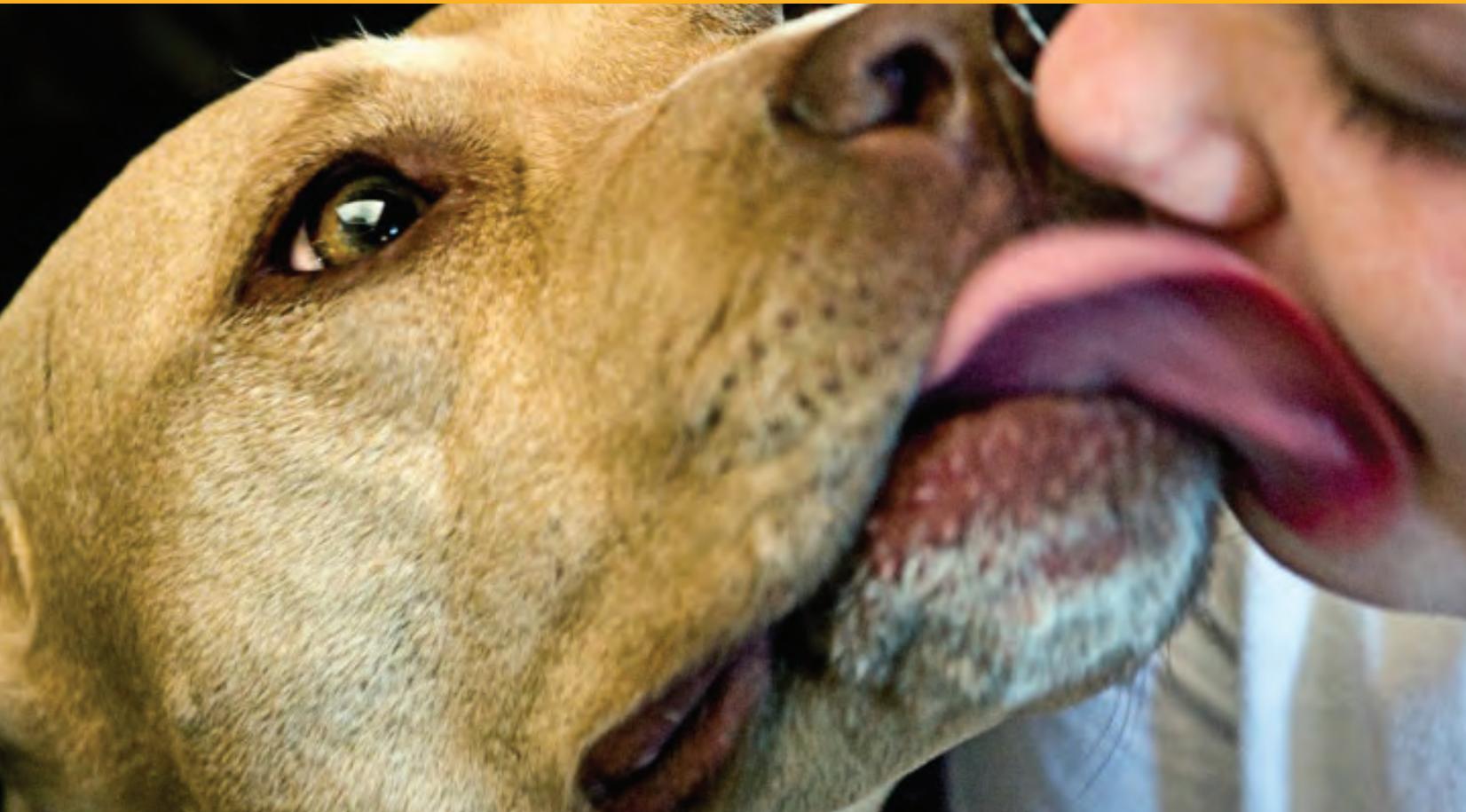




NORTHSTAR VETS®

Veterinary Emergency Trauma & Specialty Center

Leading the Way.



PURPOSE IN ACTION

GRATEFUL

FOR SMALL THINGS, BIG THINGS AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

During this season of reflection, I've been reminded of the things for which I am most thankful.



Primary among them is our relationship with you and the confidence you place in NorthStar VETS® as a trusted veterinary care partner. This past year has been full of incredible relationships and inspirational bonds — none of which could have been made possible without you.

We hope you enjoy the enclosed overview of our highlights and milestones from the past year. We are excited to announce that 2018 will offer new modalities, therapies and cutting-edge, minimally invasive techniques. Recently we've invested in facility improvements, new laser technology and the addition of 3-D printing capabilities. As NorthStar VETS® continues to grow our team of specialists and services, rest assured, that we are fully-committed to helping pets receive the very best veterinary care.

I'd like to personally thank you for enabling us to do what we love each and every day. I wish you a new year filled with abundance and want you to know that NorthStar VETS® is truly grateful for the pleasure of serving you!

Warmest Regards,

*Daniel Stobie, DVM, MS DACVS
Founder and Chief of Staff*



WISHING DR. DOOLEN CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS RETIREMENT

MEET OUR NEW FRIEND BURTON

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL'S FULL-TIME THERAPY DOG



NorthStar VETS® Dr. Daniel Stobie and Dr. Steven Berkowitz visited Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) in November and welcomed Burton, a full-time pediatric service dog.

CSH is the only children's hospital in New Jersey with an on-staff facility therapy dog. Burton, a Golden Retriever puppy, will work with the Senior Recreational Therapist, Katie Ahlers to provide specialized dog therapy to both patients and staff members.

Recent hospital studies have shown that dogs have a profoundly positive impact on patients, their families, and hospital personnel. Petting dogs promotes mood-enhancing hormones such as serotonin, prolactin, and oxytocin. Interactions with pets have also been shown to reduce blood pressure, lower respiration rates, and decrease pain.

Burton was born and trained at the Canine Assistants training facility in Georgia. Founded in 1991, this nonprofit organization is dedicated to the education and empowerment of man and dog.



Funding for Burton was provided by Mickey's Kids Charitable Foundation, a nonprofit that focuses on bringing services dogs into the NY/ Metro area. In addition to funding Burton's training, Mickey's Kids has partnered with NorthStar VETS® to cover all of Burton's veterinary expenses for the rest of his life. We are proud that our own Emergency and Critical Care

Specialist, Dr. Steven Berkowitz, is Burton's personal veterinarian.

To View Burton's Full Video, Visit: northstarvets.com/blog/northstar-vets-helps-dog-serve-at-childrens-hospital



SWEET REWARDS

Throughout the year, NorthStar VETS® celebrates the hard-working hospital team. Impromptu staff lunches, summer "Ice Cream" trucks, and a pop-up coffee bar were just a few small tokens of thanks to the staff.

38,983

Annual Patient Visits To Both NorthStar VETS® Hospital Locations.

— Veterinary Health Management Software Report, 2017

HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Installation of a brand new "state-of-the-art" cat ward
- Robbinsville added a fourth checkout station to better serve clients
- Additional availability of appointments/procedures in Maple Shade
- NorthStar VETS® staff obtained Fear Free certification



NEW EQUIPMENT/TECHNOLOGY

- Purchase of a Holmium Yag laser for Percutaneous Laser Disc Ablation (PLDA) procedures and minimally-invasive ectopic ureter repairs
- 3D printing is now available as a surgical planning tool

APPEARANCES IN 23 NEWS STORIES INCLUDING:



Dog with Half a Face Takes First Steps Towards Normal Life in NJ



Cohanzick Zoo Tiger Cub Recovering After Leg Injury



Childrens Hospital Welcomes First Full-Time Therapy Dog



— ROBBINSVILLE —
CELEBRATED 6 YEARS ON
5/11/17



— MAPLE SHADE —
CELEBRATED 2 YEARS ON
10/26/17

NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Liesl Breickner
DVM, DACVP



Diane DiVenticis
CVT, VTS (Dentistry)



Christopher Drastura
DVM
Emergency / Critical Care



Matthew Grootenboer
VMD
Avian and Exotics



Ryan Keegan
DVM, DACVIM
Cardiology



Danielle Mendelsohn
VMD, DAVDC
Dentistry



Andrea Pace
BA, AS, CVT, MBE, JD, VTS
(Emergency/Critical Care)



Melanie Puchot
DVM, DACVIM
Internal Medicine



Stacey Wylie
DVM, DACVIM
Internal Medicine



Gregory Zuendt
DVM
Emergency / Critical Care



We are currently enrolling patients in two important orthopedic clinical trials.

Study #1: Surgery to Correct Canine Patellar Luxation

NorthStarVETS® is recruiting 12-to-24 small-breed dogs to evaluate the effectiveness of an innovative surgical procedure, called “Dome Trochleoplasty” which corrects canine patellar luxation. Dr. Daniel Stobie pioneered this procedure in a pilot study for large-breed dogs. It was shown to preserve cartilage, address anatomical abnormalities, and restore stability, which resulted in a more normal gait. Additional procedural benefits included reduced healing time, pain, lameness and overall improved quality of life. This second study will determine if small-breed dogs with patellar luxation realize the same benefits. Traditionally, surgery to correct canine patellar luxation involves deepening the groove at the knee end of the femur, which disturbs the supporting cartilage. With dome trochleoplasty, the entire groove is removed, then rotated, preserving all the cartilage. In the pilot study, patients were able to use the affected leg sooner after surgery than with other procedures.

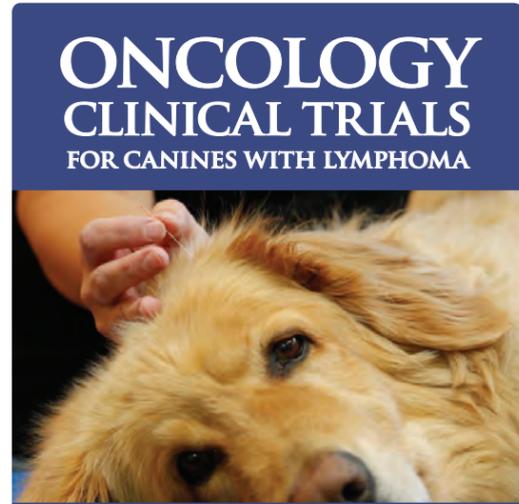


#2: New Surgical Technique For Total Hip Replacement

NorthStar VETS® is recruiting 12-24 dogs for a clinical trial to evaluate the effectiveness of an innovative surgical procedure called “BFX Centerline” a total hip replacement technique. Dr. Daniel Stobie has successfully performed this procedure on 12 dogs and is ready to study it further. Traditionally, total hip replacement involves “reaming” the femoral canal and using implants that are impacted or cemented into the femur. While these procedures are successful, there is increased risk of femur fracture with reaming. The new total Centerline hip replacement system replaces the femoral head and the implant is placed without reaming or the use of bone cement. It uses biological fixation (BFX), which is biologically compatible (minimizing adverse reactions), and encourages bone growth into the implant for stability. It also avoids complications related to using cement, such as loosening or infection.



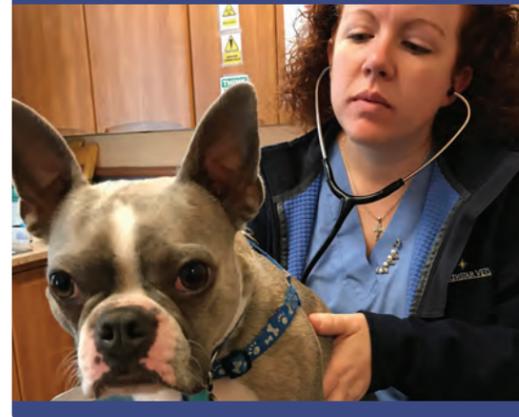
For eligibility or additional information about these clinical trials, please contact (609) 259-8300.



NorthStar VETS® Oncologist Dr. Dorothy Jackson is partnering with Dr. Kendra Pope (Integrative Oncology and Veterinary Wellness) in a clinical trial (started at The University of Pennsylvania) to determine the benefits of using acupuncture on canine lymphoma patients. Acupuncture is well documented in human oncology to reduce side effects of chemotherapy, but until now has not been studied in our canine patients. Minimizing side effects, such as gastrointestinal upset and decreased blood cell counts, will not only make these patients more comfortable but also allow for the use of more effective doses of chemotherapy.

Patients will be assigned to two groups: those receiving chemotherapy alone and those receiving both chemotherapy and acupuncture. Both groups will receive the gold standard chemotherapy protocol. Owners will not be informed which group their pet has been assigned to until the end of the study.

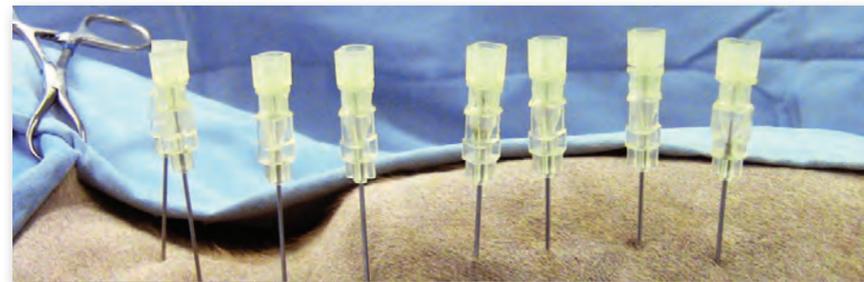
The cost of each acupuncture treatment will be included as part of the study for patients receiving acupuncture and all patients will receive reduced cost blood work throughout chemotherapy treatment for participation in the study. Owners are responsible for the cost of chemotherapy. If you have any questions regarding this trial or would like to schedule a consultation with Dr. Jackson for enrollment, please contact Northstar VETS® at (609) 259-8300.



PLDA is a procedure for preventing thoracolumbar intervertebral disc herniation in dogs. This procedure is ideal for chondrodystrophic (dwarf) breeds like Dachshunds, Beagles, Bassett Hounds, French Bulldogs, and other small breeds predisposed to disc herniations. Currently, only four hospitals in the U.S. offer this procedure and we are excited to announce that Dr. Gaemia Tracy of NorthStar VETS® is the only doctor on the east coast trained to perform PLDA.

How it Works:

Small spinal needles are inserted into the dog’s disc space, where a fiber-optic laser (as thin as a human hair) is inserted through the needle down into the nucleus of the disc. Energy through the laser liquifies the nucleus of the disc, reducing the chances of a future herniation. The procedure takes about an hour, and when finished, there are no cuts or stitches in the dog’s vertebrae, muscle or skin. That this minimally-invasive procedure significantly cuts down on recovery time and in most cases dogs go home the next day for two weeks of rest and leash walks.



Eligibility:

To see if your dog is eligible for this procedure, the patient must be an “at-risk breed”, and pain-free for the last two weeks. The procedure can be done prophylactically, meaning that a prior diagnosis of back pain is not necessary.

OUR COMMITMENT — TO THE COMMUNITY —



FIRST AID/CPR LECTURE TO LOCAL PET PARENTS



EDUCATIONAL TOURS FOR AREA YOUTH GROUPS



EMERGENT PET-SAVING CLASSES TO LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE



RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS/RESCUES

WE'RE GOING FELINE FRIENDLY

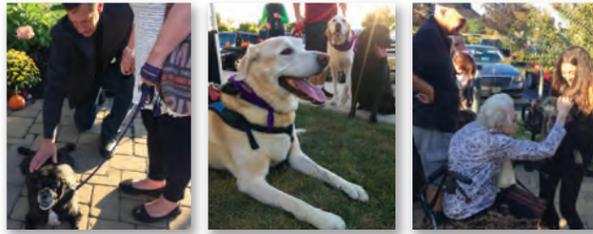


Established by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and the International Society for Feline Medicine (ISFM), The Cat Friendly Practice® is a program designed to elevate cat care by reducing the stress of the feline, the caregiver, and the entire veterinary team. NorthStar VETS® is proudly embracing this revolutionary initiative and is excited to implement these new practices and procedures . . . Stay Tuned!

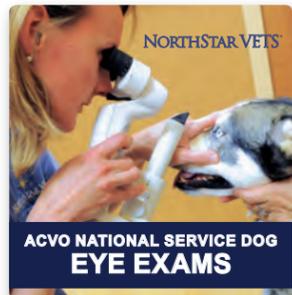


ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Reverend Dr. Stephen Heinzel-Nelson Officiates our NorthStar VETS' Annual Saint Francis of Assisi Celebration Every October. Individual Blessings Are Given To All Animals (Big, Small, Furry and Feathered) Including Beloved Pets Who Have Passed Over The Rainbow Bridge.



DOG OF THE DAY
LOCAL SHELTER ADOPTION PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY NORTHSTAR VETS®



ACVO NATIONAL SERVICE DOG EYE EXAMS



THE NORTHSTAR VETS' **WHY**

A NEW YEAR BRINGS A RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE FOR NORTHSTAR VETS

The start of a new year seems an appropriate time to reflect not only on what NorthStar VETS provides to the community, but also why we exist—our purpose.

Why We're Here For You

Not long after our founder, Dr. Daniel Stobie, started his first job as a veterinary surgeon, he knew exactly the kind of advanced care hospital he wanted to build: one that would improve the quality of life of patients, clients, the primary care veterinarian, and staff. With his clarity of vision, NorthStar VETS has become exactly that, simply by holding true to our guiding purpose.

How We Demonstrate Our Commitment

Each one of us walks the walk when it comes to translating this purpose into the way we do our jobs. From how you're greeted at the front desk, to how we soothe a frightened pet, to how we use today's most advanced treatments and techniques to keep your pet healthy—we strive at all times to deliver the highest levels of care and compassion. Why? Because we truly understand the immeasurable value that pets bring to your life. They-and you-deserve our best.



Our commitment goes beyond the interaction we have with you and your pet. For example:

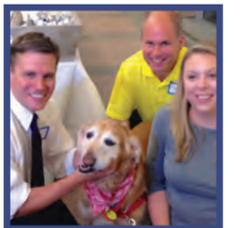
- We followed "green" building practices when we built our facility out of respect for the land, our environment, and our community. And we designed the hospital to be a welcoming and calming place for sick or injured pets and their worried parents.
- We formalized a set of core values that guide our day-to-day activities, and are the touchstone for everything we do—from choosing the people we hire to the charities we support.
- We carefully designed our practice to support the primary care veterinarian, so they can thrive as partners in our shared mission to care for pets.
- We sponsor and/or participate in over two dozen community events each year including hosting a human and pet blood drive.
- Most importantly, we nurture our staff, ensuring they have the physical, emotional, and technological support they need to do their jobs at the highest possible level.



Caring For Animals Outside Our Own Walls

Helping animals AND people is so ingrained in the NorthStar VETS culture that it extends beyond our day-to-day work. For example: Dr. Manoel Tamassia, our theriogenologist (reproductive medicine specialist), traveled to Malawi, Africa, with Dr. Stobie, showing people there how to take better care of their farm animals. Countless human and animal lives were improved, even saved, as a result.

Our dentist and oral surgeon Dr. John Lewis, partners with pediatric surgeons at the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania for the annual Best Friends Bash, which brings together his four-legged patients that have craniofacial disease with children suffering from similar diseases. This not only touches the children in a remarkably uplifting way, but it's also a powerful experience for parents, pet parents, and doctors.



Our ophthalmologist Dr. Kristina Vyngantas, participates in the annual ACVO National Service Dog Eye exams, a program that provides free eye exams to ensure that service, working, and therapy dogs maintain good eye health so they can continue to help their humans.

These are just some of the stories that demonstrate the NorthStar VETS purpose—and our passion. If you share our belief that pets improve our lives and deserve the utmost care and compassion, and if you aspire to improve the lives of those around you, then we believe we're the animal specialty and emergency hospital for you.

We're here for you and your pet, and we always will be.

NOTHING TO **FEAR** HERE



The Fear Free® initiative provides veterinary staff with the proper tools to care for a pet's physical and emotional well-being. Stress and anxiety associated with taking a pet to the veterinarian is a significant obstacle in delivering medical care. Fear leads to patient trauma and as a result, pet parents visit their veterinarian less frequently or not at all. NorthStar VETS® is proud to announce that we have fully embraced the Fear Free® Certification Program resulting in a better experience for our patients, their pet parents, and our own veterinary staff.



American Red Cross
ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE
NORTHSTAR VETS' ROBBINSVILLE LOCATION

NORTHSTAR VETS®
COMPLIMENTARY PET BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS
THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH / 7:00 PM
ROBBINSVILLE LOCATION



Ann Rooney
Certified Bereavement Counselor
To reserve your space, email:
Arooney@northstarvets.com





CENTRAL NJ: 315 ROBBINSVILLE-AlLENTOWN ROAD, ROBBINSVILLE, NJ 08691

SOUTHERN NJ: 2834 ROUTE 73 NORTH, MAPLE SHADE, NJ 08052

OPEN 24 / 7 • 365 DAYS A YEAR • (609) 259-8300

NORTHSTARVETS.COM

