

“Ask the Vet”... Introducing New HOV Staff Vet Crista DeJoia

By: Crista DeJoia, DVM



I feel very fortunate to be the new staff veterinarian at Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter at such a dynamic and exciting time. I am anxious to meet and begin working with all the HOV staff, volunteers and community members that provide such a vital service to the animals of the area.

Allow me to introduce myself and tell you a bit about my background. My name is Crista DeJoia and I have been practicing veterinary medicine for 7 years. I graduated from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2000. I started my veterinary career in Yakima, Washington where I practiced at a small animal hospital part-time, and also performed spays, neuters and vaccinations at a low-cost clinic that cooperated with the Humane Society of Central Washington. We moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho the following year, where I was an associate veterinarian at Alpine Animal Hospital. Our clinic provided veterinary services for the local Humane Society as well as private fostering organizations such as Second Chance Pet Rescue. When my husband's career moved us to Bozeman in 2004, I accepted a Postdoctoral Research position at Montana State University in the Chronic Wasting Disease Laboratory. My studies explored the mechanisms of CWD transfer between animals in a herd.

Aaron and I have a 14-month old daughter, Sophia. We live in Three Forks with our rescued Border Collie and two cats. We love hiking, skiing and gardening in our spare time.

I am excited to begin this new and challenging position, and look forward to working closely with such a great group of people. Please stop by and introduce yourself the next time you are at HOV.