



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

Newsletter

January - March 2007

### SynoviG3 Soft Chews

The aging process is often a cruel one; our eye sight declines, we can't hear as well as we used to, we have trouble getting around. Maybe you are lucky enough not to experience these problems yet, but what about our pets? There are some things that we just can't help as our pets get older but there is one very important thing that we can...our pets' comfort.

The key to keeping our pets comfortable as they age is prevention. Arthritis, as many of us know, can be a dreadful ailment to suffer through. Although our pets may not display pain and discomfort as we do, it doesn't mean that it's not there. But instead of treating their pain, why not prevent it? Wouldn't it be nice to never have to see your pet in pain? Let us help!

A new product on the market is SynoviG3 soft chews. The active ingredients are:

Vit C: Antioxidant

Vit E: Antioxidant, free radical scavenger, collagen synthesis



Calcium: structural component in bones and teeth

Omega 3 fatty acids: cannot be synthesized in mammals, must be ingested. Anti-inflammatory, for normal function of retina and brain

Perna Canaliculus: supports proper connective tissue and joint functions

Creatine: amino acid found naturally in muscle. To enhance muscle strength

MSM: may relieve muscle and joint pain and reduce inflammation

Glucosamine HCl: a naturally occurring amino sugar found in all tissues of the body and an integral part of the "glue" which holds tissue cells together.

This medication is given orally once daily. Your pet is started at a loading dose and after 4 to 6 weeks, the medication is reduced to a maintenance dose that will be given for the life of your pet. These are flavored so it may be given as a treat!

### 2007 Winter Puppy Olympics

Come one, come all to the 2007 Winter Puppy Olympics! All puppies age 3 months to 1 year with current vaccinations are welcome!

Join us on Tuesday January 16th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. for an evening of indoor winter sports including: Musical Snowflakes, Snowman Relay, and Fetch the Snowball! Enjoy refreshments and relax while you learn about winter pet care tips.

We look forward to seeing you there. Please call ahead if you plan to attend!



### Prescription Protocols

The doctors and staff of Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown strive to provide our clients and patients with the best possible veterinary health care. In accordance with this goal, we also want our patients to receive the most effective and reliable pharmaceutical products available. This is especially important with life threatening illnesses such as heartworm disease, Lyme disease and diseases with human health risk, such as intestinal worms and flea and tick related diseases. We understand and empathize with the desire to find the least expensive source of heartworm preventative and flea and tick control products; however, we want to make our clients aware of the differences between medications dispensed through our hospital and

those obtained through these companies.

The manufacturers (Merial, Novartis, Bayer, Pfizer) of the heartworm prevention and flea control products which we carry sell strictly through licensed veterinarians. Therefore, these products sold through discount companies are either counterfeit products or have been illegally obtained for sale.

Manufacturer's guarantees are honored only when the product has been purchased through a licensed veterinarian.

Some products sold on the internet are labeled for use in other countries. These products may not meet requirements for sale and use in the United States. Product size and/or strength may not be the same as in

this country.

On-line pharmacy sources have been sued frequently and placed on probation for their prescription and distribution practices.

The discrepancies all translate to a potential risk to your pet's health and to public health. We recommend that our clients purchase medications only through a licensed veterinary facility. We will give a written prescription to any client who chooses not to purchase products through the veterinary hospital for a fee.

Your pet's and your family's health is our main concern. We will gladly share with you more detailed information about these important issues upon your request.



*“Dental disease not only affects your pet’s mouth...”*

## Dental Month

### DOG FACTS –

Puppies develop 28 temporary teeth at 2-3 weeks of age. Their 42 permanent teeth begin to emerge at about four months.

Studies show that, by age 3, 80 percent of dogs exhibit signs of gum disease.

Small breed dogs are more likely than large breeds to develop periodontal disease. Canine dentistry experts believe this is because the teeth of small dogs are often too large for their mouths, forcing the teeth closer together.

### CAT FACTS –

Kittens have about 26 temporary teeth at two to three weeks of age. Their 30 permanent teeth begin to erupt at about three to four months.

According to studies, about 70 percent of cats have signs of gum disease by age 3.

Cervical line lesions are the most common tooth disease in domestic cats. Studies show that about 28% of domestic cats develop at least one of these painful lesions during their lifetime.

In honor of National Pet Dental Health month, during the months of February and March we will once again be offering our \$10 discount on all professional dental cleanings. Also if your pet needs dental x-rays we will offer an additional \$5.00 discount. Home care is such an important part of dental health care but on occasion, a professional cleaning is needed to start with a clean slate.

During a professional dental cleaning, your pet will have bloodwork drawn (if not done ahead of time) which will be run in our in-house lab. This allows the doctor an inside look at your pet’s overall health. An IV catheter is placed, anesthesia administered, and their teeth scaled and polished by a technician. The technician will hand scale your pet’s teeth and also use an ultrasonic dental tool for the really tough tartar. After the teeth are clean, the doctor will then

examine each tooth to check for cavities, broken teeth, gaps between the teeth and gums, or dead or dying teeth. If it is determined that a tooth may need to be extracted, the doctor may opt to take an x-ray of that particular tooth to be able to tell if the root is healthy or if the tooth should be extracted. Extractions are done only when there is no other option.

After all of your pet’s teeth have been



examined by the doctor, the technician will then polish the teeth. This is done in a similar manner as our own teeth are with our dentist. The final step to a professional dental cleaning is the application of Oravet. Oravet is a clear sealant applied to your pet’s teeth first by our technicians then at home once a week. This sealant helps to prevent plaque and tartar from attaching to your pet’s teeth. This can be used alone or in conjunction with any at home dental care.

Pets are often times sent home with antibiotics and pain medication when extractions have been performed. We administer the first dose here in injection form and will send oral medication home. Occasionally pets will also be given IV fluids during a dental procedure to help support their internal organs: liver, kidneys, and heart. There are two technicians with the pets at all times; one to do the actual cleaning and polishing and one to monitor the anesthetic level of the pet as well as to monitor the pet’s heart rate and breathing. Our goal is safety for all pets.

So now that your pet has had a professional cleaning, what is the next step? Well, now it is your turn. At home care is just as, if not more, important than what we do here. Just think of what we go through to keep our own teeth healthy; brushing twice a day, flossing, mouthwash, and professional cleanings every 6 months. When was the last time you brushed your pet’s teeth? Has it been days, weeks, months... never? You are the key to keeping your pet’s teeth healthy. Ask Mary about her experiences with “Vixen.”

Dental disease not only affects your pet’s mouth, but the overall health of their organs. Sure having rotten teeth can be painful, but did you know that it can weaken your pet’s heart also? Did you know your pets’ kidneys and liver can suffer ill affects from a dirty mouth?

There are many options for at home care. Brushing is the best choice for home care. It is recommended that your pet’s teeth are brushed at least once a day. It can be done at the same time you brush your own teeth; though we don’t recommend sharing a toothbrush! Be sure not to use your toothpaste with your pet either, as fluoride is not good for animals.

We realize that daily brushing is not an option for everyone, so there are alternatives. One option is Oxyfresh which is a tasteless, odorless solution that is added to your pet’s drinking water and helps reduce the amount of bacteria in the mouth. You simply mix 1 teaspoon per quart or 4 teaspoons per gallon to the drinking water.

Another option is using an oral rinse. We recommend Enzadent oral solution. This is similar to Listerine for humans. You would apply this by squeezing a small

*“Choose a program with the best chances of success...”*

amount along the pet’s gum line, both on the top and the bottom and then gently rubbing the cheek. The rinse is safe if it is swallowed, unlike Listerine. We recommend using this on a daily basis as well.

The next alternative would be dental chews such as C.E.T. Chews. These chews work by scraping the plaque off of the teeth as the pet eats the treat. C.E.T. Chews also have enzymatic toothpaste which helps to keep the teeth clean. Also available are dental diets such as Hill’s T/D which works similarly to the chews by cleaning the teeth of plaque while the pet is chewing.

Prevention of dental disease should be included as part of your pet’s overall preventative medicine program, just like vaccinations. Choose a program with the best chance of success – chews, rinses or brushing, alone or in combination. Whatever method you use, establish a habit, start slowly and be consistent.

We are more than happy to discuss your pet’s particular dental needs with you. Please let us know how we can help.

## New Vaccine Protocols for Dogs

At this time we are decreasing the frequency of some of our canine vaccinations as recommended by AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association). This will only affect some vaccinations due to the differences in the length of protection each provides.

It will be more important not to miss booster dates of the extended vaccines. Currently distemper and parvovirus are given together with leptospirosis, adenovirus, and parainfluenza. The distemper and parvo components will be extended to every 3 years but the lepto and parainfluenza will continue to be given yearly. The corona vaccine will be dropped for all adult dogs due to age related, decreased risk. The frequency of the Lyme disease and Rabies vaccines will remain unchanged. We will evaluate each pet as they come in for their yearly exams. Please give us a call with any questions or concerns and we will be happy to assist you.



## Product of the Month

Each month we will feature a product of the month at a 10% discount. During January, February, and March we will feature all dental products. This includes toothpaste, CET dental treats, dental diets, oral rinses, Oxyfresh, etc. Don’t forget to stock up early in the year!



## Calendar of Events

### January

- Monday January 1st – New Year’s Day – Office Closed
- Wednesday January 3rd – Pet Bereavement Support Group – 7 p.m.
- Thursday January 4th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed
- Tuesday January 9th – Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank here
- Thursday January 11th – Nutritional Counseling 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed
- Tuesday January 16th – 2007 Winter Puppy Olympics – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday January 18th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed
- Doctors are at Greater Baltimore Conference
- Thursday January 25th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

### February

- Thursday February 1st – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed
- Wednesday February 7th – Pet Bereavement Support Group – 7 p.m.
- Thursday February 8th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed
- Thursday February 8th – Dental Seminar for Clients – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday February 15th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed
- Doctors at Greater Baltimore Conference
- Tuesday February 20th – Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank here
- Thursday February 22nd – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

### March

- Thursday March 1st – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed
- Monday March 5th – Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank here in the afternoon
- Wednesday March 7th – Pet Bereavement Support Group – 7 p.m.
- Thursday March 8th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed
- Thursday March 15th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed
- Doctors at Greater Baltimore Conference
- Friday March 16th – March 22nd AAHA Meeting in Denver
- Thursday March 22nd – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed
- Thursday March 29th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

## Employee Spotlight

We would like to highlight Meagan as our employee spotlight this time around. Meagan joined our team as a veterinary technician in January of 2004. She works closely with our doctors doing everything from taking temperatures to drawing blood. She is currently being trained by Dr. Gamble in the exotics part of veterinary medicine.

Meagan is currently in college studying Environmental Education & Biology.

Meagan recently moved from Montgomery County to West Virginia and resides with her dog "Jamie" and parakeet "Coconut" Sadly, she recently lost "Lime", "Coconut's" companion. We feel very fortunate to have Meagan and her quick wit and boisterous attitude as a part of our daily life here at the clinic.

## If you are considering breeding there is a checklist you should go through before making your final decision.

- Is your dog a purebred?
- Did you get your dog from a breeder?
- Did you get a three to five generation pedigree with your dog?
- Are there at least four title dogs (conformation, tracking, obedience, etc.) in the last three generations?
- Does your dog have a stable temperament?
- Does your dog fit the breed standard?
- Is your dog healthy and certified (OFA, CERF) free of genetic diseases?
- If you answer **no** or **not sure** to any of these questions **get your pet neutered!**

## You May be a True Pet Lover If...

- ...You decorate your home more for "cat friendly" rather than stylish.
- ...When visiting friends, you focus more attention on their pets than them.
- ...Houseguests are welcome to bring their pets but not their kids.
- ...Your pet takes your favorite seat so you sit elsewhere and strain to see the TV.
- ...Your pet has better health insurance than you.
- ...You don't think it is strange to brush your pet's teeth regularly.
- ...You have a birthday party for your pet.
- ...You won't date someone your pet dislikes.
- ...You demand custody of the pets in the divorce settlement.
- ...You buy a car/truck to meet the needs of your pet.



## 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.funkstownvet.com



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## Live Dental Seminar

Join us on Thursday February 8th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. for a live dental seminar. We will discuss dental health for our beloved pets. Our doctor will walk you through the steps of a dental cleaning and polishing as our trained technicians perform a complete prophylaxis. We will demonstrate our new digital dental x-ray machine. The doctor will compare a healthy tooth to a diseased tooth. Feel free to bring your pets along for a free dental exam also! We understand that a lot of pet owners are concerned about what happens during a dental cleaning and

therefore will not have one done. We hope to alleviate some of your fears by letting you experience it yourself. We hope you will join us on Thursday February 8th between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. Call ahead if planning to attend.

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