



## Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown "We'll treat your pet like family!"

Newsletter

April - June 2007

CRITTER'S CHRONICLE

### **Educational Seminar**

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Thursday February 8th for our Live Dental Seminar. Dr. Scrivener gave a presentation explaining the importance of dental cleanings for our pets. The group was then invited to observe a live cleaning and polishing. Debbi's dog "Abbey" volunteered to be the one to have her teeth cleaned and did wonderfully.

Dental care is so important to the overall health of our pets. Every day there is more and more learned about oral health and how to maintain it in our pets. Besides professional cleanings like the ones done here, there are dental diets, treats, rinses, and of course toothpastes that can be used at home.

How much easier could it be to

take care of your pet's teeth than to simply feed him or her? Ask us about Hill's prescription diet T/D and how it can cut down on the amount of plaque and tartar on the teeth. It is a complete and balanced adult and senior diet. You could also give it as treats. Ask about how to try a bag for FREE!

Dental disease not only affects the mouth but also the liver, kidneys, and heart as well. If left untreated dental disease can cause irreversible damage to all major organ systems. It is estimated that over 80% of dogs and cats over the age of 2 have some form of dental disease.

Let us help you design a dental plan that will fit into your schedule. Your pet's health is our main priority.

### **Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank**

The Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank needs your help! There is a shortage of blood in our area. If your dog is not already a volunteer, we encourage you to get involved. The EVBB provides emergency blood supplies to veterinary hospitals all over the state. The EVBB is completely volunteer, unlike the prior method of collecting donations. Each canine participant is a willing volunteer or they are not used.

The requirements to be a EVBB volunteer are as follows:

- Your dog must be at least 9 months old.
- Your pet can be no older than 7 years old.
- Your dog must weigh at least a healthy 35 pounds (Sorry, no chunky Chihuahuas!)

- They must be in good general health and can not be on any chronic medications such as arthritis, thyroid or heart medications.
- Must be current on vaccines and heartworm prevention.



Each time your pet donates, a doctor from the EVBB will do a full physical examination and once a year your pet will have a full CBC, blood profile, and heartworm test performed, all at no cost to you. The EVBB emphasizes humane blood donation as opposed to forcing shelter dogs to donate as was done in years past. For more information on the EVBB feel free to give us a call or visit their website at [www.evbb.com](http://www.evbb.com).

### **A Fond Farewell**

It is with heavy hearts that we bid a fond farewell to Dr. Amy Sultenfuss. Dr. Sultenfuss, or Dr. Amy as she is more commonly known, has been a member of our staff since June of 2004. She married her husband, Dr. Greg Habing, a large animal veterinarian in Greencastle, in June of 2005 and they are expecting their first child, a daughter, in May of this year.

Dr. Amy and her husband will be relocating at the end of April to attend Michigan State University to further their education. Dr. Amy will be specializing in radiology, studying for an additional 3 years.

Dr. Amy became a quick favorite around the clinic, not only with the staff but with her many clients and patients as well. Her cheerful spirit and caring nature make her irreplaceable.

We wish her the best of luck in her new life and look forward to hearing updates on her growing family. We will miss her greatly.





*“A decrease or increase in activity can indicate...”*

*“Heartworms are easily preventable...”*



### **Mudd Volleyball**

The Funkstown Hellcats are back once again to get down and dirty for a good cause. For the 6th year now, we will participate in the Washington County Community Free Clinic's Mudd Volleyball tournament! This tournament acts as a fundraiser for the free clinic, which provides health care to working individuals who do not have health insurance. Last year we were able to raise \$1000 coming in 3rd out of all the teams in fundraising.



This year's tournament will again be held at Citi Group on Saturday July 21st beginning at 9 a.m. We would love to have a cheering section on the day of the tournament, or if you prefer to make a donation, we would very much appreciate it. If you do come to cheer us on, don't forget your canned good to use as a parking fee. And always wear clothes that you don't care about as the mud is *everywhere!*

### **FAQ Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Q. How can I tell if my cat is not feeling well?**

A. It is often difficult to tell when our feline children are under the weather. This is due partly to the philosophy "Survival of the Fittest." In the wild weakness is equal to death, so although these cats have been domesticated, their primal instincts still tell them to hide any sign of weakness or illness.



Unfortunately, this could mean a very sick kitty before anyone, even the owner, is the wiser. Some things to watch for would include:

- **Inappropriate elimination** – This could be a clue to a number of illnesses including a urinary tract infection, kidney disease, or diabetes mellitus. This is not a revenge behavior; this can be a true sign of a health problem.
- **Changes in social interaction** – If an otherwise friendly feline suddenly becomes withdrawn or even aggressive when handled, that could be a sign of pain or discomfort.
- **A decrease or increase in activity** – This can indicate any number of illnesses including joint disease or systemic illness. Cats slow down because

they have developed arthritis, not because they are "getting old."

• **Abnormal lethargy** – Average adult cats nap 16 to 18 hours a day but should still awaken quickly from familiar sounds such as a can opener or dry cat food in the dish. If your cat is not easily aroused from sleeping, this could be a sign of illness.

• **Changes in food and water intake** – Many illnesses can be a cause of decreased eating and drinking, including but not limited to: poor dental health, cancer, diabetes mellitus, or hyperthyroidism.

• **Unexplained weight loss or gain** – This does not always have to do with appetite. Cats with hyperthyroidism will lose weight despite a healthy appetite.

• **Grooming changes** – Changes in grooming habits or excessive hair loss can indicate illness.

• **Bad breath** – This can indicate such things as renal failure, gum disease, or other oral problems.

If you suspect at all that your cat may be sick, it is better to call and schedule an appointment as cats can hide illness very well. It is always better to be on the side of safety. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

### **Kitten Class**

You and your furry feline are invited to our second annual kitten classes given by Dr. Sandra Smith. As with last year's classes, Dr. Smith will discuss everything from socialization to litterbox training, from kitten behavior to interaction with other pets and family members. Come and be educated about nutrition, vaccinations, dental care, spaying, neutering and declawing; all straight from the doctor's mouth.



This will be a series of two classes, the first of which will be held on Friday May 4th at 6:30 p.m. here at the clinic. The second is scheduled for Friday July 20th at 6:30 p.m. These classes are free to attend and we welcome you to bring your vaccinated kittens along for them to socialize with other pets. All kittens must also be negative for Feline Leukemia and FIV.

Please give us a call ahead if you plan to attend either or both of these two wonderful classes. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Pet Bereavement Support Group**

Effective immediately, our monthly pet bereavement support group has been cancelled due to personal reasons of our counselor. We do hope to resume our sessions at some point but do not have a date as of yet. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.

### **Product of the Month**

During the month of April, receive a 10% discount on all ear cleaners. In the month of May, Hylyt shampoo will be discounted by 10% and for June Pill pockets will be 10% off.

### **Fleas, Ticks, & Heartworms! Oh my!**

Don't forget to stock up on flea, tick, and heartworm prevention for your best friends. Springtime brings new life to flowers, animals, and PARASITES!! Let us help you win the fight against these nasty creatures.

Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes and affect not only the heart, but can cause problems in the lungs as well. Heartworms are easily preventable, simply by giving your pet one flavor tablet of Interceptor once a month. As an added bonus, Interceptor also protects against roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms.

To treat fleas and ticks, we recommend either Advantage, which just kills fleas, or Frontline Plus which kills fleas and ticks. If your pet has access to wooded areas or areas where they are exposed to tall grass, it may be more appropriate to use Frontline Plus which kills fleas and ticks. However, if your pet is not exposed to ticks, Advantage does a wonderful job at eliminating fleas.

Ask our friendly staff about our specials on Advantage or Frontline Plus and what would be right for your pets. We also have a \$5.00 rebate available when you buy 12 months of Interceptor. \*All dogs must be tested and negative for heartworms prior to starting any heartworm prevention.\*

### **Senior Citizen Discount**

Just as a reminder that every Tuesday we offer a senior citizen discount of 10% for clients over the age of 65. This discount applies to all routine

exams and vaccinations. You may be asked to provide proper identification.

### **Calendar of Events**

#### **April**

Thursday April 5th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday April 12th – Staff Education on Oravet & Frontline 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday April 19th – Doctors at Greater Baltimore

Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Saturday April 21st – MS Walk at Antietam Battlefield – Funkstown Hellcats walking

Thursday April 26th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Monday April 30th – Dr. Sultenfuss' Last Day

#### **May**

Thursday May 3rd – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Friday May 4th – Kitten Class Series 1 with Dr. Smith – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday May 10th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday May 17th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday May 24th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Monday May 28th – Memorial Day – Office Closed

Monday May 31st – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

#### **June**

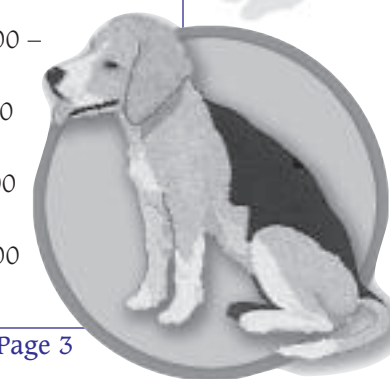
Thursday June 7th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday June 14th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Tuesday June 19th – Puppy Luau – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday June 21st – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday June 28th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed



## 2007 Winter Puppy Olympics

We hope you were able to join us for our 2007 Winter Puppy Olympics held on Tuesday January 16th. Besides having time to socialize, the puppies also played games and had snack time complete with homemade snowmen puppy treats. We also provided tours of the hospital for our guests as well as a presentation about winter pet safety tips.

We would like to thank Renee from the Mason & Dixon Kennel Club for joining us and giving wonderful information about puppy training, agility, and fly ball.

If you were not able to attend, we hope you will join us on Tuesday June 19th at 6:30 p.m. for our Puppy Luau!

## Satellite Adoptions

For the 4th year now, we are aiding in finding homes for cats & kittens from the Humane Society of Washington County. Our newest resident is "Bella" a female, domestic long hair beauty. "Bella" is up to date on her vaccinations, has tested negative for Feline Leukemia and FIV, and has been dewormed. She has an amazing personality and would make a wonderful addition to any home. She is still not sure about dogs but we are optimistic that she will come around the longer she is exposed to them.

If you or someone you know is looking for a mature, sweet-natured friend, please keep "Bella" in mind.

We are happy to report that after almost 9 months, "Chip" and "Cookie" found homes. They are both very happy with their new families.

## Dog Rules:

The dog is not allowed in the house.

Okay, the dog is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.

The dog is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off of the furniture.

The dog can get on the old furniture only.

Fine, the dog is allowed on all of the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.

Okay, the dog is allowed on the bed but only by invitation.

The dog can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but not under the covers.

The dog can sleep under the covers by invitation only.

The dog can sleep under the covers every night.

Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the dog.

## Referrals

Thank you to all of our clients who continue to refer new clients to our practice. We truly appreciate the loyalty and trust shown when referring family and friends to us. Please remember to have those you refer to us mention your name, so that we may show our gratitude in the form of a gift. The more you refer, the better the gifts.

www.funkestownvet.com



Animal Health Clinic  
of Funkstown  
26 East Baltimore Street  
P.O. Box 669  
Funkstown, Maryland 21734



## Puppy Luau

Aloha! Let's Hula Down! Please join us on Tuesday June 19th at 6:30 p.m. for our second annual Puppy Luau! All puppies ages 3 months to 1 1/2 years are invited\*. Again this year, we will have games and refreshments for pets

and humans. We will play musical beach towels and what luau would be complete without the LIMBO! We had such a great time last year and look forward to an even bigger and better celebration this year! Every pet that

*\*Please bring proof of current vaccinations.*

comes dressed for the occasion will receive a special gift.



PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HAGERSTOWN, MD  
PERMIT NO. 208