FRANKENMUTH-BIRCH RUN VETERINARY HOSPITAL

A Proud CareVet Partner Since 2021

THE HEALTHY PET GAZETTE

FALL / WINTER 2026 • OCTOBER–DECEMBER

A message from Dr. Gruenwald

As we enter the holiday season, I want to thank you for trusting us with your companions. Whether your family includes dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, reptiles, or other exotic pets, our team is honored to help them thrive. I'm excited to share our latest hospital news, special offers, and some timely health education.

Welcome to the Team, Dr. Moody!

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Moody, who joined our hospital in August 2026! Her addition helps us continue providing compassionate veterinary care and greater appointment availability for our community. Please help us give her a warm welcome on your next visit.

A Quick Reminder: Daily Lunch Closure

12:00–1:00 PM • Doors locked

Our hospital continues to close daily for our team's lunch break. During this time, clients cannot enter for appointments, medication or food pickups, or check-in. Thank you for helping our staff take a well-deserved break!

New! Healthy Pet Plans

Designed to make routine preventive care more predictable for DOGS AND CATS OVER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CANINE PLAN

$49.99/month | $545/year upfront

Five exams; core vaccines; tick panel, heartworm test, fecal testing and routine bloodwork; $50 off dental/spay/neuter; 10% off eligible annual in-clinic preventatives.

FELINE PLAN

$34.99/month | $365/year upfront

Five exams; core vaccines; fecal testing and routine bloodwork; $50 off dental/spay/neuter; 10% off eligible annual in-clinic preventatives.

12-month commitment; eligible exams are scheduled and subject to availability. Exclusions, upgrade options and other terms apply. Full details: frankenmuthbirchrunvet.com/healthy-pet-plans/

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Special Offers Through December 31, 2026

We're celebrating our community with four ways to save! Please mention the applicable offer when booking or checking in.

$1 First Wellness Exam

New clients can receive their first wellness exam for just $1. Dogs and cats only. Limit one per new client; cannot be combined with other offers. Offer ends December 31, 2026.

Bring Two Pets, Get One Exam Fee FREE

Book two dogs/cats for appointments during the same visit and receive the second exam fee free. Other services, vaccines, products and treatments are billed normally. One offer per household; cannot be combined. Through December 31, 2026.

Save $25 or $50 on Wellness Testing

$25 off Essential Wellness Testing (preventive screening such as fecal, heartworm and/or FeLV/FIV testing) OR $50 off Comprehensive Wellness Testing (screening plus bloodwork). Dogs and cats only; one offer per household; cannot be combined. Through December 31, 2026.

15% Off Veterinary Services for Those Who Serve

Eligible teachers/educators, police officers and K9 units, firefighters, active-duty and retired military, EMTs/paramedics, healthcare workers and veterinary professionals receive 15% off veterinary services. Dogs and cats only; valid ID required; services only; cannot be combined.

For complete terms and appointment booking: frankenmuthbirchrunvet.com/promotions/

EXOTIC PET SPOTLIGHT

Could UVB Light Support Rabbit & Guinea Pig Bone Health?

When we think of UVB lighting, reptiles often come to mind. But veterinary researchers are also investigating how carefully managed UVB exposure may affect vitamin D status in rabbits and guinea pigs.

UVB reaching the skin initiates vitamin D production. Vitamin D supports calcium and phosphorus metabolism and healthy bone mineralization. Because rabbits and guinea pigs have continuously growing teeth, jawbone health and balanced mineral metabolism are important components of overall dental health.

Why not just add more calcium?

Rabbits absorb dietary calcium efficiently and eliminate much of the excess through urine. An unbalanced diet or excess calcium may contribute to urinary sludge or stones in susceptible pets. Adding calcium without a veterinary assessment is not a substitute for addressing vitamin D or dental concerns.

Practical UVB safety reminders

- Glass and many plastics filter out most beneficial UVB. A sunny windowsill behind glass is not equivalent to direct UVB exposure.
- Outdoor time should be supervised, in a secure predator-proof area, with shade and protection from heat and stress.

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- Indoor UVB bulbs vary widely. Fixture type, strength, screening, distance and exposure time must be chosen for the individual enclosure; there is no universal safe 9–18-inch rule.
- Always offer a shaded retreat and monitor for eye irritation or overheating. Some lighting fixtures produce heat.
- UVB output declines before a bulb visibly burns out. Follow manufacturer replacement guidance or appropriate meter readings.

Ask us before adding a UVB bulb

UVB supplementation is a promising area of research, not a proven treatment for dental disease, urinary stones or metabolic bone disease in pet rabbits and guinea pigs. Our exotic animal team can help review your pet's diet, housing and individual needs.

YEAR-ROUND PREVENTIVE CARE

Ticks, Fleas & Heartworms Don't Take the Winter Off

Michigan ticks can remain active during winter warm spells. Blacklegged ticks may move around on mild days—even around 37°F under favorable conditions—and indoor fleas can reproduce all winter. We recommend veterinarian-directed heartworm, flea and tick prevention year-round.

- Blacklegged (deer) tick: Associated with Lyme disease, anaplasmosis and babesiosis.
- American dog tick: Can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia; may also cause tick paralysis.
- Lone star tick: Present in some parts of Michigan; associated with ehrlichiosis and other infections.

Why monthly heartworm prevention works "backward"

Heartworm infection begins when an infected mosquito deposits larvae during a bite. Most monthly preventatives act on susceptible immature larvae acquired before that dose—not as a lasting shield against all future mosquito bites. Each on-time monthly dose helps eliminate susceptible stages acquired since the previous dose. Skipping or delaying doses may let larvae mature beyond the stages reliably targeted by routine prevention.

Our recommendation

Continue prevention on schedule, even in winter. Arrange annual heartworm testing for dogs and ask us for a plan if a dose was missed. Preventives do not treat adult heartworm infection.

HOLIDAY SAFETY: EVERY SPECIES MATTERS

Decorations, visitors, festive food and winter weather can create unexpected hazards. Here are the top reminders for your household:

DOGS

Keep chocolate, xylitol-containing products, grapes/raisins, macadamia nuts, alcohol, cooked bones and fatty leftovers away. Secure ribbons, ornaments and cords.

CATS

Keep all lilies—including pollen and vase water—out of the home. Tinsel, curling ribbon, ornament hooks and unsecured trees can cause serious injuries.

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BIRDS

Avoid scented candles, aerosols, essential-oil diffusers, smoke and overheated nonstick cookware fumes. Keep birds away from kitchens, wires and unfamiliar plants.

RABBITS, GUINEA PIGS & SMALL MAMMALS

Avoid sudden diet changes, sugary treats, ribbons, wires and toxic plants. Provide hay, water and a quiet space. Reduced appetite or fecal output requires urgent veterinary assessment.

For all pets: secure antifreeze, deicers and medications; monitor doors during gatherings; and update identification and microchip details.

When Emergencies Happen

Call ahead to confirm current hours, capacity and species accepted—especially for birds, reptiles and other exotic pets.

- Great Lakes Pet Emergencies — Saginaw | (989) 752-1960 | 1221 Tittabawassee Rd, Saginaw
- Emergency Veterinary Care Centers — Saginaw | (989) 558-1800 | 5225 Hampton Pl, Saginaw
- Animal Emergency Center — Rochester | (248) 651-1788 | 265 E. 2nd St, Rochester
- Animal Emergency Center — Novi | (248) 348-1788 | 24360 Novi Rd, Suite A, Novi (ask about exotics)

24/7 Pet Poison Help

ASPCA Animal Poison Control: (888) 426-4435 • Pet Poison Helpline: (855) 764-7661. Consultation fees may apply. Do not induce vomiting unless directed by a veterinary professional.

A Holiday Message From Your Medical Director

Thank you for being part of the Frankenmuth-Birch Run Veterinary Hospital family. I am proud of our team and grateful for the opportunity to care for the animals who mean so much to you. Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!

Warmly,
Dr. Samantha Gruenwald, DVM, GPCert(ExAP), CPEV
& the Team at Frankenmuth-Birch Run Veterinary Hospital