

BUSINESS PROFILE

Dr. Kevin Yun Purchases Mill Creek Veterinary Hospital

by Barbara Sleeper

"Healthy Pets are Happy Pets" exclaims this mainstay animal care clinic. Located next to Baskin-Robbins, the historic business first opened its doors to pets-in-need a year before the City of Mill Creek was even incorporated.

The Mill Creek Veterinary Hospital is a family-owned veterinary practice that has been serving the Mill Creek community since 1982. It was started by Dr. Michael Betts, D.V.M. who owned the clinic for 40 years, faithfully working there across four decades as a full-time small animal practitioner.

Last year, Dr. Betts decided to reduce his hours to enjoy more time with family, and he sold his beloved clinic to general practitioner, Dr. Kevin Yun, D.V.M.

"After working at various small animal practices during the first eight years of my career," explains Dr. Betts, "I decided to set up a practice in Mill Creek. At that time, the Bothell-Everett Highway and 164th Street were just two-lane roads. There was McDonalds and the shopping center with Albertsons (now Safeway) and just a few other businesses.

"When I opened my clinic, we were the only business next to several spots waiting to be leased, and the surrounding area was mostly forest. Since then, it's been remarkable watching the City of Mill



Pictured here is the Mill Creek Veterinary Hospital team (L-R) Carol, Michael, Bonnie, Kristy, Kevin holding Lucy, and Rhonda with Squiggles.

Creek grow and thrive during the past 40 years, and I am happy to have been a part of it.

"My employees and I have made many friendships and enjoyed treating the thousands of pets we have seen over the years. However, time marches on and I realized that I can't be a vet forever, so I was happy to sell the practice to Dr. Yun who is a very fine man and outstanding veterinarian.

"Having my own practice and being my own 'boss' has been an extremely rewarding experience, but one not without its challenges," Betts admits. "Since selling my practice, I have enjoyed the

extra time off not having to deal with the pressures that go with running a business.

"Fortunately, Kevin asked me to continue to work at the clinic on a part-time basis. I am thrilled with this arrangement because I wasn't ready to stop working altogether."

According to new owner, Dr. Yun, the Mill Creek Veterinary Hospital is conveniently located right off Bothell- Everett Highway with easy access, ample parking and a nice clientele. "Thanks to Dr. Betts'," he says, "the clinic has a great reputation and I'm excited to take over the practice to carry on his legacy.

"I truly appreciate the continued support from Dr. Betts, his staff and our regular clients. Since last fall, we've also had an influx of wonderful new patients. I've discovered that Mill Creek is a super friendly, pet-oriented community where people want to take good care of their pets."

Dr. Michael Betts started the popular Mill Creek dog and cat clinic in 1982 and sold it last year to Dr. Kevin Yun.



Dr. Kevin Yun graduated from Konkuk University in South Korea in 2013. After serving in the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) for two years, he moved to Baton Rouge, LA to participate in a one-year Clinical Program at Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Upon successful completion of the program, he was certified by PAVE (The Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence).

He started his career as a small animal GP in 2016. Having lived in New York, New Jersey, Georgia and Louisiana on the East Coast, he decided to move his family to the Evergreen State to be closer to relatives.

“During my childhood, my parents lived in a high-rise apartment, the most popular type of housing in Seoul. No one was allowed to have any pets, but my sister and I would sneak in small animals like hamsters, guinea pigs, chicks, and even rabbits. The animals were returned once they became too big or too loud for my parents, but some lived months and years until they got sick and died.

“I remember giving a human vitamin supplement to a sick rabbit that had stopped moving in hopes of bringing her back. As a young child, I didn’t know that medical care was available for these animals.

“Early on, I dreamed of pursuing some type of medical career,” he explains. “When I was old enough, I worked at several animal shelters and animal hospitals in the Seoul area. This experience increased my interest in medical care for animals and its impact on quality of life.

“I then served in the military as a veterinary specialist. My job was to monitor food safety and help create infectious vector controls. I worked with a veterinary officer in charge of food safety, quality assurance, and the protection from contamination of food distributed to military camps. We followed strategic military protocol for vector control to reduce vector-borne disease in soldiers. This involved dealing with various insecticides and rodenticides while trying

to minimize impact on the environment.”

Today, Dr. Yun is a well-rounded general practitioner with special interests in ophthalmology, dentistry, and soft tissue surgery. When not working at the clinic he loves spending time with his wife Anna, two daughters, Evelyn and Eleanor, and their dog *Lucy*.

“I feel privileged to live so close to so much natural beauty. My family loves to visit the nearby mountains and numerous

state and national parks. I think my kids are even more excited about exploring than I am. Locally, Mill Creek has many good restaurants and cafes, several within walking distance of the clinic.”

In addition to Dr. Yun and Dr. Betts, the rest of the clinic’s friendly staff includes general practitioner Dr. Kathy Johnson, D.V.M., who does part-time small animal relief work; veterinary nurse/assistant, Kristy Betts, who loves *all*

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The Veterinary Hospital has been keeping our beloved companion animals happy and healthy for more than four decades.

animals; veterinary receptionist, Carol Franzen, who enjoys spending time with her family and dog, *Ellie*; veterinary nurse, Bonnie Molleston, who loves going home to her lively house full of kids and pets; and veterinary nurse/office manager, Rhonda Gallagher, who has worked at the clinic for nearly 20 years and is passionate about Australian shepherds, thoroughbred horses and veterinary medicine.

"I love being part of the clinic that Dr. Betts built from the ground up," says Rhonda. "I love our animal patients and their wonderful owners, and the relationships we've built with them since 2004. Now I'm looking forward to what the future holds for the clinic with Dr. Yun!"

"We specialize in the treatment of dogs and cats," continues Dr. Yun. "Our clinic provides a wide range of services including sick and well pet exams, spay and neuter services, dentistry, vaccinations, general and emergency medical care, and microchipping. We also perform soft tissue surgeries

and orthopedic procedures.

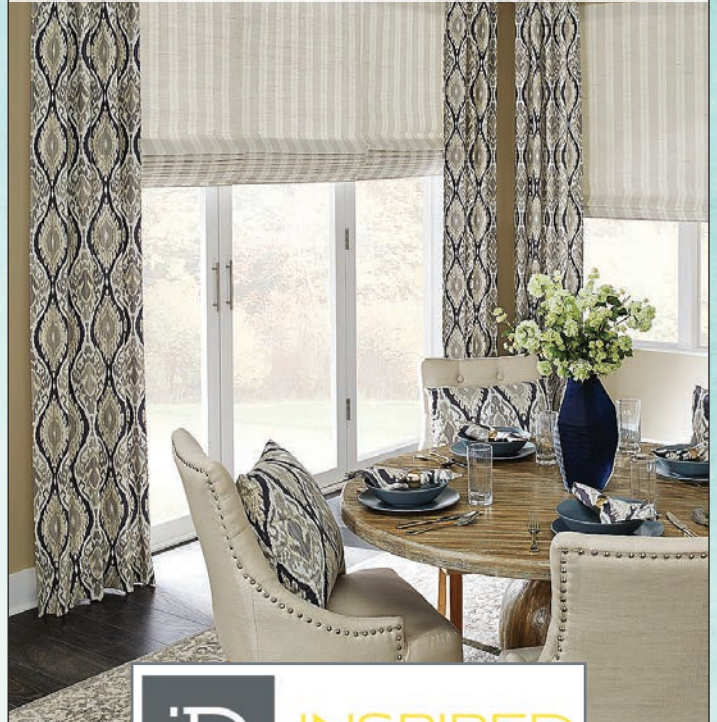
"We offer on-site radiology services to give you and your pet a quick diagnosis. For timely X-rays, ultrasound and echocardiology assessments, we rely on mobile specialists who visit our clinic when needed."

"Because we have a close working relationship with area specialists and specialty clinics, we can provide immediate referrals for more challenging cases such as complex orthopedic surgical cases, congenital or acquired cardiac diseases and cataract issues.

"Emergency visits are given top priority and will be seen immediately, but appointments are recommended to make the most efficient use of everyone's time. New clients can fill out our *new patient form* online and bring it with them to their first visit.

"If you don't have an appointment and can't wait to see a doctor, it is possible to drop off your pet and return later. The receptionist will obtain a brief description of your pet's condition and then we will contact you after the

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Both companion animals and their humans appreciate Dr. Yun's calm approach in the exam room.

initial examination to discuss possible treatment.”

“We microchip dogs and cats using the *Home Again* microchip system. This is a very safe and effective way to identify your pet and eliminate the need for ID tags.

“And for convenience, we stock the most frequently needed dog and cat medications in-house. All other required pharmaceuticals are available by prescription at most local *human* pharmacies.

“Our experienced and caring staff strives to make every visit a comfortable, stress-free experience for both you and your pet. Because we are a family-owned business, it is possible for your pet to be seen by the same veterinarian on every visit. This means that we often get very attached to our four-footed patients and their two-footed owners.”

“The most common cases we treat are skin infections, upset stomachs, diarrhea and flea problems, but we are also available for the most difficult situation of all, when an owner has to make the heartbreaking decision to euthanize an ill, injured or older pet.

“People often call us to ask when to have their pet vaccinated. We recommend starting an immunization program at around 8 weeks of age. We also recommend



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that a pet be spayed or neutered at 6 to 7 months of age or older.

"For optimal health, it's very important to make sure your pet is parasite free," stresses Dr. Yun. "Because a few dog and cat parasites can affect people under the right circumstances, it's recommended that your pet have a fecal exam at least once a year.

He also offers these additional tips: If your pet is vomiting or has diarrhea all food should be withheld" until you can consult with a veterinarian.

"If your cat is straining and yowling at its litterbox, take it to be seen by a veterinarian as soon as possible. A male cat may have a urinary tract obstruction which can be fatal if untreated.

"Eye injuries can be very serious," he adds. "Don't wait a few days to see if it will get better. Get your pet checked right away."

According to Dr. Yun, good preventative care for your pet includes

an annual exam, routine vaccines, and fecal and heartworm tests. He also recommends that your pet have their teeth checked.

"Most owners don't realize that their pet's health is directly affected by the quality of their teeth. Regular teeth cleaning, polishing and evaluation are an important part of taking good care of your pet. At the Mill Creek Veterinary Hospital, we offer dental cleaning and exodontic treatments (tooth extractions)."

And the next time you want to take your fur baby with you on a trip, be sure to call the Mill Creek Veterinary Hospital. A health certificate is required if you travel by airplane. Their veterinarians are accredited to endorse the required documentation for interstate and international travel with dogs or cats.

Check out their website. The clinic offers an online pharmacy for prescriptions and a variety of popular pet products including Hill's and Purina

brands for specialty diets. It's possible to create a convenient *AutoShip* order for home delivery of recurring medications and wellness products.

"Deciding on the right veterinary practice for your pet is a big decision for pet owners," says Dr. Yun. "At Mill Creek Veterinary Hospital, we offer compassionate care for your four-legged family members. Our modern pet and owner-friendly facility offers everything you need to keep your animal companion healthy and happy."

Mill Creek Veterinary Hospital

15704 Mill Creek Blvd.

Suite 16

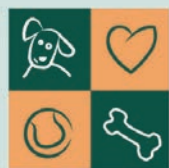
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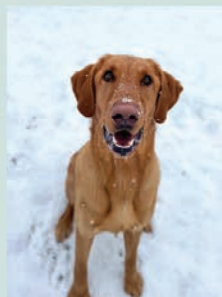
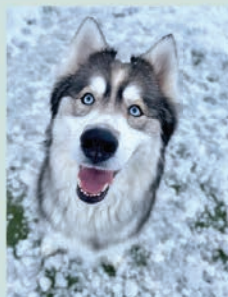
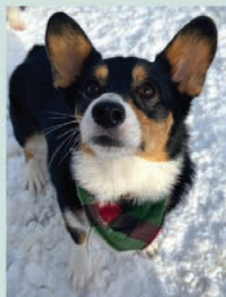


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