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## MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical

Center sees growing similarity in

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### pet human care

Posted by [unreadable] on [unreadable]

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(MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical Center)

In this video, veterinarian William Rosenblad performs a dental surgery, and gives an overview of the procedure, at the MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical Center in Jamaica Plain.

JAMAICA PLAIN

**142** Homes for sale  
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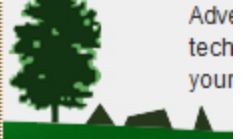
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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

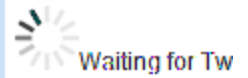


It's a typical hospital scene.

Past two large glass automatic sliding doors, the modern lobby has a sparkling glow and a sanitized smell. A few people quietly wait to approach the receptionists, who are typing away on computers while juggling phones and paperwork.

Others in the lobby are more anxious -- waiting for loved ones to return from beyond two large wooden doors down a hallway to the right of cashiers and a pharmacy. A doctor dressed in blue green scrubs with a stethoscope draped around his neck and a clipboard in one hand waves a plastic card in front of a reader. Unlocking those oversized doors, he disappears.

But, then, a patient emerges from down a side hallway. He is still running as he reaches the front desk and leans over to say greet a woman working on the



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...e, which means many pets are living

...really differently than we did even one  
...a Moses. "The human animal bond in

...own a pet and an estimated \$52.8 billion  
...d animals, including about \$13.5 billion  
...ly to expenditures on pet food, according  
...ion National Pet Owners Survey.

...from two decades ago, the survey shows.  
...e than tripling over the past 20 years.

...d. But, "this is by no means a service just  
...ersity we see."

...ent about \$500 in veterinary services,  
...wered that: "I can't really afford to take

...ing "as if it were a dog," says 63-year-old  
...f her dog's health, she says.

People are willing to do, and pay, more  
... longer, she said.

"I think we value animals in our lives  
...generation ago," said veterinarian Lisa  
...American culture has grown."

About 62 percent of US households ow  
...will be spent this year on those beloved  
...on veterinary care which is second onl  
...to the American Pet Products Associat

Pet ownership has seen modest gains t  
...Spending meanwhile has soared, more

Pet medical care can be costly, she sai  
...for rich people. I'm amazed at the div

During 2011, the average pet owner sp  
...and about one-third of pet owners ans

ssociated Press-Petside.com poll.

andom objects eaten by pets, [click here.](#))

and human medicine in recent decades are  
pets, Holm said.

ar-old dog stops walking," said Christine  
cologist at the animal hospital. And,  
ink 'oh, that's it,' But we know from  
ere are often things we can do to  
ity of their remaining life."

(Matt Rocheleau for Boston.com)  
A dog in the urgent care ward.

As Holm  
walked  
past the  
hospital's  
dental  
exam  
rooms,  
where  
doctors  
perform  
root canals,  
oral

she pointed out that many pets now live  
ns.

rs has really evolved in veterinary

gloomier side to pets living longer.

owners become. And, in their later years,  
icated conditions and degenerative

my pets to the vet," according to an As

(To see a series of X-ray images of ra

Rapid advancements in technology an  
translating into better care options for

"It's not necessarily the end if an 8-ye  
Anderson, a medical and radiology on  
"Many people hear cancer and they th  
humans that's not always the case. Th  
lengthen their life or improve the qual



reconstruction and cavity treatments,  
long enough, to develop tooth problem

"This is an area that in the past 10 yea  
medicine," she said.

But, beyond tooth troubles, there is a §

The older they get, the more attached  
animals, like humans, develop compli

arthritis and eye issues -- that owners

medicine department at Angell Animal  
e for animals is a new field, and her  
world.

Planning such a department involved more  
pain pets feel as they grow older or

to cry on, a therapist of sorts to people. She  
wrenching decisions pet owners can  
anize their beloved animal.

about three times per week during the pet's  
ops a close connection to both the pet and

e the animal at the same time," she said.

excluded space in the corner of the  
d chairs, a small table and a box of tissues  
de exit that mourning pet owners can use  
through the main lobby.

quish in over whether to go forward with a  
they opt to euthanize. Sometimes the

ed their pet "as much a part of the family  
' and another 36 percent said they see  
t as much as the people in the household,"  
oll.

ck and say I'm not going to try  
said.

acceptable in pet medicine than human

diseases -- including cancer, diabetes,  
have a tough time coping with.

Five years ago, Moses started the pain  
Medical Center. She said pain medicin  
department is one of a handful in the

Moses said she quickly learned that ru  
than just helping to ease the physical p  
become sick.

She often finds herself as a shoulder to  
walks families through the most heart  
face, including about whether to eutha

Moses said she often sees an animal al  
final months, which means she develo  
the pet's owners.

"It's very hard to lose them and to lose

Her job involves many meetings in a s  
hospital. There are several soft, padde  
in the "meditation room." There is a si  
to leave the hospital without walking t

In that isolated room, pet owners ang  
certain, risky procedure. Sometimes th  
animal is put down in that room.

Half of American pet owners consider  
as any other person in the household,'  
their pet as "part of the family, but no  
according to a 2009 AP-Petside.com p

Still, "a lot of people are able to step ba  
everything medically possible," Moses

Euthanasia is markedly more socially  
medicine.



practice remains among the most  
options sought for animals versus care

comfortable, and not necessarily trying to cure

of dogs over age 10 will develop cancer at

er is often to cure it," Anderson said. "Our  
but if that's not a possible or reasonable  
improve their quality of life."



available to animals mimics what

al Center was located in the Longwood  
atric healthcare in Boston.

rent South Huntington Avenue location  
in donations.

assistants work on array of cases. Some  
ent through the hospital's emergency  
7 days a week.

As veterinary care has improved, that  
apparent distinctions between medical  
typically sought for humans.

"We're trying to make pets more comf  
them," said Anderson.

For example, she said more than half  
some point.

"In humans, the goal of treating canco  
goal is to cure [the animals] if we can.  
goal, we want to do what we can to in

### **A human hospital for animals**

(Matt Rocheleau for Boston.com)

A dog undergoes eye surgery.

In many ways, the medical care now  
humans receive.

For six decades, Angell Animal Medica  
Medical Area, the heart of human-cen

In 2006, the hospital opened at its cur  
after it was built through \$16 million i

Highly-trained doctors, nurses and ass  
involve immediate, life-saving treatm  
center, which is open 24 hours a day.

huddled over a Newfoundland-breed dog, hooked to tubes, heart monitors and in two separate operating rooms as machines beep and buzz. The procedure, called tibial plateau-leveling osteotomy, or surgery to level the knee, is a common procedure for humans experience and call "ski knee."

performed at the hospital each day.

patient care, officials said. Most pets who are treated at the hospital, though specialty pets

overnight. Some are there to be monitored because their owners are traveling.

Most, some lavish amenities for guests; a member from the medical center read their favorite classical music played for their pet.

Ophthalmology, surgery, radiology, oncology and other specialties which consult with and refer patients to other hospitals. The American Veterinary Medical Association recognizes 40 specialties in a specialty practice. The only specialty that Angell Hospital is for is the large animal specialty,

services at other facilities run by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, including animal care, education and law enforcement

is not as simple as it used to be and a lot more complicated,"

But there are more things we can do to help

random objects eaten by pets, [click here](#).

On a recent visit, doctors and nurses huddled over a dog who laid on his back, sedated and hooked to tubes. In one of the hospital's five operating rooms, the patient underwent a tibial plateau-leveling osteotomy to fix a condition akin to what some h

Between 15 and 25 operations are performed

The hospital offers inpatient and outpatient care. Pets are brought there live within 20 miles and come from all over New England.

There is space for animals to stay overnight and be treated, staff said. Others are there for

The boarding area offers, at an extra charge, a variety of options: having a staff member read to the pet a bed time story or to have soothing

The medical center has dentistry, ophthalmology and pain therapy departments, all of which work together. The American Veterinary Medical Association recognizes 40 distinct specialties within the veterinary field. The Angell Animal Medical Center does not treat certain conditions, according to Holm.

The hospital also has access to resources from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, including adoption centers and shelters and advanced medical departments.

"Our cases are a lot older than they used to be," Moses said.

But, Anderson explained, "There definitely are more things we can do to help

To see a series of X-ray images of ran

@gmail.com.

here.  
the "Like" button on the top left hand  
e, here.

(Matt Rocheleau for Boston.com)

innovative pain medicine department she heads at the  
n.

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In this video, veterinarian Lisa Moses talks about the  
MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical Center in Jamaica Plai

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