

SUMMER 2025



The Staffy Standard

Hamilton Wenham Veterinary Hospital's Quarterly Newsletter

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I greet the six month anniversary of the purchase of Hamilton Wenham Veterinary Hospital. We made it official on the 14th of February which seems fitting as so much of what we have accomplished since then has been a labor of love. Love for this profession, for your pets, and for the joys and heartbreaks you share with us.

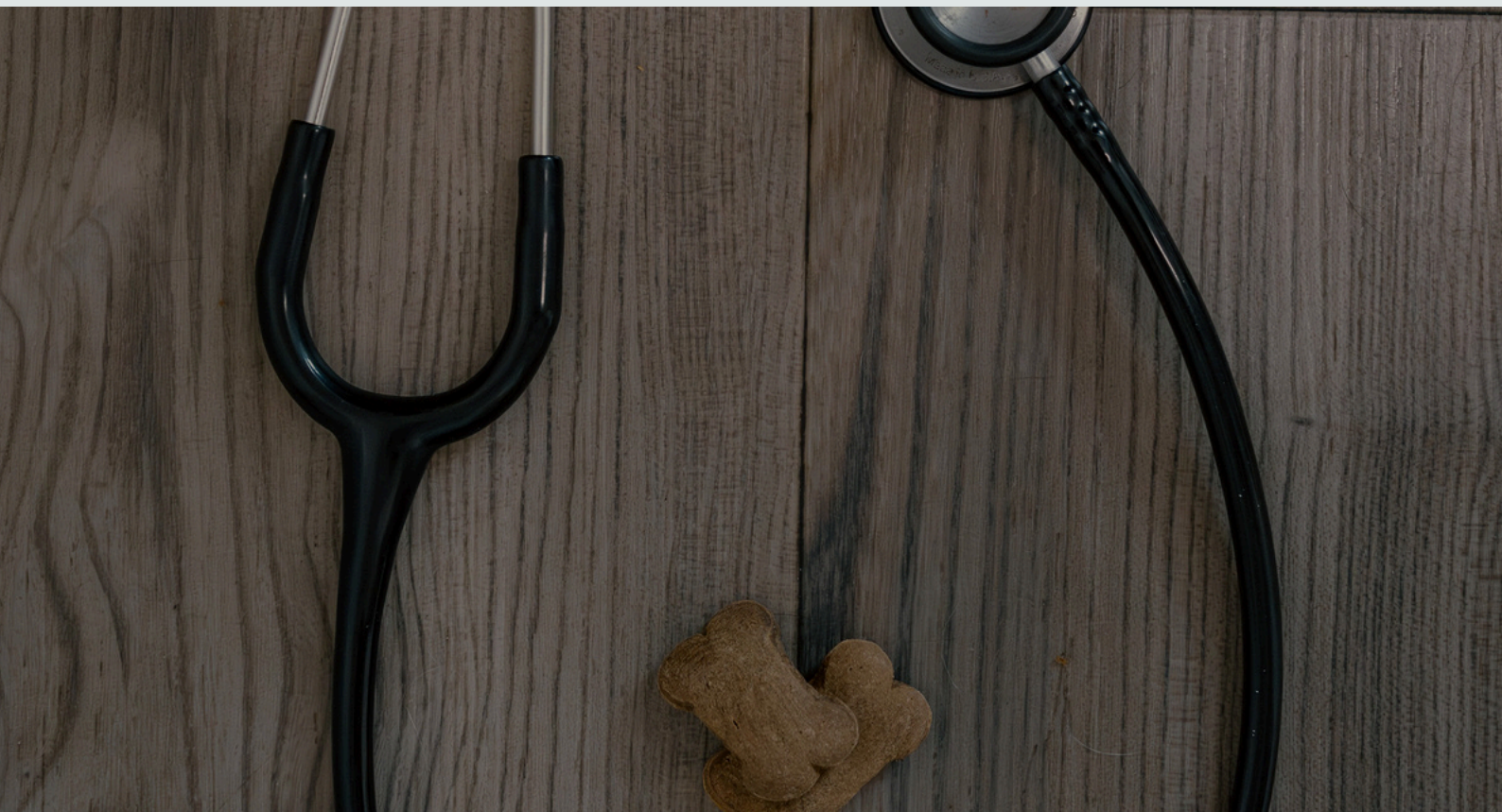
Throughout my professional life, I have found profound joy in the art of connecting to humans and animals alike. Thank you for the opportunity to care for your pets and for the grace you have shown our entire team as we navigate this exciting new era.

Warmly,

HAMILTON WENHAM VETERINARY HOSPITAL

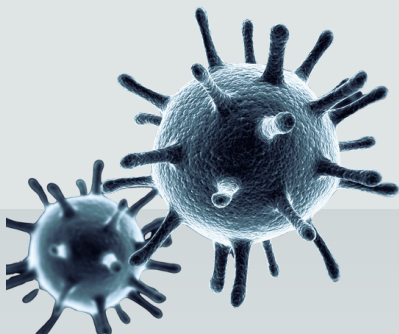
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For our first issue, we're providing you with a summary of some of the changes we've been working on to improve hospital services as well as an overview of canine distemper following a recent outbreak in an Alabama shelter.

In this issue



Distemper Outbreak in AL



HWVH Practice Updates

A new website,
new pharmacy, and
increased social
media presence
promises improved
services and
communication

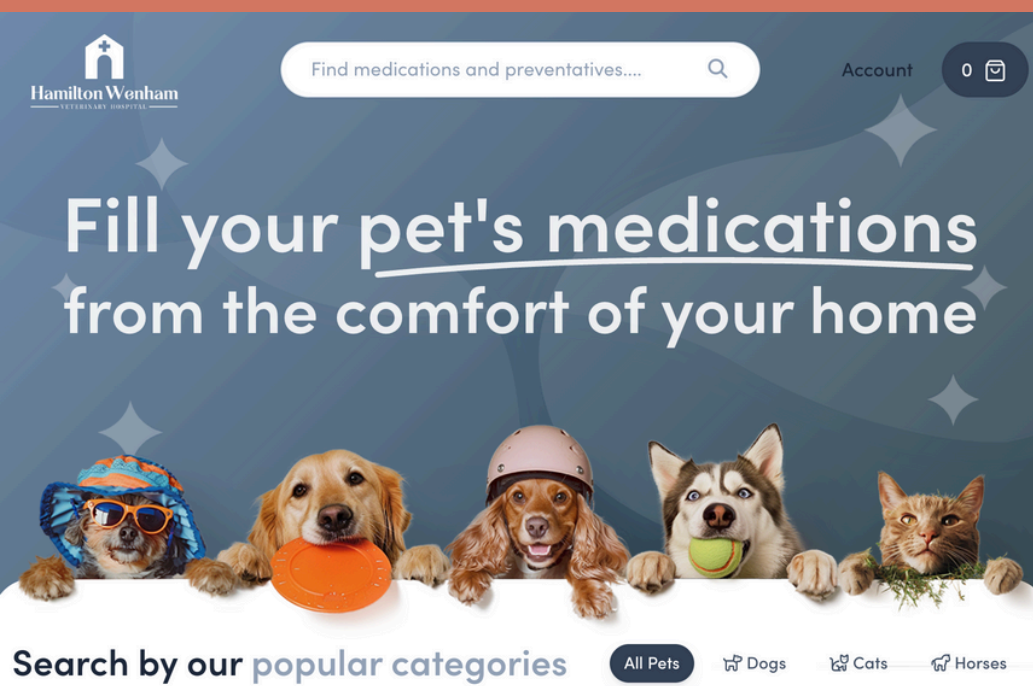
*Change is daunting but often
marks the start of something
better.*

*Our website overhaul was
completed with two initial
goals: to better serve our
existing clientele in meeting
their pets' needs and to help
us continue to attract talented*



and dedicated veterinarians, technicians, and staff so that we can do what we do best: provide timely, compassionate, personalized care.

Similarly, we know that time is precious and online ordering provides the means to ensure your pet has what they need when they need it. We recognized that we needed to find something



The
landing
page of
our new
online
pharmacy

that would provide the same easy-to-use platform, competitive pricing, and superior customer support of the larger e-tailers while equipping our hospital with the necessary tools to ensure that online orders could be processed expediently and



Need a refill? Call, email, or visit our website!

We continue to carry all the medications and products you've come to expect from us.

accurately without taking time away that would be better spent helping sick pets. Ultimately, Vetcove was able to strike the necessary balance between client convenience and affordability and practice efficiency.

Social media has become both the boon and bane of most small businesses. Done well, it can further the bond between client and provider and provide timely updates regarding practice closures, updates, and in our field, current health risks and outbreaks.



Click [here](#) to follow us on Instagram!

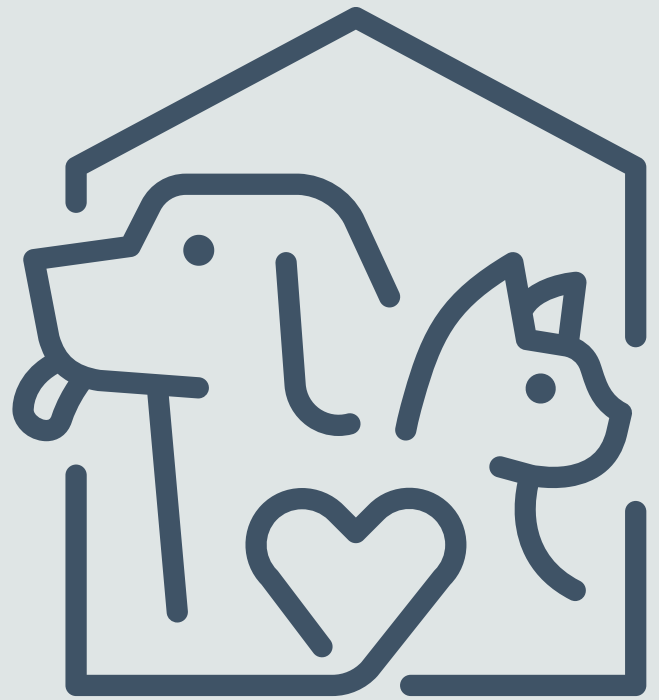


And [here](#) to find us on Facebook!

As with the website and online pharmacy, our choice to expand our use of social media was deliberate and goal-oriented. While our utilization will remain more limited than larger practices, our aim is to provide you with the information you need in visually appealing and easily accessible mediums.

We know that technology and sensibilities will continue to evolve and look forward to continuing to integrate the elements that best serve our core mission: caring for you and your pets.

Distemper outbreak in Calhoun County, Alabama results in euthanasia of 82 shelter dogs: a tragedy and stark reminder



Most veterinarians of this generation will have never encountered a case of distemper. A highly contagious viral disease, canine distemper is spread through airborne exposure as well as shared items like water or food bowls

*There is **no treatment** for canine distemper and care consists of supportive therapies while the infection targets the immune, respiratory, gastrointestinal, and neurologic systems. **One in two dogs** infected with CDV will succumb to the disease.*

As with many once fatal diseases, the best way to protect

**Concerned about vaccines?
Have questions about titers?**

We're always happy to talk. Our pets are our patients too.

your dog is through vaccination. Often done as a combination vaccine, the DAP or DA2PP is considered a core or essential vaccination by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). Once a dog has completed its initial series, the DAP vaccine is boosted every three years. Titers can also be used to determine if a booster is needed.

Because there is no legal requirement to vaccinate against canine distemper, continued protection against this disease requires acknowledgement of its ongoing threat to our canine companions and a commitment, both on the part of the veterinarian and pet owner, to honor our obligation to public health by mitigating the risk through vaccination. When we don't, it is the most vulnerable patients – those dogs whose health issues preclude vaccination or who find themselves in shelters – who suffer for it.



*“This is a **heartbreaking** time for our staff, and the decision [to euthanize remaining dogs] was not made lightly. Our employees are deeply affected, as they care for these animals daily.”*

*“**Vaccinating your pets** not only protects them but also prevents outbreaks like this one.”*

*Naomi Richards,
Calhoun County Animal Control*



Gilly + Dr. Alex

The Final “Woof” *with Gilly and Dr. Alex*

If you’ve made it this far – welcome! We’re so exciting to be exploring new ways to connect with you, our clients, and to bring you a mix of what’s happening in the practice and in the veterinary field at large.

We believe that effective communication, grounded in compassion, candor, and evidence-based recommendations, fosters the trust necessary to feel confident when making decisions for your pets.

Is there something you’d like to see in a future newsletter? Reach out to us! We are excited to share our expertise with the kindness, honesty, and good humor you’ve come to expect from us.

Alexander St. Onge



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