

## **Preschoolers Visit the Monroeville Pet Hospital**

In October of this year, Meghan Passalingua of the Monroeville United Methodist Church had requested that their preschool children visit our hospital to better understand how animals receive treatment and how the hospital functions.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 well-behaved children entered our building, wide-eyed and ready to ask a myriad of questions. I showed them examination rooms, the lab area, the surgical suite, the kennel, and the dental suite. The children continued to be inquisitive throughout their visit, demonstrating great understanding and genuine curiosity.

My own pet, Tequila Sunrise, is often in this office during business hours. She is an 8-year old Pit Bull rescue and she loved the attention she received from all of the children. She entertained the children well and they enjoyed playing with her demonstrating that much of dog behavior is greatly dependent upon how a dog is treated by humans.

Upon their departure, each child received a treat bag full of games, treats, and Halloween gifts. These gifts included dog and cat statues, a magnet of our Hospital information and many other animal related gifts.

Recently, we received a very cute home-made “thank you” card which included a letter from the children, outlining their individual perceptions and what they each liked best about their tour of the facilities. It was a fantastic morning and I learned from our young visitors how the wonder, awe, and directness of youth can excite and motivate me here at Monroeville Pet Hospital.

Diann

Practice Manager

Following are the comments from the children (edited for legibility) and a letter from Meghan Passalingua and the children

## THANK YOU!

Sydney: Thank you! How are you today? My favorite part was seeing the animals.

Sammy: I liked seeing the cat. I liked the dog Tequila. He kissed my whole finger!

Braden: I liked seeing the downstairs part.

Matthew: My favorite part was petting the dog.

Sreedevi: Thank you!

Rylee: I liked seeing the container of animal teeth.

Brendan: Thank you for giving us the treat bags. Thank you for letting us pet your dog.

Brett: I liked the dogs we saw and the cat.

Owen: I like the dog - I like him!

Jazzmin: *absent*

Jeffery: Thank you for letting us come there and letting us have the treats!

Ayan: I liked the downstairs.

Dear Diann and Monroeville Pet Hospital Staff,

THANK YOU for allowing us to come and visit your facility for our field trip during our week of study about animals. We all enjoyed learning about the hospital and how you care for the animals who visit you there. We loved going "behind the scenes" and seeing where you keep sick animals, take X-Rays, perform surgery, and brush teeth. Thank you for the gift bags for the kids - that was a special treat for them.

We had a fabulous time! Thanks for letting us be a part of your morning.

-Meg Passalacqua and MUM Preschool