



## In Full Bloom

West Chelsea Veterinary's team is blooming ...and just in time for fall.

~Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.~ A. Camus



**We are pleased to introduce to you two of our newest veterinary team members:** Doctors Michelle Bourjaily, DVM, and Hyla Gayer, BVM&S, MRCVS, we welcome you to the West Chelsea Veterinary family!



### Introducing: Michelle Bourjaily, D V M:

When Dr. Michelle Bourjaily isn't focusing on delivering thorough annual exams, vaccines and preventative health care to West Chelsea Vet's beloved family of canine and feline patients, she's likely glued to a good NBA basketball game, enjoying water sports, or whipping up something delicious to eat. She'll tell you she's a true lover of animals and culture alike, and when she can, she combines the two. She does this, by traveling abroad to take in exotic sights, but also to share her veterinary expertise and general compassion toward animals in need. Most recently, she visited

Costa Rica where she administered vaccinations and completed spaying and neutering procedures for local cats and dogs. "Not only does this give animals a shot at living longer, healthier lives, it also contributes to helping curb pet overpopulation." She puts her veterinary expertise to work, no matter where in the world she is, but especially New York City and her hometown of Miami.

Dr. Bourjaily graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida and then attended veterinary school at Ross University in St. Kitts, West Indies. She completed a one-year clinical program at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Manhattan, Kansas. Dr. Bourjaily received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Ross University in January 2013, where she graduated with high honors.

At West Chelsea Vet, Dr. Bourjaily is an Associate Veterinarian concentrating on cats and dogs in every stage of life.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the West Chelsea team. It is an honor to be caring for the practice's pets and I look forward to meeting each of our patients in the days ahead," shares Dr. Bourjaily.

### Fun Facts About Dr. Bourjaily:

- She's fluent in Spanish
- She loves water sports and wakeboarding, cooking and anything having to do with NBA Basketball



### Introducing: Hyla Gayer, BVM&S, MRCVS:

Dr. Hyla Gayer may just be one of the most creative vets you'll ever meet. This native New Yorker's super virtuous family instilled a deep appreciation for performing and the arts. Dr. Gayer's natural abilities and passion for gymnastics, dancing and singing landed her a spot at the famous LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts as a dance major, where fellow alum include a list of star talent including Jennifer Aniston, Robert De Niro, Al Pachino and Vanessa Williams, to name a very few. This experience led to a nearly four year gig touring New England with Circus Smirkus (<http://smirkus.org>), an international youth circus

with a mission to inspire youth to engage in life-changing adventures in the circus arts. Dr. Gayer performed as an aerial acrobat (trapeze and straps) and equine stunt artist! Although steeped in creative talent and already working as a professional performer, Dr. Gayer surprised even herself when the call to become a veterinarian heavily outweighed the need to be in the spotlight. "I never thought I'd get into science, but now I simply cannot imagine doing anything else," Dr. Gayer explains. "I have always felt a deep connection with animals and am particularly sensitive to the importance of pain management and quality of life."

She followed the call (and her sense of adventure) by applying to veterinary school in Scotland, but not before earning her Bachelor of Arts in

psychology (with a chemistry minor) where she graduated with honors from Queens College in Queens, New York. Dr. Gayer attained her BVM&S, MRCVS in the Graduate Entry Program with Academic Credit Honors from The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. She then returned to New York City and completed a small animal rotating medical and surgical internship at Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners, the nation's leading all-specialty veterinary medicine practice.

"I am excited to begin my professional life back in the city in which I was raised and that I love so much," she says. "Here, I plan to dedicate time to volunteering and helping animals in need."

### Fun Facts About Dr. Gayer:

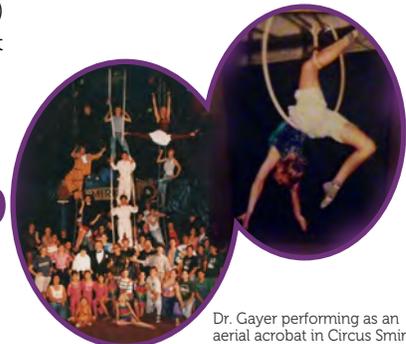
- She's still involved in the performing arts and loves to experience new theatre, museum exhibitions, and performances
- She's a true farm girl at heart and not afraid to get her hands

dirty outside of the city where she helps out at Crazin' Angus Acres Farm in Ghent, New York

• She often works overnight shifts in Manhattan caring for animals coming in on an

emergency basis and finds this extremely rewarding

• She has a little three-legged rescued Yorkie named Mojo she found abandoned and nursed back to health in 2013



Dr. Gayer performing as an aerial acrobat in Circus Smirkus

