



NORTHSTAR VETS®

Veterinary Emergency Trauma & Specialty Center

Leading the Way.

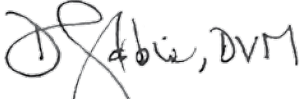
PURPOSE IN ACTION





It's hard to believe that NorthStar VETS® has been improving the quality of life for pets, clients, family veterinarians and staff for twenty years! Looking back, I'm humbled by the opportunities to touch so many lives over the years and become a part of pet parents' happy stories. Thank you for working with our team and allowing us to serve you.

I've taken some time to reflect and am constantly reminded of all the inspirational relationships we've built and the milestones we've achieved. As always, we're looking ahead to a bright future and how we'll continue to improve quality of life for those around us. Please enjoy this overview of the NorthStar VETS® purpose journey twenty years in the making.

Warm Regards,

Daniel Stobie
DVM, DACVS (Founder and Chief of Staff)

SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE!



To service clients near the Jersey Shore, a second (10,000 sq. ft) satellite location is currently under construction in Brick, NJ. This new 24/7 emergency facility (located in the "Market Place at Brick" Shopping Center) will allow pet parents to utilize the same veterinarians available in Robbinsville, but with the convenience of an Ocean County location.
(Spring 2020)
2020





LOOKING BACK, WE WERE
THE LUCKIEST PEOPLE
IN THE WORLD. THERE WAS
NO CHOICE BUT TO BE
PIONEERS; NO TIME
TO BE BEGINNERS.

— MARGARET H. HAMILTON

LEADING THE WAY IN VETERINARY MEDICINE FOR 20 YEARS!



GRAND OPENING MAY 5, 2003

**VETERINARY SURGICAL AND
DIAGNOSTIC SPECIALISTS**

REFERRAL ONLY PRACTICE

Daniel Stobie, DVM, MS, ACVS - Director

- Surgery • Dermatology
- Internal Medicine • Ultrasound
- Chemotherapy • Endoscopy
- 24 Hour Emergency Service and Patient Care

Located at: 34 Trenton-Lakewood Road
(Rt. 526) Millstone, NJ 08510
Telephone: 609-259-8300
Fax: 609-259-8484



NorthStar VETS® evolution as an advanced-care hospital began when founder, Dr. Daniel Stobie, launched a mobile veterinary surgery practice in 2000. Due to the demand for this level of specialized care, the practice expanded to a fixed location (Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists/ VSDS) in Millstone, NJ in 2003, offering multiple specialties by board-certified veterinarians around the clock, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

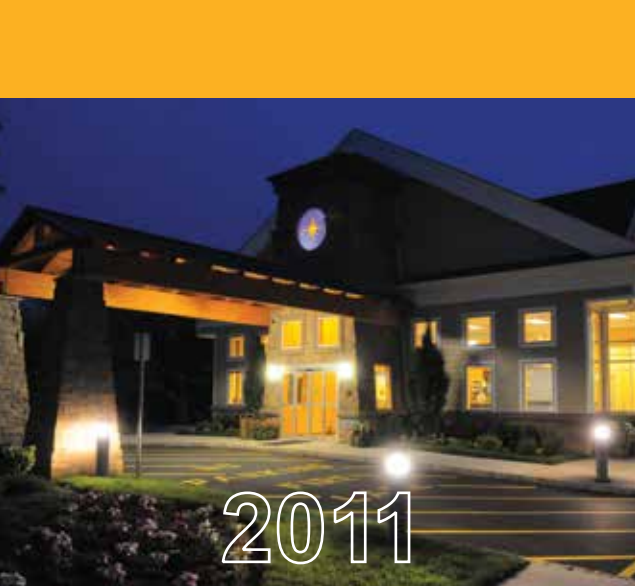


"In January 2000, Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists (VSDS) was born, the name of my mobile surgery and diagnostic imaging company. I only had four employees and one of them included my mother Linda. Business was great and my success led me to May 2003, when I could finally expand and so I opened my first practice: VSDS. One month later VSDS became a 5,100 sq. ft. 24-hour veterinary emergency hospital located in central NJ. My staff of four grew five times to 22 medical and professional employees that provided Surgery Diagnostic Imaging and Dermatology Services.

Between 2004 and 2008, I added additional specialty services to include: Radioactive Iodine (I-131), Internal Medicine, Ophthalmology, Rehabilitative and Pain Management. I even started a veterinary technician educational series presented by our own veterinary specialists."

— DR. DANIEL STOBIE



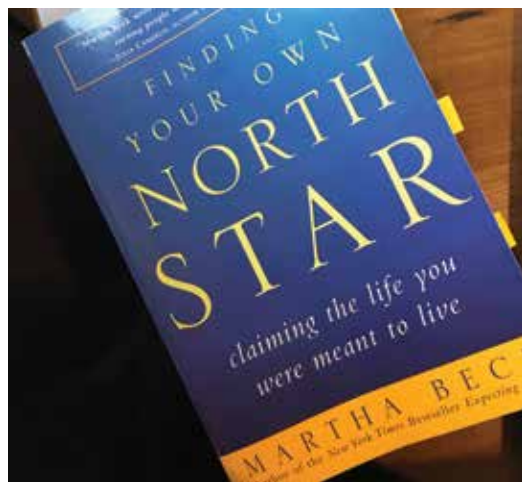


2011



WITHOUT CONTINUAL
GROWTH AND PROGRESS,
SUCH WORDS AS
IMPROVEMENT,
ACHIEVEMENT,
AND SUCCESS
HAVE NO MEANING.

— BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



NorthStar VETS® was built on a 3-acre parcel where a circa 1760 farmhouse had stood. During construction, great care was taken to protect the property's 250-year old copper beech tree as well as the mature oaks and other species dating to the 18th and 19th centuries. In fact, the hospital was intentionally designed around those trees. Although the farmhouse was too dilapidated to save, some of the original bricks and hand-hewn oak trusses were salvaged. These materials were incorporated into the design of the hospital's reception area.



THE CREATION OF AND EVOLUTION OF NORTHSTAR VETS® — ROBBINSVILLE, NJ —



Artist Rendering Of
The Future Site Of
NorthStar VETS®
Robbinsville, NJ

"The tale of NorthStar VETS® began once upon a time... In March 2009, a book titled "Finding Your Own NorthStar," by Martha Beck, inspired me. It is a tale about navigating one's own personal journey and how the North Star serves as a beacon of light and guidance for those that are seeking their true direction. It was from this reflection that marked the beginning of a new era for my practice and veterinary medicine. It was from this that VSDS became NorthStar VETS®, VETS is an acronym for Veterinary Emergency Trauma and Specialty Center.

A lot has happened since then. We have continued to grow, so much in fact that we that we are building a new 33,000 sq. ft. veterinary emergency hospital in Robbinsville, NJ (Mercer County) opening in May 2011. Below are some of the highlights that have helped us become the burgeoning 24-hour veterinary emergency, trauma and specialty center we are today. It is with great pride that I welcome you to NorthStar VETS®."

— Daniel Stobie, DVM, MS, DACVS, Chief of Staff / Online Interview, 2010



Today, NorthStar VETS® is an award-winning, emergency, trauma and specialty referral center with over 200 employees, including more than 40 veterinarians housed in a state-of-the-art, 33,000 sq. ft. facility headquartered in Mercer County (Robbinsville, NJ).



2015



THE PROJECT YOU
ARE MOST SCARED
TO DO IS THE ONE
THAT HOLDS
YOUR GREATEST
GROWTH.

— ROBIN S. SHARMA



A SATELLITE EXPANSION IN SOUTH JERSEY

NORTHSTAR VETS®

— MAPLE SHADE, NJ —



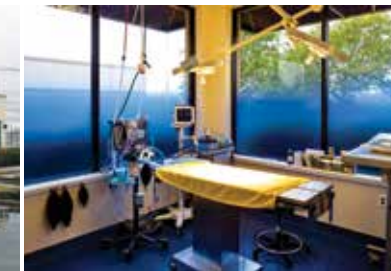
3D Rendering Of The Future Site Of
NorthStar VETS®
Maple Shade, NJ

"After a visit to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia with my son, I was able to bring him to one of their satellite clinics near my home for follow-up care. The convenience of not having to travel far while continuing to receive care from the same team of specialists after my initial visit was tremendously valuable, and I wanted that level of care available for my own clients," said Daniel Stobie, DVM, MS, DACVS, a surgeon, and Chief of Staff/Founder of NSV. "We are honored to be a part of the Maple Shade community and provide pets, pet parents, and primary care veterinarians immediate access to our outstanding team of board-certified specialists, experienced emergency veterinarians and veterinary technicians, and compassionate support staff."

— Daniel Stobie, DVM, MS, DACVS, Chief of Staff / northstarvets.com (2015)

The NorthStar VETS® satellite clinic building was originally a Sleepy's Mattress store, so it had minimal interior architecture. "As the building became available, we knew it had the right structure and square footage needed to be rebuilt into a veterinary hospital," says hospital owner Daniel Stobie, DVM, MS, DACVS. "It was essentially a blank slate for us to work from." Strategically placed window decals tie in with the hospital's brand, but also ensure the privacy of everyone inside. Clients enter the building from the front vestibule, while employees have their own entrance.

— Daniel Stobie, DVM, MS, DACVS, Chief of Staff / dvm360 Online Article



The Burlington County 24/7 emergency and trauma satellite in Maple Shade, NJ was all about convenience for clients in South Jersey. With five exam rooms and an operating suite, this 4,746 sq. ft. facility is centrally located and easily accessible by two major highways — Route 38 and Route 73.



MEET DR. STOBIE

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE BOSS

northstarvets.com, February, 2019



Dr. Stobie's Education

We caught up with Dr. Stobie, who was checking on a patient. Dr. Stobie grew up right here in NJ before going on to college here. "I'm a New Jersey native," he began, "and I went to Rutgers University for undergraduate studies. Unfortunately, NJ does not have a veterinary school, so I had to go out to the Midwest. I attended veterinary school at the University of Missouri and then I did my internship at the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston. After that, I did a three-year surgical residency and master's degree program at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine." Dr. Stobie went on to become a surgeon, and worked at hospitals in NY and NJ before opening his own practice that would go on to become NorthStar VETS®.

Following His Own North Star

"When I decided to open the practice, I envisioned a place where we could do everything under one roof and not have to send the cases away to other hospitals for different specialties and pets could get everything taken care of in one place." Dr. Stobie leads a team of more than 40 doctors who work in more than a dozen different specialties. "All the surgeons here do all types of surgery from soft-tissue, orthopedic, and neurosurgery, to emergency and trauma surgery. My special interests are in orthopedics and joint-replacement. I'm the one surgeon here in the practice who performs those procedures."

The Kind Of Cases That Dr. Stobie Loves

With a hospital in Robbinsville, Maple Shade, and a third Brick location opening soon, Dr. Stobie is often tied up in the management and business side of NorthStar VETS®, but he still enjoys the chance to work personally with clients and their pets. "We get to do what we love every day, interacting with people and pets. Probably the most rewarding thing is seeing an animal that is really connected to their person and their person is connected to them. When they're really sick maybe with a not-so-good prognosis for a good outcome, and then we take that animal, fix them, get them well, we love to see them be healthy again and the joy on the person's face when they're reunited with their pet. That is the most rewarding thing about this job. There's one case from a couple years ago. It was a little dog that came in with this swelling in his inguinal area (his groin). It turned out he had an incarcerated hernia. The dog was very sick, the intestine was being strangled, so we had to do an emergency surgery. We went in and removed that damaged part of the intestine and then hooked everything back up. What I didn't know at the time was that the woman who took care of this dog was wheelchair-bound. This dog was her constant companion and she was lost without him. Getting this dog well and returning him to her was important. He would ride around with her in the wheelchair and get things for her like a service dog. Those are the types of things that are very rewarding and make every day, even the hard days, worthwhile."

How NorthStar VETS® Advances Veterinary Medicine

"NorthStar VETS® is always developing new and improved techniques to better treat our patients. We're always trying revolutionary procedures, innovative therapies, and conducting extensive clinical trials. These give us new avenues in medicine to help animals and when we put all those into place, and when they actually work, that's really rewarding. We continue to provide world-class care to our patients and I have a fantastic team here. I wouldn't be able to do it without my staff, and all of us working together has created something that I think is truly special."



10 THINGS

YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT DR. DANIEL STOBIE



1. I love to garden and find my peaceful, inner "ZEN" on my tractor mowing the grass. I'm also an avid bee keeper and harvest honey to give as gifts to friends and family.

2.

I have a small horse farm and love horseback riding. While I used to compete in events, now I just enjoy trail riding with my daughter.



3.

My favorite quote is: "Let your soul lead and follow the sound."

4.

I love to cook, bake and entertain. Truth be told, I get an occasional craving for Popeye's crispy chicken (although I don't eat it often). My other guilty addictive pleasure is chocolate covered cranberries.

5.

Don't laugh, but I can spay a mosquito. In college I worked on a research project monitoring Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus and we had to collect mosquitos from around the state and remove their ovaries under a microscope!



6.

I love the beach and Nantucket is my ultimate getaway. My favorite ice cream shop on the island is "The Juice Bar" and "Crantucket" is my favorite flavor.



7.

I speak semi-fluent German, and can karaoke a mean rendition of the song "Love Shack" (baby).

8.

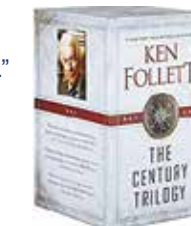
I am a proud father to three amazing children adopted from NJ Foster and Family Services. For years I've been a strong advocate for child welfare and the more than 60,000 children in New Jersey's foster care system that need a loving home.

9.

I am a competitive axe thrower and I know all the words to every track on Lizzo's "Cuz I Love You" CD.

10.

For fun I like to read Ken Follett's historical epic, the "Century Trilogy." A set of historical novels spanning World War I through the fall of the Berlin Wall, told through the lives of five interrelated families.



2004



2008



2009



2012



2013



2016



2018



WHY I BECAME A VETERINARIAN

Recently I was asked why I chose to be a doctor. The truth is, I've always wanted to become a veterinarian and I can't remember wanting to do anything else. Since I was a child, I've had a deep love and affinity for animals. Much to my mother's chagrin, I was constantly bringing home stray kittens, injured birds, and even once, a snake. I loved biology and science and had a strong fascination with medicine and how the body works – veterinary medicine just seemed to meld all of my interests and passions into one perfect career.

My first job in high school was with Dr. Amy Miller, a small animal veterinarian in my home town. She was a perfectionist and tough to work for, but taught me a tremendous amount. Although she never expressed her feelings, I know she was proud of me. On the day I got accepted into veterinary school, she gifted me a sculpture of a boy looking at his dog entitled "First Meeting", by the artist Dee Crowley. This was to remind me to "always look at the whole animal—never forget how important people's pets are to them, and the connection they have with each other." I still have that sculpture in my exam room and look at it every day. Her advice has served me well throughout my career.

Although it's a tough profession, I truly love being a doctor for several reasons. The days are interesting and no two cases are ever the same — I learn something new in my field every single day. I am very proud of my team and find teaching and mentoring young doctors very rewarding. Being on the forefront of new technologies/medical procedures and compiling data from various clinical trials is also exciting. Having our work published in medical journals and presented at national meetings is pretty awesome too.

It's a powerful feeling to take an ill or injured pet and being able to restore their health, and return them to their family. The pure joy and heartfelt gratitude on clients' faces makes being a veterinarian all worthwhile. After 30 years, I still find veterinary medicine exciting and it's what gets me out of bed every morning.

— Dr. Daniel Stobie



OUR C-PETS PHILOSOPHY

NorthStar VETS® exists for one, fundamental purpose: to improve the quality of life for our patients, clients, family veterinarians and our staff. We do this by adhering to a set of core values that guide every aspect of what we do - and how we do it - that translates into our "C-PETS" philosophy:

COMPASSION

We will interact with our clients, patients and community with kindness and empathy.

PROFESSIONALISM

We will conduct ourselves in a moral and responsible manner and treat our clients, patients and colleagues with respect and integrity.

EXCELLENCE

We will provide the highest-quality care and state-of-the-art knowledge in the practice of veterinary medicine.

TEAMWORK

The staff at NorthStar VETS®, along with our clients and their family veterinarian, will work as a cohesive unit by recognizing the equal contributions and value of every team member.

SERVICE

We are dedicated to exceeding our clients' expectations through timely and effective communication, exemplary customer service, outstanding patient care and promoting a learning environment.

INNOVATIVE HUMAN-BASED THERAPIES IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

Veterinary medicine has seen drastic technological advances over the years and many new tools and procedures have been adopted from human medical practice. These advances lead to better treatments and faster recovery times. In addition to MRI/CT scans and ultrasounds, there are many new diagnostic and therapeutic tools giving NorthStar VETS® doctors better resources to save sick pets.

Below are the some of the exciting ways our veterinarians incorporate human modalities into patient care.

- Minimally-Invasive Procedures:
 - Arthroscopy
 - Laser Therapy
 - Laparoscopic Gastropexy
 - Ethanol Ablation
 - Prophylactic Laser Disc Ablation (PLDA)
- Hemodialysis:
 - Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy
 - Therapeutic Plasma Exchange
 - Intermittent Hemodialysis
- CENTERLINE™ Total Hip Replacement
- Ventilator Therapy
- Remote Glucose Monitoring
- In-House Clinical Pathology
- Chemotherapy
- Printed 3D Models As Surgical Planning Tools

- Synthetic Skin Expanders As A Surgical Tool
- Advanced Oral Surgery / Endodontic Procedures
- Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation
- Blood Banking and Transfusions
- Cryotherapy
- Intralipid Emulsion Therapy
- Teleradiology / Telemedicine
- Transcatheter Stent Placement
- Immunotherapy
- Stem Cell Therapy and Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) Therapy
- Lithotripsy for Kidney/Bladder Stones
- Colonoscopy, Endoscopy, Bronchoscopy, and Cystoscopy



HEMODIALYSIS FILTERING NEW PROCEDURES INTO PRACTICE

We are excited to now offer hemodialysis and therapeutic plasma exchange at NorthStar VETS®. Hemodialysis is primarily used to treat pets with acute kidney damage (*leptospirosis, toxin induced kidney injury*) but we also offer hemodialysis for patients with chronic kidney disease. Therapeutic plasma exchange treats immune-mediated diseases including immune-mediated hemolytic anemia and acquired myasthenia gravis.

A form of dialysis called hemoperfusion is being utilized for removal of toxins from the blood. This is useful for pets who have consumed an overdose of certain drugs.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information on these services, please contact (609) 259-8300 or visit our website: www.northstarvets.com/hemodialysis.



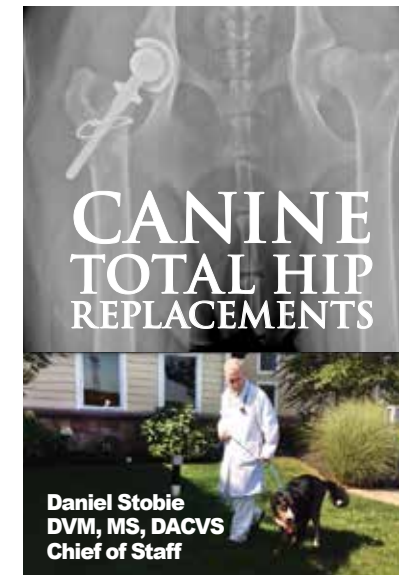
Benjamin Davidson
BVSc, DACVECC



Using continuous blood glucose monitors to eliminate repeated blood draws on anxious patients.



Utilizing 3D printed models as a strategic surgical planning tool.

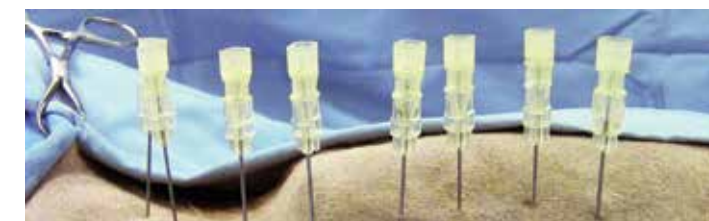


CANINE TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENTS

Daniel Stobie
DVM, MS, DACVS
Chief of Staff



Photobiomodulation (PBM) laser therapy effectively reduces pain and inflammation for a variety of acute and chronic conditions to accelerate healing.



PLDA PERCUTANEOUS LASER DISC ABLATION

PLDA helps prevent thoracolumbar intervertebral disc herniation in dogs. Ideal for chondrodystrophic (dwarf) breeds like Beagles, Bassett Hounds, French Bulldogs, Dachshunds, and other small breeds predisposed to disc herniations. Currently, only a few hospitals in the U.S. offer this procedure and we are excited to announce that NorthStar VETS® is the only hospital on the east coast trained to perform PLDA.

Small spinal needles are inserted into the dog's disc space, and 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 liquefies 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. This minimally-invasive procedure significantly reduces recovery time and in most cases dogs go home the next day for two weeks of rest and leash walks. To be eligible for PLDA, 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.



2013

NorthStar VETS® relief team, in conjunction with Villages in Partnership®, brought animal husbandry and agricultural solutions to farming villages in Malawi, Africa.



2014



Dante, was a 16-year old male tiger from the Popcorn Park Zoo in Forked River, NJ. Our Oncology, Ophthalmology and Dentistry departments worked with Dante's caretakers over the years.

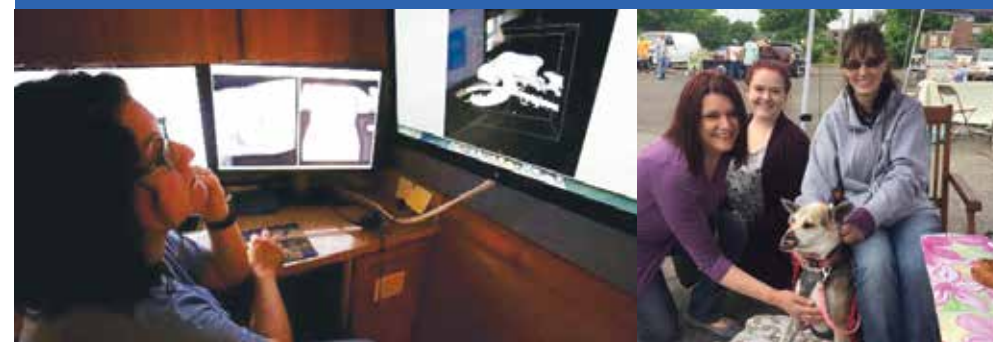


2017

TERESA GETS A SECOND CHANCE THANKS TO NORTHSTAR VETS®

Teresa, a 2-year-old mixed breed dog with half a face, has found a new forever home in the US. Teresa was rescued from Thailand after a man tried and failed to kill her. The attack left her mutilated without a nose and part of her top jaw missing. With the help from a GoFundMe® account, Karen Quigley and her friend Michelle Weirich raised over \$11,000. They used the money to transport Teresa to NorthStar VETS® Robbinsville. Upon her exam, our oral surgeon discovered that Teresa's nasal passage was in excellent condition considering what she endured. Teresa's dead teeth and roots were removed and her tongue successfully reconstructed. The main goal was to keep Teresa free of pain and any infection and to make sure she was functional.

Today, Teresa's owners are happy to report that she can eat/drink on her own and play with her toys. She makes public appearance to raise funds for new tranquilizer guns for Cha Am Stray Dogs rescue in Thailand so they can rescue more dogs!



2017

Burton becomes Children's Specialized Hospital's full-time therapy dog. Mickey's Kids® Charitable Foundation has partnered with NorthStar VETS® to cover all of Burton's health expenses for the rest of his life. We are proud to announce that our own Dr. Steven Berkowitz is Burton's personal veterinarian.



2018

OFFICERS RECEIVE TRAINING TO TREAT K-9 DRUG OVERDOSES

Police officers from the tri-state area received proper training in saving their 4-legged partners. NorthStar VETS®, and the Overdose Protection Agency trained K-9 officers on administering the opioid antidote, Naloxone to their working dogs.

NORTHSTAR VETS® EXISTS FOR ONE, FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE:

TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR PATIENTS, CLIENTS, THE FAMILY VETERINARIAN, AND OUR STAFF.



2016

Buddy was rushed to NorthStar VETS® with 20% burns on his body as well as serious smoke inhalation from a house fire. With difficulty breathing, Dr. Steven Berkowitz quickly administered nasal oxygen therapy, pain medications, and treated his smoke inhalation and wounds. Unfortunately, Buddy did not survive the severity of his injuries. In response to this tragic event, NorthStar VETS® created the "Buddy Initiative" and donated pet oxygen masks to both the Florence, NJ and Chesterfield, NJ Fire Companies for use in "first-response" fire emergencies — and doing so all in sweet Buddy's honor.

"We saw Dr. LoScrudato for a consult for our Harlow who was recently diagnosed with hip dysplasia. Dr. Lo was beyond amazing, very observant, knowledgeable and thorough. She developed a plan that we are confident will make Harlow's life even better. Dr. Lo's bedside manner was very welcoming and she encouraged communication regarding how our baby was doing throughout the next month. We also bring Harlow in for laser treatments and the rehab technician is fantastic, both Harlow and I enjoy each appointment. We have been extremely happy with every experience we've had here so far. Everyone is always so nice and professional. NorthStar VETS® is simply the best and we wouldn't take our pets anywhere else. Thank you Dr. Lo and the orthopedic team for giving us our Harlow back."

— Terry V.



"NorthStar VETS® was amazing at accommodating my dog with his open wound dog bites. Unfortunately it was during a very bad storm and most places were out of power, but NorthStar was running off backup generators. They even kept my dog overnight and gave him very good care in the midst of all the craziness. Thank you NorthStar and to all the staff on keeping my fur baby safe and fixing him up!"

— Emily Ann



IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR PATIENTS

"NorthStar is an excellent veterinary hospital. Over the past seven years, they have treated three of our pets. Our dog with Lymphoma, was treated by Dr. Kim, and had an amazing five and a half year remission. Our other dog had an eye injury, and was treated by Dr. Vygantas with wonderful results."

Last weekend I brought our year and a half old cat in to NorthStar after our regular vet determined that the cat had a badly fractured femur and needed surgery. Dr. Tasker was the ER vet that examined our cat. She handled everything in a kind and professional manner. After performing an X-ray and consulting with a surgeon, she clearly explained the proposed treatment, which we approved. We were told our cat would have surgery the next day, but the surgeon, Dr. Kraus, decided to come in that afternoon to perform the operation. Dr. Kraus called both before and after the procedure to go over everything. Surgery went well, our boy needed a plate and 8 screws to repair the fracture. We got daily phone call updates from the doctor while our kitty was hospitalized. He was discharged after two days and is doing well so far. We are so grateful to Dr. Kraus for the great job she did repairing the fracture."

The before and after X-rays of our kitty's injury... just wow! Thanks NorthStar, and we'll see you soon for suture removal."

— Donna B.



"I took my ten week old puppy Ginger to NorthStar when she started showing signs of being sick. She was diagnosed with Parvo virus and spent six days in isolation receiving treatment. The staff at NorthStar were professional and caring from the minute we got there until the minute we left. Because of them she is back home with us and being a puppy again. Thank you NorthStar VETS®!"

— Michele S.



"Last night I raced my dog Nala's almost lifeless body to NorthStar where I walked in crying my eyes out. Within seconds a whole team of people were pulling my dog out of the car and getting her triaged. I thought I'd never get to see her happy face again. The AMAZING staff saved my dog's life. 24-hours later she is home running around and getting smothered with affection. I truly wish I could hug every person who made this happen as you are all miracle workers. My husband passed away two years ago and none of us were ready for another loss yet, so I am so grateful to this place for not only saving our beloved Nala, but for also sparing my kids from more heartache at this time. THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for all that you did."

— Jen L.

"Thank you Dr. Grootenboer, Dr. Britton, and your remarkable staff for taking such great care of Ollie. It broke our heart that he was in ICU but we knew he was getting the best care. I loved that everyone was passing him around to hold him. Thanks to April, and many others whose names I do not remember who took the time to stay and show us how to properly give Ollie the medication he needed. You ladies make it look so easy! Our first few times were rather comical but we did get it! I'm so happy our buns is back! Words cannot express our gratitude."

— Robyn C.



"I'm the mom of Theodore, the 1.5 year old cat who fell out of a seventh floor window when the screen broke and crashed to the ground. I want to thank the receptionist, Gina, who helped me when I ran in the door, looking a hot mess, holding a crying cat (crying myself), begging for help. I want to thank the technicians that kept me calm when I only had my keys on me and nothing else."

I want to thank Dr. Ferikes, who immediately triaged Theo as an emergency and did not make me feel like a bad owner. She was patient and kind and understanding. She had taken care of him for the last 2 nights and I owe it to her that he is both alive, and that I am not a complete wreck."

I also need to thank Dr. Mas, who kindly dealt with my constant need of updates. We share a love of cats and he was so kind and patient. I have worked at an emergency animal hospital before, and I appreciate that these doctors worked together and even consulted with radiologists and critical care specialists to make sure that Theo had the absolute best care."

Thank you NorthStar VETS, for saving my Theodore, and for saving a piece of my heart. I will always be grateful for this hospital and this experience."

— Courtney S.



"Took our Dakota to NorthStar because he wasn't acting himself. We were told he could go into cardiac arrest and he is only five years old. Everyone treated us so kind. They were able to stabilize him and after 2 days at the hospital he is home and doing great. Everyone from the receptionists, techs and doctors were fantastic. They were very organized and always kept us up to date with how he was doing! I loved that one of the doctors always referred to our boy as our baby."

— Renee S.



"Our fur baby Cole was diagnosed with Congestive Heart Failure and Hypertension last month. He also lost sight in his left eye due to his Hypertension. Doctors Meltzer and Vygantas have been amazing in helping us get our boy back to himself. All staff members are both professional and caring. My husband Joel and I highly recommend NorthStar VETS®."

— Cheryl V.



REDUCING OUR CARBON PAWPRINT

BLUE + YELLOW MAKES GREEN

When NorthStar VETS® opened in Robbinsville in 2011, it was designed to help fulfill the purpose of improving the quality of life of others. In this case, that was achieved by reducing our hospital's impact on the environment. Our facility accomplishes this through a number of green architectural features and team practices. To reduce heating and cooling needs year-round, a geothermal loop system was installed. Geothermal energy uses the earth's core temperature of 55° to heat and cool water circulated through the system and pumped back into the building. Geothermal systems help to remove more than 1.5 million metric tons of carbon emissions from the atmosphere every year.

The beauty and power of natural light was harnessed to reduce the need for artificial lighting. Health benefits of sunlight create a stimulating and positive work environment by utilizing a scientific process called Daylighting – allowing the controlled admission of light into the interiors of our building. Four light tubes are built into our dog wards, two massive skylights exist above the in-patient treatment area, and the overall design allows windows on exterior walls to direct light through dark corridors. To ensure minimal use of electricity in our 24-hour hospital, automatic lights turn off when a room is no longer occupied.

NorthStar VETS® enforces recycling initiatives with specifically marked receptacles throughout the hospital. Our Pharmacy department reuses cardboard food cartons for hospitalized feline patients as well as re-purposing plastic vial caps/lids. Our IT department participates in ink cartridge and battery recycling programs and our Inventory Management monitors and

forecasts stock to help reduce unnecessary waste. CUBEX® automated dispensing machines maximize efficiency, lower inventory spend and improve regulatory compliance so our team can focus on patient care.

For the better part of a decade, we've been a paper-less practice, reducing tons of paper waste every year. Saving trees was an important theme during initial hospital construction. Our Robbinsville building and parking lot were thoughtfully built around many of the 300+ year old trees on the property. In 2011 NorthStar VETS® planted many trees at a nearby community park to offset the loss of any landscapes removed to make room for the new hospital.

Moving forward in 2020, solar panels are being installed in an adjacent property, and will supply up to 20% of our hospital's energy needs, further reducing our carbon footprint. These green efforts are responsible for improving the employee experience, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions — proving how committed we are to improving quality of life for others.



NORTHSTAR VETS® HAS KICKED PLASTIC BAGS TO THE CURB

A growing number of NJ cities and towns are eliminating the use of plastic shopping bags. 24 municipalities (and one county) currently have plastic bag regulations in effect. 18 municipalities are actively developing plastic bag regulations at this time. All of this comes as Trenton, NJ lawmakers consider a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags.

If you haven't already noticed, our hospitals have eliminated plastic pharmacy bags in favor of reusable white kraft paper bags. This move fits with our purpose of improving quality of life for others. By doing our part to eliminate plastic waste, we improve our environment and send the message that we care about the environment and future generations.



Rev. Dr. Stephen Heinzel-Nelson Officiates our annual Blessing of the Animals celebration every October. Individual blessings are given to all companion animals (*big, small, furry and feathered*) including beloved pets who have passed over the Rainbow Bridge.



GIVING BACK TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

NORTHSTAR VETS® COMMITMENT TO
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Collecting "Toys for Tots" in December to benefit children throughout Mercer County, NJ.



NorthStar VETS® Medical Director of Emergency Services, Dr. Stacey Rebello, instructs local pet parents about the importance of Pet First Aid/CPR during free community lectures.



ANNUAL ACVO EYE EXAM EVENT FOR SERVICE AND WORKING ANIMALS

The ACVO®/StokesRx® National Service Animal Eye Exam provides free, ocular screening eye exams to qualified Service & Working Animals each May. Exams are provided by members of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists who choose to participate and volunteer their time and resources.



Kristina R. Vygantas
DVM, DACVO

WHY VETERINARIANS CHOSE TO PUT DOWN THEIR ROOTS WITH NORTHSTAR VETS®



MELANIE PUCHOT DVM, DACVIM

"My journey to NorthStar VETS® was a little bit of a happy accident. One of our associate Deans at Texas A&M had connections up here. I wasn't very familiar with New Jersey and he told me, 'Don't worry, it's worth it.'" He sent me to NorthStar VETS® for my interview and I'm really happy he did because it's the best place I could imagine working."

KRISTIN BRITTON, DVM

"NorthStar VETS® is an amazing facility because of all the specialists here. I can take a ferret with a heart murmur down to Cardiology and say, 'Hey, I'm worried about the heart.' I can talk with our Radiologists and say, 'I'm seeing some strange things on X-ray, what do you think of this?' I can go down the hall and talk with Oncology and say, 'We've diagnosed cancer. What do we do for dogs and cats with this?' A lot of cancer patients in Exotics have no protocols for treating their disease. Working with all of these specialists who are the best in what they're specialized in and being able to pull from that and us coming together to create the best treatment plan for that patient is invaluable. NorthStar VETS is a great resource for an Exotics veterinarian and I'm just so thankful to be here."



STEVEN BERKOWITZ, DVM, DACVECC

"The Critical Care Department takes care of those patients and assists all the other services in the hospital. For instance, if the Surgery Department has a complicated anesthetic case on which they need to focus, we help them with the anesthesia, whether it be with the protocol or in the operating suite. If Internal Medicine has a problematic case with multiple things going on that require more surveillance, they often have us monitor their cases as well. The Critical Care service is the catch-all to help all of the departments and takes care of the sickest of the sick animals. My favorite thing here is not only the volume of patients that we see, but the camaraderie between different departments and how well we all work together. It's an awesome place to be. From the front desk to the back, we all get along very well, and it's a nice cohesive team. Even with bad days, we're still helping patients, and we're helping their families, so at the end of the day, it doesn't matter how busy we are or how crazy things get, we feel great knowing we're helping people and maintaining pets' quality of life. To me, that's the most important thing we can do."



STACEY WYLIE DVM, DACVIM

"I was looking to move back home to be closer to my family, so I looked up NorthStar VETS, then came in to visit and fell in love with the place. I knew right away that it was the place I wanted to go. Even my husband knew that this is where I was going to go. Not only with Internal Medicine, but with the entire hospital, we work really well as a team. I don't have any problem going to other services and asking them for help and vice versa. It really gives the patients good care."



STACEY REBELLO, DVM, MS DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

"I always wanted to do emergency at a large specialty and referral practice. There aren't that many of them, so I was very lucky to land here. My favorite thing at NorthStar is my co-workers. We have an amazing group of lively doctors with good senses of humor. Emergency medicine is difficult and emotionally draining and having a staff of good natured people helps from getting burned out. Most veterinarians choose this profession because of their love of animals, but ironically it's really a "people" job. I think a big reason why I like working at NorthStar VETS® is because I'm a people person, not just an animal person. Most of our job is advocating for the patient, but you also have to work with clients and help them through emotional decisions. It helps to be a people person and not just an animal person."



LAURA TASKER, DVM, CVMA

"We're all a cohesive group, which is really wonderful because you can always get optimum care at any time. It's a beautiful environment in which to work, we have everything at our disposal. It's definitely gold standard medicine. Our caseload always keeps things fresh, you never know what you're going to see. The team environment is great, I love my coworkers. I really like people in general so I like communicating with the public and sometimes getting people through some hard times."



MATTHEW GROOTENBOER, VMD

"I love working at NorthStar VETS®, and I think it's a great environment for me to continue to gain experience. I'm able to work with the other specialists, so if there's a particular procedure with which I don't feel comfortable, I can work with the surgeon on that. I have Radiology to confirm my findings. It's really awesome, I just get to go down the hall and ask the opinion of other brilliant doctors."

DYLAN FRY, DVM, DACVIM (NEUROLOGY)

"I had heard of NorthStar VETS® early on, even before starting my residency, so it was always on my radar. When the time came time to pick a practice, I definitely had it in consideration. The biggest thing that drew me was the camaraderie among the doctors. Practicing revolutionary medicine in a state-of-the-art facility was a also a great factor in my decision. I've been here a few months now and it's been a very warm welcome. Clients and patients have been great, too. I'm looking forward to more time and more experience here."



COOL CASES

SOME OF OUR MOST NOTABLE BLOG POSTS



ANGEL

Sweet "Angel" arrived in our Emergency Room with serious injuries from being hit by two cars. Dr. Coggeshall repaired her dislocated hip and her fractured/dislocated elbow was repaired by Dr. Kraus. We are pleased to report that after multiple surgeries and her traumatic ordeal, Angel is able to walk again.



Jason Coggeshall
DVM, DACVS



Kelly Kraus
VMD, DACVS

DYSON THE SEA LION

Dr. Vygantas visited the Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, NJ to examine Dyson's eyes and she was happy to report that he passed with flying colors! Many sea lions have eye issues due to husbandry problems, water quality, etc., but our veterinary friends at the zoo are extremely proactive and go to great lengths to provide the best possible conditions for their sea lions.



Kristina R. Vygantas
DVM, DACVO



PENELOPE'S MIRACLE RECOVERY

Penelope was rescued from a devastating house fire. Firefighters on the scene were able to support her with oxygen, but she arrived through our ER with difficulty breathing and burns on her body. Penelope was given supplemental oxygen, pain medications, IV fluids, eye medications for burns on her corneas and extensive nursing care. After a few days in our ICU, we are happy to report that this sweet, little girl made a full recovery!



Steven Berkowitz
DVM, DACVECC



SURGERY SUCCESS: ZOEY

This is Zoey one week after her total hip procedure with Dr. Stobie and her humans are happy to report that she's doing great at home. Dr. Stobie has noted that numerous patients receiving this new "Centerline Total Hip" are recovering much faster than other total hip methods.



Daniel Stobie
DVM, MS, DACVS
(Chief of Staff)



SURGERY SUCCESS: STARR

Sweet, little Starr came to NorthStar VETS® with a broken leg. Her foster mom Denice received her through the Northeast Boston Terrier Rescue and had been working hard to get this poor girl over her troubled past. Surgeon, Dr. Kelly Kraus, was able to get Starr physically mended and her foster family reports that she is now happy and healing at home.



Kelly Kraus
VMD, DACVS



MARZIPAN DEBUTS A NEW PROCEDURE

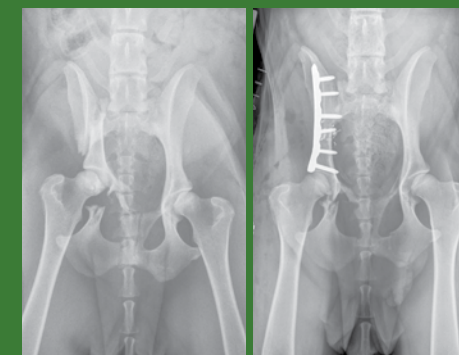
Marzipan's sphincter that connects her bladder to her urethra was weak — resulting in leakage. Urinary incontinence is commonly seen in female spayed dogs as there is a connection to the loss of hormones (mainly estrogen) after the spay. Dr. Kimberly Hammer used a new procedure where she injected collagen into the sphincter muscles in the urethra to plump them up and prevent urine from dribbling through. This was done cystoscopically (a camera was passed through the vulva into the urethra with no incision). Collagen was injected into the tissue at the smooth muscle sphincter — the procedure proved to be a major success!



Kimberly Hammer
VMD, DACVIM
(Medical Director, Robbinsville)

IZZIE

Izzie escaped from her yard and was struck by a car on a main road. She was rushed to our Emergency Room, and our team discovered she had a broken pelvis and torn knee ligaments (making it impossible to walk). Dr. Stobie and Dr. Weinstein of the NorthStar VETS® surgery department did a wonderful repair and her prognosis is excellent! We expect Izzie's quality of life to be fully restored.



Daniel Stobie
DVM, MS, DACVS
(Chief of Staff)



M. Joy Weinstein
VMD, DACVS



CLOSE CALL FOR ROSEY

Rosey was rushed to NorthStar VETS® with a sudden onset of vomiting followed by collapse. Many of her clinical signs were consistent with a Baclofen toxicosis (a common muscle relaxer that acts on the central nervous system). The family revealed that Baclofen was in the home and could be a potential cause. Dr. Nancy Vail-Archer immediately treated Rosey with IV fluids, anti-nausea medications and medications to help reduce the toxic effects of the baclofen. A particularly important treatment was the use of Intralipid emulsion (ILE). ILE captures the toxicant and carries it to organs that can detoxify and/or excrete it. Over the next 24 hours Rosey became more responsive and was fully recovered by her third day. She is now home and healing with her family.



Nancy Vail-Archer
DVM (Medical Director, Maple Shade)



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JERSEY SHORE: 507 ROUTE 70, BRICK, NJ 08723

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