

SEASONS VETERINARY CLINIC

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SPECIAL EDITION: INTRODUCING DR. KELLY HAMMOND!

Dr. Leigh and I are so excited to announce that we have a new addition at Seasons! Dr. Kelly Hammond joined our team in June, after a year practicing as a veterinarian just outside of Winnipeg. We are looking forward to being able to introduce Dr. Hammond to all our wonderful clients!



Dr. Kelly Hammond!

Kelly was raised on a grain farm outside of Deloraine, Manitoba. Growing up with a variety of pets inspired her to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. Kelly completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Bioscience at the University of Saskatchewan and went on to complete her veterinary studies at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 2020. Throughout her studies, Kelly has worked with a variety of animal species, including cattle, horses, pigs, dogs, and cats.

One of her most memorable experiences was spending a summer with Veterinarians Without Borders working with smallholder dairy farmers in central Kenya (turn the newsletter over to read more about Dr. Hammond's time in Kenya!). She and her team worked one-on-one with farmers to improve dairy cow health and welfare on their individual farms (and subsequently milk production), in addition to teaching seminars to larger groups of farmers specifically about dairy calf husbandry and management. Upon graduation from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Kelly spent a year practicing in Beausejour, Manitoba, and then in June 2021, she joined the team at Seasons Veterinary Clinic.

Kelly enjoys the variety that a career in veterinary medicine presents and has a special interest in small animal surgery. Outside of work, she enjoys travel, sports, and spending time with family and her cat, Bernie.

TRIVIA CORNER

To be eligible, you must be a client and cannot have won within the previous 6 months.

1. When did Dr. Hammond join our team at Seasons?
2. Where did Dr. Hammond work when she was in Kenya?
3. What was the goal of Dr. Hammond's work in Kenya?



**We hope
Jason's
owners enjoy
their Pronto
Pizza gift card
from last
months trivia
corner!**

CANINE LYME DISEASE

**TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES: 634
TOTAL TESTED IN MANITOBA: 16,970**

CANINE HEARTWORM DISEASE

**TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES: 67
TOTAL TESTED IN MANITOBA: 16,979**



***AS OF JULY 23RD**

My Experiences in Kenya!

From Dr. Kelly Hammond

After completing my first year of veterinary school in 2017, I had the wonderful opportunity to volunteer as an Assistant Field Veterinarian with Veterinarians Without Borders Canada (VWB). During the 3 month placement, I worked with smallholder dairy farmers in the Mukurwe-ini region of central Kenya, gaining invaluable insight into agriculture in a foreign country and sustainable international development.



The Kenya-based project has been in place since 2010, with the goals of improving dairy cow health and welfare. Most Kenyan dairy farmers own between 1-3 milking cows, which can provide enough income to send their children to school and improve nutrition and health care for their entire family. As a result each cow, its welfare and ability to produce milk is of utmost importance to these families. Over the course of the summer, my team and I worked directly with over 500 dairy farmers and taught over 40 seminars, visiting individual attendees' farms to give specific advice for their situation. By working one-on-one with farmers, we ensured their individual needs were met, setting them up to succeed. Despite the various obstacles faced, we were continually impressed with the dedication and ingenuity of the farmers we spoke with, and their resilience through difficult times. We were also able to witness firsthand the success of previous years' projects. To ensure the sustainability of the project, we taught 20 staff members at Mukurwe-ini Wakulima Dairy Ltd., VWB's partner organization in Kenya. This group is responsible for ongoing training of dairy farmers, so countless more individuals have and will learn about how to dairy farm more sustainably to ensure improved livelihood, even after our return to Canada.



Dr. Hammond teaching a seminar to local farmers

One Health is a concept that recognizes that the health of people, animals, and the environment are all interconnected, and through this program we also focused our efforts on education of children. Many rural Kenyan families have been personally affected in some way by rabies and other zoonotic diseases (diseases that are transmissible between people and animals). Therefore, the goal of this portion of the project was to educate primary school children on actions they can take to prevent getting a zoonotic disease as well as general safety around animals. During the summer of 2017 we continued this project, visiting 5 schools and speaking with 360 primary aged children. These students go home and teach their siblings and parents about this information, creating an even larger impact on the community surrounding staying safe around animals.

My summer spent in Kenya was more rewarding than I could have ever imagined, and it provided me with an incredible experience as I went on to complete my veterinary studies. The Kenyan dairy farmers we worked with are some of the hardest working people I have ever met, and I will forever be in awe of their raw determination and work ethic. This project has been able to make significant, lasting changes for the people we have worked with in Kenya. I hope to return to this incredible country again one day, and I encourage anyone interested in volunteering for similar projects to do so. It is the opportunity of a lifetime.

Thank you to Veterinarians Without Borders Canada, The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, Farmers Helping Farmers and private donors for their support in this project.

We'd love to hear from you!

If there is a certain topic you'd like more information on, or a specific question you have for the doctors as Seasons, send us a message!



Let us know if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter electronically