

Fall 2026

Mixed Animal Care - Large, Small & Exotics

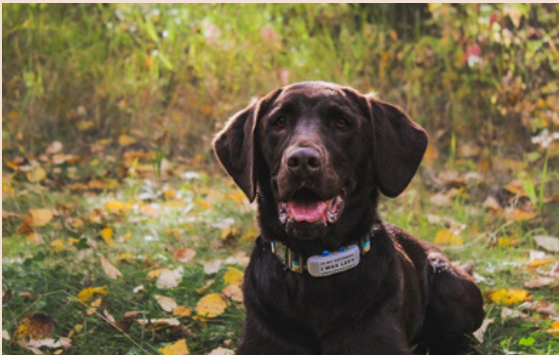


Fall Pet and Livestock Care 🐾🐕

As the days get shorter and temperatures begin to drop, fall is a great time to prepare our animals for the changing season. From parasite prevention to winter preparation, a few simple steps now can help keep your pets and livestock healthy and comfortable as we head into colder weather.

🐾 Fall Parasite Prevention

Cooler temperatures don't mean parasites are gone! Ticks and fleas can remain active throughout the fall, especially during warmer days. Continue parasite prevention as recommended by your veterinarian and check your pets for ticks after walks, hikes and outdoor adventures.



🍁 Fall Reminder 🍁

Fall is a great time to schedule your pet's wellness exam and make sure they are ready for the season ahead. If you have questions about parasite prevention, nutrition, winter care or your herd health plan, our team is always happy to help.

🍁 Preparing Pets for Cooler Weather

Fall is a good time to make sure your pets are ready for changing temperatures. Pets that spend time outdoors should have access to a warm, dry shelter, while senior pets and those with arthritis may need extra support as the weather gets colder.

A few things to check:

- Outdoor shelter and bedding
- Food and water supplies
- Collar and microchip information
- Winter medications or supplements
- Nail and paw care

🐾 Getting Livestock Ready for Winter

Fall is also an important planning season for livestock. Before winter arrives, take some time to evaluate body condition, feed supplies, water sources and shelter. Addressing concerns early can make the transition into winter much easier for your herd.

Consider checking:

- Body condition and nutritional needs
- Water access before freezing temperatures
- Fencing and shelter
- Vaccination and herd health plans



Rockyrapidsvet.com



780-542-2144



5065 56 ST Drayton Valley, AB

Small Animal & Exotic Corner



Fall Wellness Check

Fall is a great time to make sure your pet is healthy and ready for the colder months ahead. Changes in weather and routine can affect everything from skin and coat health to mobility and energy levels.

Keep an eye out for:

- Changes in appetite or weight
- Increased scratching or licking
- Changes in energy or behaviour
- Stiffness or difficulty getting around
- Changes in drinking or bathroom habits

A wellness exam can help identify small changes before they become bigger problems.

For reptiles and other temperature-sensitive pets, fall is a good time to double-check their enclosure setup. As the temperature in your home changes, heating and lighting systems may not maintain the same temperatures they did during summer.

Before winter arrives, check:

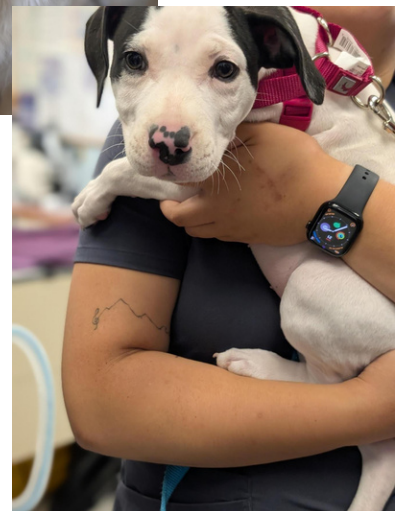
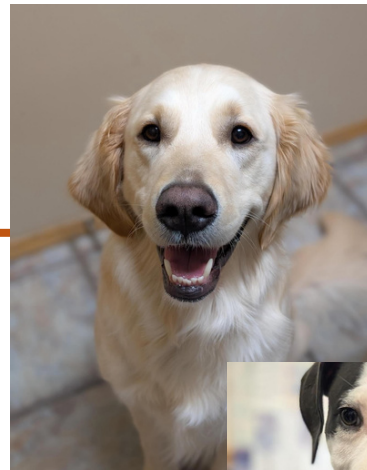
- Basking and ambient temperatures
 - Humidity levels
 - UVB bulb age and output
 - Thermometers and thermostats
 - Heating equipment and cords
-
- **Small changes in your home's temperature can make a big difference for exotic pets!**

Don't Forget About Dental Health!

Dental disease is one of the most common health concerns we see in dogs and cats, and it can develop long before obvious signs appear. Bad breath, tartar, red gums and difficulty chewing can all be signs that your pet's mouth needs attention.

Did you know?

Regular dental care at home, combined with veterinary dental assessments and cleanings when needed, can help keep your pet's mouth healthier for years to come.



Large Animal / Herd Health



Foot Rot: Know the Signs

Symptoms

Sudden lameness, swelling around the foot, redness or irritation between the claws, and sometimes a foul odour or discharge.

Environmental Factors

Wet or muddy conditions, manure, rough surfaces and small injuries to the foot can increase the risk. Fall is a good time to pay attention to high-traffic areas around waterers, feeders and gates.

Foot rot bacteria are commonly present in the environment, but they need an opportunity to enter through damaged skin.

Risk increases when cattle are exposed to:

- Muddy or consistently wet conditions
- Rough or abrasive surfaces
- Rocks, sharp objects or other sources of foot injury
- Wet, dirty housing or holding areas
- Conditions that cause prolonged moisture and softening of the skin

Treatment:

Early treatment with appropriate veterinary directed antimicrobials is important. Most uncomplicated cases respond well, but cattle that don't improve should be reassessed for other causes of lameness.

Epsom salt soaks can help cleanse and soothe affected feet, but more severe cases may require additional veterinary treatment. Keep feet clean and dry when possible, and contact us if lameness, swelling, or infection persists.

Fall Herd Health Checklist

Before winter, consider:

- ☐ Pregnancy checking
- ☐ Vaccination and parasite-control plans
- ☐ Body condition scoring
- ☐ Winter feed and mineral planning
- ☐ Water availability
- ☐ Shelter and fencing
- ☐ Identify animals needing culling or additional attention

Fall is an important time for pregnancy checking, culling decisions, vaccination and planning winter nutrition.

Getting Horses Ready for Winter

Fall is a great time to take care of those routine jobs before winter arrives. Consider:

- ☐ Dental and wellness exams
- ☐ Hoof care
- ☐ Body condition and weight
- ☐ Deworming/parasite planning
- ☐ Vaccinations
- ☐ Winter shelter and water

Small reminder: Changes in pasture, exercise and temperature can affect your horse's nutritional needs as the seasons change.

Clinic Updates



Reminder:

Extended Thursday Hours

8:30 AM - 7:30 PM

After-Hours Emergency Care

If your animal experiences an emergency outside of regular clinic hours, please call the clinic as usual. You call will be directed to our after-hours triage service, who will help determine if immediate veterinary care is needed.



Have a Safe & Spooky Halloween!

Keep the Candy Out of Reach

Chocolate and sugar-free treats containing xylitol can be dangerous for pets. Keep candy bowls, treat bags and wrappers safely out of paws' reach. If your pet gets into something they shouldn't, contact your veterinarian promptly.



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A Message from Our Manager

With the changing seasons comes big changes at Rocky Rapids Veterinary Services.

Most of you will have noticed that we have recently started renovations to allow for a third small animal examination room and a much-needed change in our reception area. We hope this extra space will allow for quicker service, increased appointment availability and a more pleasant waiting experience for our clients and patients. Please bear with us through the mess as the renovations are completed!

Behind the scenes we have been working hard to ensure a smooth transition of leadership as my own life changes. It is with a great mix of emotion that I announce my departure as Manager from RRVS. My partner and I have decided to move away from Drayton Valley to pursue our personal goals. While I am saddened to be stepping back from the daily clinic activities, I am grateful to be able to continue to support RRVS in a majority remote capacity and to help transition our very own Amanda Sivertson to the Manager role.

Amanda has been an important part of the RRVS team since spring of 2024 and we could not be more proud of the way she embodies our Core Values of Care, Connection, Tenacity and Growth. Please join us in congratulating Amanda on her promotion to Manager!

I am forever grateful for the lessons and experiences that each of my clients, patients and coworkers have given me over the last 7 years and am looking forward to all the new ones that lie ahead. I would like to extend an extra special thankyou to Dr. Thiessen, Dr. Oakey and Dr. Winder for their years of shared knowledge and understanding, as well as the team at Mosaic for their constant support of my own growth. Rural Medicine continues to be my professional passion. I am so proud to have been, and to get to continue to be, a part of a group that prioritizes quality medicine, team support and compassionate care in rural, mixed animal medicine. I am confident the RRVS team will continue to embody those values as we navigate this change together.

With Gratitude,

Brooke Wildman

