



Creature Comfort

Holistic Veterinary Center

May Your February Be Full of Pet Love and Valentine's Hearts!

February 1, 2016

Greetings!

February is Dental Awareness Month. It's a great time to get your pet's mouth checked and determine if he or she is ready for a cleaning. We are offering a nice discount on all dental procedures, so don't miss checking out the coupon below. Read about our new receptionist, Alex Lufting, and hear from one of our own about the joys of fostering a pet. Also this month we thank you for our many nominations for the annual Beast of the Bay Awards, and this month is real voting time! In our monthly e-newsletters, we share information about pet care, what's new at Creature Comfort along with our health recommendations and philosophy. Enjoy!

Welcome Alex Lufting to the Reception Desk

We are excited to introduce the newest member of our reception team: Alexandria Lufting. Affectionately called Alex, she joined Creature Comfort about a month ago, coming from VCA Bay Area Veterinary Specialists in San Leandro. She learned about the position from Justine Jennings, who used to work with her at VCA BAVS.



Alex Lufting

"Justine said all of the people were really nice and all her co-workers were really nice, and I thought it would be an interesting perspective on veterinary medicine," she said, explaining this is her first time working in a holistic clinic. She also likes that Creature Comfort has finite hours, which helps her feel more involved as well as see the continuity of the care of our patients. At her old workplace, which mostly sees pets on an emergency basis and is open 24 hours, things changed very quickly, and she did not always see the outcomes.

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Noteworthy!

Please give yourself some extra travel time to make it to your appointments in the first few weeks of February. If you haven't heard, the fiftieth Super Bowl is happening in the Bay Area this year, and roads are expected to be extra busy as crowds descend into the area. [Find out more](#). Thank you for helping to ensure we can see your pet on time!

Pets of the Month!

Alex likes this work because she likes helping animals. "It's great to be more directly involved with them. They're cute and remind me of my own pets," she said. (Alex herself has two dogs - a beagle named Sophie and a mutt named Ema - and a little black cat named DD.) When she was in school at San Francisco State and had been studying biology, she had considered going into animal conservation and research, but it required a lot of steps and time to put that in place, and this work with the animals was more immediate.

Eventually Alex is planning to put her interest in science to further use by entering a clinical lab scientist program. She has to take a few more classes and do some volunteering before applying. Upon completing the program and getting licensed, she will most likely work in a hospital lab or other lab, looking at results from blood tests and urinalysis mostly.

She says what she likes about working at Creature Comfort so far is that everyone is so nice. "Also, you see a lot of interesting things, like with the acupuncture and different medicines," she said. Alex is interested in learning what they do and how they work.

Alex would like clients to know that she is very friendly and always tries to help people when she can. She loves cats and dogs, but she is allergic to cats, so she will probably pat the dogs more though she still thinks the cats are cute. And she hopes people will be patient with her as she learns the ropes at Creature Comfort.

Vote for Creature Comfort as "Beast of the Bay"!



Last month, we asked you to nominate us for [Bay Woof](#) magazine's eighth annual Beast of the Bay Awards.

At the time, we were hopeful about receiving nominations in several categories. You blew us away! Thank you again for your support! We received these East Bay nominations:

- Best Veterinary Clinic
- Best Veterinarian - Dr. Christie Johnson and Dr. Jenny Taylor
- Best Canine Chiropractor - Dr. Margaret Holiday



Dora Sotos



Joey Koga

Congratulations to Dora Sotos and Joey Koga, winners of Pet of the Month for February.

Pet of the Month winners receive a \$25 coupon for Creature Comfort, have their photo posted in our lobby, receive a bag of sea jerky (for dogs) or sea flex (for cats), and appear in our monthly e-newsletter.

Next time you come into the clinic, ask our receptionists how you can enter your pet into our monthly drawing for Pet of the Month!

Clinic Hours

We are open

Monday-Friday:

9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday:

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday:

Closed

If you have an emergency with your pet any time we are

- Best Alternative Medicine Provider - Dr. Kirsten Williams (of Bishop Ranch and Creature Comfort) and Dr. Jenny Taylor
- Best Canine Therapy Facility

closed, please call PETS animal ER in Berkeley at (510) 548-6684.

Voting takes place January 2-February 29.

And now it's time for the real voting! The [online poll](#) is open until February 29. If you believe in the way we care for your pet, please consider once again casting your votes for us. Thank you in advance for your support as well as entrusting your pet's care to us!

The Joys of Fostering a Pet *by Betsy Aaron, Receptionist*

Cats have had a pretty consistent presence in my life. So when my kitty of 19 years passed, followed a couple of years later by my nephew kitty who I cared for when my sister was on sabbatical, I didn't know when or if I'd be ready for another kitty. The kitties who had been in my life were so irreplaceable.



Gus from Cat Town

One thing was clear to me and my husband, though. We missed having cat energy around. Our home felt empty and less colorful without a nice collection of cat toys strewn about in each room, ready for play at any moment.

We also wanted to be sure the timing was right to adopt another cat. Was it better to travel before having another kitty? Was it better to wait until I was finished with my studies and worked more than part-time so we could better afford caring for him or her? And were we truly able to move on from the other kitties we had lost, giving a new kitty the love and attention he deserved?

After several visits to Cat Town Cafe in downtown Oakland to get some kitty energy, I started to follow them on Facebook. You know. Just for the fun of it. One day, Cat Town posted that it was in great need of finding foster homes for some kittens. "Kittens?" I thought. "Yes. Kittens!" My husband agreed that it wouldn't hurt just to ask about them.

Well of course, the kittens had already found foster homes. And so had a little all black girl they had offered. But there was this one kitty who just could not bear to be cooped up in a cage any longer, having lived outdoors

on his own. He was in tough shape. He was thin and had had a horrible infestation of fleas and a skin condition, he had not been neutered, he had runny eyes and nose, sneezing and coughing - an accumulation of what seemed a bunch of minor things that had a chance of greatly improving if he had safe, warm, friendly place to rest and heal.

His name was Gus, and he came to us the week before Thanksgiving. Cat Town told us, "You're in for a treat."

What worked so well for us in fostering Gus is we knew if things weren't working out, Cat Town would find another placement for him. And Cat Town has provided all of his food, litter, toys and medical care. It was up to us only to feed him, give him his medication, and spend quality time with him.

He has become quite the trusty companion! We have him on a regular schedule, like he knows play time always follows breakfast. We have taken to copying his trill - his preferred mode of communicating with us over meowing - and he has earned numerous nick names, including Gustav and Gusto.

It has been gratifying to watch him gain weight, his skin improve, and his shyness disappear. However, he is still contending with health issues. Cat Town has been supportive of us trying to get to the bottom of his cough and snuffly nose, because once we determine that his issues are manageable and are not signs of anything more serious, Gus will have a home with us. He has followed his way into our hearts. He has become a gift we didn't know we were looking for.

We had such strong bonds with our other kitties, we were scared that it would take us some time to find another that would help us heal our own losses and appreciate someone new. Gus has indeed done that, and were it not for the fostering process, it is unlikely this kitty would have touched us and worked his feline magic on us. We are forever grateful to Cat Town and the fostering program.

Don't Miss This February Special!

Save
10%
in February

**February is
Dental
Awareness
Month**

Save on your pet's dental cleaning, polishing, hand scale, extractions, and anesthesia.

Just mention or present this coupon when scheduling your pet's appointment or dropping your pet off for his or her dental cleaning.

Offer is only valid from 02/01/2016-02/29/2016. Discount does not apply to blood work, pain medication, or medications to go home that are associated with the dental appointment.

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