



Staghorn Plantation Estates
Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 267
Nicholson, GA 30565

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

February 2025

Staghorn Residents Love Their Pets

One of the daily activities of Staghorn homeowners is walking their pets. As dog owners and walkers traverse the Staghorn hills, they greet one another spreading the news of happenings in our neighborhood.



Meet Barli the beautiful Bernese Mountain Dog cared for by the Shattuck family.

Mike Shattuck, Staghorn's Architectural Chair, has three "boys", **Biscuit, Barli and Brodie**. They are two Golden Retrievers and a Bernese Mountain Dog. Mike reports the dogs get along quite well and snuggle up together on the family couch leaving no room for anyone else.

Winter Pet Care Tips by UGA Vets

Drs. Sara Gonzalez, Autumn Vetter, Kira Epstein recently wrote an article on a UGA website about caring for your pet in cold weather. Some of their tips follow:

- Dogs with limited mobility may struggle on slippery surfaces or ice. Consider using boots to help protect their paws.
- Ice melt can irritate paw pads, so clean your pet's feet after walking on treated surfaces.
- Heating pads and blankets should be used with caution, as they may cause burns if left unattended.
- Antifreeze is both toxic and appealing to pets. Clean up any spills promptly and store it safely away from them.
- Outdoor cats should have access to a covered, warm shelter, such as a heated doghouse or a cozy garage.
- Lean or hairless animals may need additional protection like booties or sweaters when outside, especially for bathroom breaks.
- Ensure your pet's collar is well-fitting with up-to-date contact details and microchip information, as winter conditions can alter familiar scents, increasing the chance of them getting lost.
- If able, try to stock up on a week's worth of food and any required medications for your pet, especially if you may be unable to leave the house for a few days.

Pets Sometimes Require Surgery

Vicki Long, our Staghorn Financial Chair, shares with us her experience when surgery is needed for your pet.



Vicki with her well cared for pets, Miley (left) and Maggie May (right).

“Meet **Miley** and **Maggie May**. Miley is my 14 ½ year old Pomeranian and Maggie May is my 1-year-old Chocolate Lab. My fur babies are patients of **Commerce Veterinary Hospital**.

They are an exceptional group of doctors and helpers. Both of my dogs have had knee surgery performed by **Kinsey Phillips**. I cannot say enough good things about Dr. Phillips, who is an excellent orthopedic veterinarian.

Miley’s procedure was several years ago and was not as extensive as Maggie’s. Maggie had her surgery on December 10th for a torn interior cruciate ligament. This required a plate, screws and pins in her right knee. She has made a full recovery in 6 weeks thanks to the exceptional care she received.

All of the folks at both locations of their practice are always friendly and welcoming. They take care of all of my dogs’ veterinary needs. I highly recommend their services. We have been very happy with them for over 10 years.”

Typical Cost of Pet Care

I read recently in an article published by Capital One that the average pet-owning household in Georgia spent approximately \$1,525 on their pet(s) in 2023. Here is how expense ranked nationally in 2024.

- \$373 Surgical Expenses
- \$338 Food
- \$232 Routine Vet Visits
- \$226 Kennel Boarding
- \$ 93 Food Treats
- \$ 71 Vitamins
- \$ 61 Toys
- \$ 39 Grooming



Poodle grooming at the new Commerce Veterinarian Hospital at 1040 Soloman Drive in Banks County visible from Hwy 441.

Please Pay Your Dues

We would be extremely grateful, if you would pay your dues for 2024 – 2025. Our expenses for property services and maintenance continue to rise. Be aware of a possible dues increase next fiscal year.

Craig Gieler – Secretary SPEHOA