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Kristi Gaff tends to a patient at Avalon Animal Hospital in Franklin.
Photo: Heather Makechnie

Dr. Kristi Gaff Is New Owner Of Avalon Animal Hospital

After a valuable and enriching 12 years with Pleasant Lake Veterinary Hospital in Elkins, Dr. Kristi Gaff has purchased the veterinary practice of Dr. Valerie A. Fraser, located at 760 Central Street in Franklin. Avalon Animal Hospital is a full service small animal practice facility. Dr. Gaff is currently taking new clients. Her staff consists of veterinary technician Rebecca and receptionist Kami. Both assistants formerly worked with Dr. Fraser and continue to be committed to patient and client care.

"Tailored care to meet the needs of each patient," answers Gaff when asked what prompted her to make the move. "My mom was sick a while ago. I grew frustrated with the human model of medical care as we worked towards her cancer diagnosis. In some instances, there is little time spent helping a patient deal with the emotional side of

being diagnosed with a significant illness, creating what may be perceived of as a lack of compassion in the human medical world.

"My mother was fortunate to have had a wonderful surgeon who spent extra time with her to act as her advocate and give much needed emotional support. It's that kind of practitioner I strive to be on the veterinary side of the medical field."

As Gaff scratches the head of her retriever patient she continues, "It is essential for me to research a complicated case in depth and look further to see if there is a clinical study that may help a pet's extra needs. I am here to offer my patient a referral practice, if it is necessary, to take the diagnosis further than I am able with my own resources. I sincerely want to help the owner and patient."

Born in Hampstead, New Hampshire
See Avalon on page 31

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Dee is the author of *Changing People Changing Dogs*, now in a revised, perfect-bound edition for \$30. Order your copy today at DeesDogs.com

JULY 2008

Community UPDATE



Stephen Christy, right, President, Mascoma Savings Bank and Bruce King, President & CEO, New London Hospital

NEW LONDON HOSPITAL'S BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT RECEIVES LEAD CORPORATE GIFT FROM MASCOMA SAVINGS BANK

The Capital Campaign for *Building Towards the Future*, New London Hospital's building improvement project, came nearer its \$7.2 million goal with a lead corporate gift of \$100,000 from Mascoma Savings Bank.

"New London Hospital's expansion project and the people it will benefit is an opportunity for a mutually owned institution such as ours to give back to the communities from which we draw our strength," said Stephen Christy, President, Mascoma Savings Bank.

"The current expansion and improvement project underway at New London Hospital will ensure that the Hospital keeps pace with the healthcare needs of the many towns that comprise the Sunapee-Kearsarge area," Christy continued. "We feel strongly that healthcare is of concern to everyone: our customers, employees and the well-being of our broader community. We are pleased to take a lead in this important project."

Building Towards the Future, begun in July of 2007, is a \$21 million, 18-month project that includes the construction of a 46,000 square foot addition. Its key attributes are the construction of all private patient rooms, the expansion and renovation of specialty services, and the construction of a new Medical Office Building. In addition, the project, scheduled for completion in April of 2009, will result in a new main entrance with centralized registration, expanded parking, and the return of pediatrics and rehabilitation services to the main campus.

"From the very beginning, our project has been contingent upon community support," said Bruce King, NLH President and CEO. "We've been honored by the interest shown by hundreds of individuals and groups who agree that our community deserves the best possible health care and services."

"This lead corporate gift from Mascoma Savings Bank further illustrates that our goals are shared by those who help to make our region a desirable place to live," King continued. "We are most grateful and appreciative of Mascoma's involvement in *Building Towards the Future*."

Additional information about participating in the building campaign may be obtained by calling Jeff McDaniel, Senior Director of Development at 526-5023.



 **New London Hospital**
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