

Helping our pets in pain

By Charlene Marchand

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My sweet and mild 15-year-old gray tuxedo cat, Miles, is “silently” raving to me and his canine family here at Taizé about the positive effects of his MLS Laser Therapy treatment.

Riddled with arthritis (elbows and spine), he developed steroid-induced diabetes as a result of his treatment for pain relief. With diabetes under control, I needed to address an appropriate pain management approach for my beloved kitty. Cats face many challenges when it comes to safe and appropriate pain treatment. A most difficult, delicate balance.

We began his laser therapy at Chatham's Small Animal Hospital about six weeks ago. We started with three treatments per week (three to five minutes), then went to twice weekly sessions. As we who love and share our homes with companion animals know, there is no placebo effect with their meds or treatment protocols. It either works or it doesn't. I am waxing lyrical about the improvement in Miles's quality of life since we started. He now “snuggles into” his therapy session with seeming enjoyment, almost mimicking having a full body massage!

A number of my friends and many dogs that I see for training are greatly benefiting from this painless protocol. Lasers can and do treat painful arthritis, disc disease, wound healing, sinusitis, hip dysplasia, trauma, injury and more. This light energy approach has so many applications to benefit the health and welfare of those creatures in our charge. Have a discussion with your veterinary practitioner to see if laser therapy is an appropriate choice for an ailing individual.

If we have an opportunity to reduce pain, increase the mobility of an injured or aging pet or address a number of inflammatory processes that can limit or immobilize our animals, why not use the successful tools that we have to do so? How fortunate we, as owners, are to have another treatment modality for our pets in pain.



CGHS honors county DA

Columbia-Greene Humane Society photo
On July 30, the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA presented its annual Bilinski Award, the highest honor that it bestows on a person, company or organization. The award is presented annually in recognition of Jerry Bilinski, DVM, for his devotion to helping all animals and nearly three decades of commitment to and support of the shelter. This year's recipient was Columbia County District Attorney Paul Czajka. 'We deeply appreciate Mr. Czajka and the District Attorney's Office for their commitment to protecting animals in Columbia County,' said Ron Perez, president/chief executive officer of the humane society. Pictured at the 12th Annual Summer Paw Picnic, from left: Perez, Bilinski, Czajka and humane society board Chairwoman Charlene Marchand.

Charlene Marchand is the chairwoman of the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA Board of Directors. Contacted her via cghsaaron@gmail.com. For information on the shelter, call 518-828-6044, visit www.cghs.org or stop in at 111 Humane Society Road, off Route 66 (about a mile south of the intersection with Route 9H) in Hudson. The shelter is open 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day. The food bank is open to any from the public in need of pet food or for those wishing to donate food anytime during business hours. All cats and kittens are "furrever free" with all expenses paid. Spay/neuter clinics for cats are \$75 male or female, including a rabies vaccination and a 5-in-1 feline distemper combination vaccination. Nail clipping services are available 10-11 a.m. every Saturday, no appointment necessary, for a donation of \$5 for cats and \$10 for dogs.