



# EMERGENCY B·Y·T·E·S



Chicago Veterinary  
Emergency Services

# ER

Open Nights, Weekends & Holidays

773.281.7110

News and information from the Chicago Veterinary Emergency Services

Spring 2008

## The Excitement of Emergency

For the last 14 years, Dr. Laura Beyer has been an indispensable member of the CVES team, effectively treating a great many seriously ill and injured animals. As soon as she joined the CVES staff, Dr. Beyer knew she was in the right place. From the start, she has loved the excitement and the pace of emergency veterinary medicine. And she has felt engaged by the great variety of cases she has seen.

Dr. Beyer knew early on that she wanted to become a veterinarian. After dreaming at five of becoming a ballerina, then at eight of becoming a teacher or a nurse, she read the James Herriot novels *All Creatures Great and Small* and *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. These books about the world of animals and veterinary care hooked the 10-year old Laura, and the rest is history.

*"...saving an animal's life is Dr. Beyer's favorite part of working in emergency medicine."*

Dr. Beyer received her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Michigan State University. She then worked at a day practice in Peotone, Illinois, for several years. Desiring work that offered more adventure than the routine cases she handled there, Dr. Beyer began looking for a change. In the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, she noticed an ad for veterinarians to work in a Chicago-based emergency hospital and applied. She was hired, and that was the beginning of her career with CVES.

Dr. Beyer believes her greatest achievement has been her growth in the profession. She has kept up with advances in the field and new technologies, continually increasing her expertise.



When it comes to working with the humans in her patients' lives, Dr. Beyer seeks always to be honest and straightforward. Once she formulates a diagnosis, she makes sure the animal's owner fully understands the situation, along with the treatment options, so that the owner can make an informed decision about treatment.

Dr. Beyer has dealt with many memorable cases over the last 14 years, and one she will always remember took place recently. Scout, a one-and-a-half year old Coton de Tulear, was admitted with extremely pale gums and very labored breathing. Bloodwork revealed Scout had rapidly progressing anemia. Dr. Beyer immediately placed her on oxygen and started a blood transfusion, using whole blood from the CVES blood bank.

During the first 15 minutes of the transfusion, the patient started going agonal and came close to dying. Quickly, Dr. Beyer abandoned her usual transfusion protocol, which regulates the rate at which the blood is given via intravenous (IV) blood drip. Instead, she opened the line to let the blood flow freely. After 20 minutes of open flow, Scout showed signs of improvement. She was released the next morning and is flourishing at home, where she has resumed her happy life with her owner. Not surprisingly, saving an animal's life is Dr. Beyer's favorite part of working in emergency medicine.

When Dr. Beyer is not working hard at CVES, she may be pursuing one of her other interests. She is an avid sportswoman who sails, skis, and scuba dives. She also enjoys making home improvements, working in her yard, and traveling.

In fact, it is travel, Dr. Beyer believes, that has taught her life's greatest lessons. By experiencing many countries and other ways of living, she has gained an appreciation for all that she has and for her career as a veterinarian, an opportunity she would not have had in many parts of the world.

Dr. Beyer looks forward to more travel, to more years with CVES, and to starting a family. She says she may even sail around the world when she retires. But fortunately for CVES and for the many animals who depend on her, that will not be for a long time.



## Specialty Products/Services

Below is a list of services and products we can supply to day practices:

- *Acetylcysteine*
- *Antizol Vet*
- *Blood Administration Sets & Filters*
- *Calcium EDTA*
- *Canine Cryoprecipitate*
- *Canine Fresh Frozen Plasma*
- *Canine Packed Red Blood Cells*
- *Canine Pancreatic Lipase Snap Test*
- *Canine Whole Blood*
- *Cardiac Troponin Test for the Istat Analyzer*
- *Central Venous Catheters*
- *Feline Fresh Frozen Plasma*
- *Freamine*
- *Hetastarch*
- *Jackson-Pratt Drains*
- *Oxyglobin*
- *Septiserum*

*The Hospital staff is available until 2:00 pm daily. If you need to reach us you may contact us on our hospital to hospital line.*



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*Emergency Bytes is published by Chicago Veterinary Emergency Services (CVES). The only after-hours animal emergency facility in Chicago, we provide the highest quality emergency medical and surgical care when your regular veterinarian is closed. Fully staffed with veterinarians and technicians who are specially trained and experienced in handling animal emergencies, we are just a phone call away!*

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## CVES Blood Bank – Help Save A Life



### Update: Canine Blood Bank

We are happy to announce our recent collaboration with Greyhounds Only, Inc. – a breed rescue for retired racing greyhounds. Greyhounds Only was established in 1995 and has placed over 1,000 greyhounds in permanent homes. Our blood bank staff visits their facilities where many adoptable dogs are boarded and tests about 10 greyhounds per month. The dogs that turn out to be universal donors are added to our growing pack of life-savers. Their adoptive families are encouraged to bring them in several times a year to donate.

Greyhounds make excellent blood donors for several reasons. They are generally quiet and gentle, allowing one to draw blood from them with ease. They have a significantly higher proportion of red blood cells (PCV) than other breeds (55-65% for greyhounds vs. 37-55% for other breeds). Greyhounds are also much more likely to be "universal donors" – thus decreasing the likelihood of the recipient having a transfusion reaction. Overall, 7-10% of dogs are universal donors. However, 60% of greyhounds are universal donors!

To learn more about Greyhounds Only, Inc., and to view dogs available for adoption, please visit their website at [www.greyhoundsonly.com](http://www.greyhoundsonly.com).

### Welcome Dr. Sikorska

*CVES is proud to welcome Dr. Sikorska from Animal Emergency Referral Center. Dr. Sikorska will be working out of our location for cardiology consulting and ultrasounds every Wednesday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm beginning at a date to be announced. By appointment only.*

## Letters From Our Valued Clients

Thank you so much for taking care of Sadie Parchem the other day!! You were great! The kids really liked her colorful



cast with the flower on it; they showed her picture to all of their teachers and the kids at school. Sadie had her surgery and is doing well. We greatly appreciate the help and care you provided for our newest puppy.

Thank you,  
The Parchem Family

Thank you to all of the great people who attended to Mac. He was the Westie who ate 300mg of my neighbor's anti-depressants. That was one of the most terrifying experiences. I think I was in a state of shock, yet I really felt that Mac was receiving the best care possible.



My compliments to Dr. Goode and the entire staff. You all were so awesome. Also a big thanks to Dr. LaFave who was so kind to drive Mac and me in the AM to his regular veterinarian. The snowstorm was preventing us from getting a taxi.

You all have my deepest admiration for what you do and all that you give.

My deepest thanks,  
Jennifer Baxter