

Northside Animal Hospital services go beyond routine pet care

By Kandace Lankford
NJM Correspondent

NORTH MAIN STREET — While playing fetch with her two-year-old German Sheppard, Marlies McKie realized something was terribly wrong when her dog, Ava, twisted her leg and let out a loud yelp while chasing the ball.

Mrs. McKie loaded Ava into the car and took her straight to Northside Animal Hospital, where she was diagnosed with a ruptured ligament in her knee, requiring immediate surgery.

"Dr. Branch did an outstanding job for us. He pushed his schedule back and immediately took care of Ava," said Mrs. McKie. "The surgery was very successful and she made a quick recovery."

Dr. William Branch of Northside Animal Hospital is a graduate of Kansas State University. He has a special interest in medicine and surgery.

"I've always been interested in medicine. I went to work for a vet while in pre-med school and I took a real interest in animals," said Dr. Branch. "I like taking on challenging cases and finding the right treatment when other options haven't been working. I also like to take care of pets from the beginning of their lives through their geriatric years."

When Mrs. McKie moved to North Jacksonville just over 10 years ago, one of the first things she did was look for a veterinarian to help care for her pets.

When she visited Northside Animal Hospital, she immediately felt comfortable and knew she had come to the right place.

"When selecting a vet, there are two factors that are important: how they treat the animals



The staff at Northside Animal Hospital will give you and your pet the attention and care you deserve.

and how they treat the owners of the animals," said Mrs. McKie.

"Northside Animal Hospital has been outstanding all this time — from the warm welcome when checking in at the front desk to seeing Dr. Branch in the exam room. His diagnosis is always spot on, he is never long with his diagnosis, and his suggested treatment plans have always been successful."

As the owner of two dogs and three cats, Mrs. McKie has had many opportunities to visit Northside Animal Hospital. Her pets have had a full spectrum of treatment, ranging from emergency surgery to scheduled surgery to vaccines to consultations.

When Mrs. McKie's dog, Ava, had her ligament surgery, Dr. Branch explained to her that when the ligament on one leg ruptures, the other probably isn't too far behind. Sure enough, about a year and a half later, Ava's other leg required the same surgery.

"That was about six years ago," said Mrs. McKie. "Ava is almost 10 years old now, and she's still going strong on those two legs."



Dr. Branch checks out Z, a 16-year-old Chihuahua with a chronic cardiac condition.



Northside Animal Clinic is located at 11475 North Main St.

To help with the diagnostic process, Northside Animal Hospital has a full lab on-site, including X-rays, to assist in the evaluation of muscular-skeletal, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, reproductive and urinary systems. They also have a fully stocked pharmacy, so your pets can get the medications they need, whether for a chronic medical condition or short-term medication while recovering from an illness, injury or surgery. All medications are obtained from safe, reliable sources and stored under optimal conditions.

The staff at Northside Animal Hospital realizes that emergencies can occur at any time, and their doors are open to emergencies with an on-

call veterinarian and experienced staff ready to help your pet. They maintain a supply of blood for all types of pets in case of

emergency. The blood is collected from donor pets that live with their owners, and all blood is carefully screened for disease.

A few months ago, Mrs. McKie had an emergency situation where one of her cats had a blocked urinary tract. It was a Friday evening, and the clinic was about to close, when she realized there was a problem.

"I took my cat in, and they stayed late and provided the help she needed," said Mrs. McKie. "They always go above and beyond — I would absolutely, without a doubt recommend them."

Saying goodbye to a long-time furry friend is

painful, and the staff at Northside Animal Hospital helps make that tender transition by working with clients to ensure their pet's comfort and dignity.

"Last November, my friend and neighbor's 10-year-old yellow lab, Libby, got really sick. When the time came, she took the dog to Dr. Branch," said Mrs. McKie. "It was Thanksgiving Day, and her condition was so bad we couldn't wait any longer to give her the help she needed. I had the cell phone number of one of the techs at Dr. Branch's office so I called her. She dropped everything she was doing and came and opened the clinic up for us on Thanksgiving Day. That shows you the commitment this team has to their customers and to their profession. You know your pets are in good hands with that clinic — the whole team is fabulous."

Northside Animal Hospital also offers behavioral medicine, dental care, microchipping, nutritional counseling, and routine services, such as immunizations and wellness care, bathing and grooming, daycare and boarding. They also have another location, Cornerstone Animal Hospital, on Lem Turner Road.

In each encounter with you and your pet, the goal at Northside Animal Hospital is to create a bonding experience and give you and your pet the utmost attention and care. Their success at doing just that during the more than 30 years they've been tending to animals in North Jacksonville is evidenced by a photo album in their waiting room. Page after page is filled with photos of beloved pets, patients at Northside Animal Hospital. Many of the photos are accompanied by letters — testaments that speak of an animal hospital where pets, as well as their owners, are loved and cared for through all stages of a pet's life.

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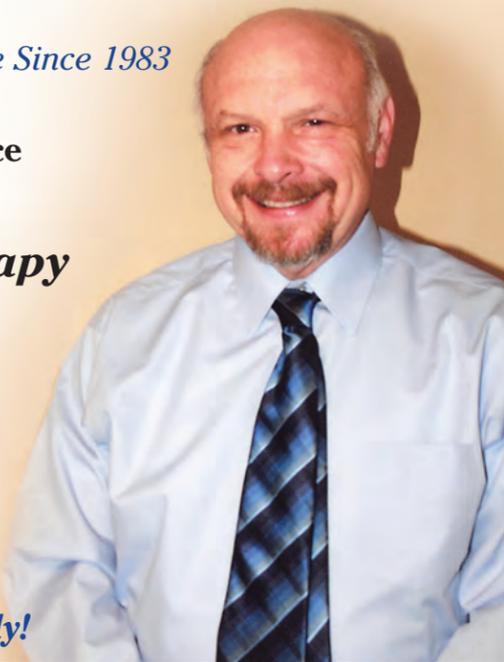
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