of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine

- "Affordable pet prescriptions!"
- "Pet meds at discount prices!"
- "No prescription required!"
- "Your best source for pet meds!"

If you've ever searched online for prescription pet medicines, you've no doubt seen eye-catching, attention-grabbing claims. They sound convincing in their promises of convenience and lower prices. But are these claims really true?

Internet sites that sell pet drugs can be reputable pharmacies. However, others are fronts for businesses breaking Federal, State, and sometimes, International laws. Illegal online pharmacies may sell medicines that are counterfeit, outdated, mislabeled, incorrectly formulated, or improperly made or stored. These medicines may not contain the actual drug, or the correct amount of drug, may contain contaminants, may not work as well due to age or being stored in conditions that were too hot, cold, or humid, and may not have the proper directions for use. If you are unhappy with ordered products, illegal online pharmacies may fraudulently leave you with no way to get your money back. In the end, you may find buying prescription pet medicines online costly to your pet's health and your wallet.

If you find a cheaper medicine online, ask your veterinarian to consider matching the price. Many veterinarians are willing to competitively charge based on the online price you've found (and can show proof of). You should also know that neither the drug maker nor your veterinarian will stand behind a product's guarantee if you purchase the product online.

If you still want to purchase your pet's prescription medicines online, remember there is no fool-proof way to tell if an online pharmacy is legal. However, you can protect yourself by doing your homework

Ear Infections are no fun for kids or pets. If your pet's ears are itchy, have a bad odor or a discharge, medical treatment is important. When your pet has wet ears from swimming or bathing, dry them inside and out to help prevent problems.



Pet Angels provides animal lovers a direct link to local rescues in Connecticut. Our Pet Lost & Found allows users to search for their lost pet or post a found animal. Visitors can also put up their animals for adoption.

Pet Angels was created by Beckett and Associates Veterinary Services, LLC and is a free service to those looking to adopt or rescue their next – or first – pet.

Visit [Pet Angels](#) to find out more

and being online pharmacy **A.W.A.R.E.**

A— Ask Your Veterinarian

Before you purchase online, talk with your veterinarian! Your veterinarian supports you and wants what's best for both you and your pet. Ask your veterinarian questions, like: "Do you trust the internet pharmacy site?", "Have you ever worked with the company?", and "Have other clients used that site?" If any of the answers are "yes," what were your veterinarian's experiences?

W—Watch for Red Flags

When buying from online pharmacies, keep an eye out for red flags. Be careful if the...

- *Site does not require veterinary prescriptions for prescription drug orders.* Websites that sell prescription veterinary medicines without valid veterinary prescriptions for them are breaking the law. Under the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act, a pharmacy can't sell you a veterinary prescription drug without a valid prescription or other type of order from a licensed veterinarian. Online questionnaires or consults don't take the place of valid veterinary prescriptions. Sites that sell drugs without requiring valid veterinary prescriptions rob both you and your pet of the protection provided by a veterinary physical exam.
- *Site has no licensed pharmacist available to answer questions.* Can someone answer your questions about your pet's medicines?
- *Site does not list physical business address, phone number, or other contact information.* If something goes wrong with your order, can you get in contact with them?
- *Site is not based in the US.* If an out-of-country site fraudulently takes your money, there's not much the US government can do to help you get your money back.
- *Site is not licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy where the business is based.* If the business is based in the US, check to see if it is properly licensed in the State where it is based by contacting that State's Board of Pharmacy. Contact information for each State Board of Pharmacy is available on the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) website: <http://www.nabp.net/ftpfiles/NABP01/ROSTER.pdf>.
- *Site does not protect your personal information.* Keep yourself safe from identity theft! Make sure the site you use is secure.
- *Site's prices are dramatically lower than your veterinarian's or other website's prices.* If it seems too good to be true, then it probably is.
- *Site ships you medicine that you didn't order or that looks very different from what your pet normally takes.* Don't give these medicines to your pet! Contact the site immediately!

A—Always Check for Site Accreditation

In addition to following Federal and State licensing and inspection requirements, in 2009, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) created a voluntary accreditation program called Vet-VIPPS (Veterinary-Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites). Vet-VIPPS accredited online pharmacies:

- are appropriately licensed in each state where they ship drugs
- have successfully completed a 19-point review and online survey
- undergo yearly VIPPS review and re-accreditation
- undergo NABP on-site surveys every three years
- Vet-VIPPS accredited pharmacies must also meet other strict criteria, including protecting patient confidentiality, quality assurance, and validity of prescription orders.

R—Report Problems and Suspicious Online Pharmacies

If your pet has a problem with a medicine purchased online (for example, a reaction to the medicine or the medicine not working), first contact the medicine's maker. To report adverse drug events directly to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) call 1-800-FDA-VETS. For a copy of the reporting form (FDA Form 1932a) and for more information on how to report problems, visit the following website: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ReportaProblem/ucm055305.htm>.

Protect yourself, your pets, and others! Don't fall victim to illegal online pharmacies. Report suspicious online pharmacy sites to FDA and NABP at:

FDA: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/ReportaProblem/ucm059315.htm>

NABP: <http://www.nabp.net/>

E—Educate Yourself about Online Pharmacies

The best defense you have against illegal online pharmacies is education. Do your homework and be online pharmacy A.W.A.R.E. before you purchase your pet's medicines online. **An informed consumer is an empowered consumer.**

For more information about purchasing pet medicines from online pharmacies, visit CVM's website at: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary>, or call CVM at 1-240-276-9300.

Whenever your pet needs prescription medicines, your veterinarian is your best, most reliable source, because your veterinarian:

- physically examined your pet and knows your pet's medical and treatment history,
- knows which medicines are safest for your pet,
- educates you about potential side effects associated with your pet's medicines,
- shows you how to properly use the medicines prescribed for your pet,
- stores prescription medicines in the clinic according to label directions, and
- uses current, unexpired medicines.

Be Online Pet Pharmacy AWARE:

A- Ask your veterinarian

W- Watch for red flags

A- Always check for site accreditation

R- Report suspicious online pet pharmacies

E- Educate yourself about online pharmacies

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