



Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

"We'll treat your pet like family!"

Newsletter

July – September 2007

CRITTER'S CHRONICLE

National Senior Pet Awareness Month –

September is National Senior Pet Awareness Month. As our pets age they experience many of the same problems as we do. They can develop such things as glaucoma, high blood pressure, heart disease, liver and kidney disease, and arthritis. However, many of these problems, if caught early enough, are manageable. This is why we recommend senior screening beginning at age 7 (5 for large and giant breed dogs). This may include x-rays, blood work, urinalysis, and most importantly examinations every 6 months. Your pet ages approximately 7 years between every yearly visit. Imagine not going to your doctor for 7 years at a time, especially as you move into your golden years.

It has long been thought that when "Fluffy" stopped jumping on the bed or started bumping into things that there was nothing that could be done. She's just getting old. But age is not a disease!

Every day more is being learned about age related ailments in our pets. We are now equipped to handle some of those common aging concerns.

Ultrasound –

We are excited to announce the addition of an ultrasound machine to our diagnostic tools. We are committed to providing the highest quality medical treatment to our patients and are thrilled to be able to expand our knowledge to now include sonograph.

The ultrasound machine will allow us to diagnose such things as bladder, kidney, or gall bladder stones, abdominal masses or abnormalities, heart conditions, pregnancy, and pancreatitis, to

We have instruments to check for glaucoma and high blood pressure as well as liver, kidney and heart disease. If your pet is found to have any such problems, our doctors will manage what they can here or refer your pet to a specialist.

Our goal is not only to help your pet live a longer life, but a more comfortable and higher quality life with you. Pets are with us for such a short time and they deserve to have every opportunity to be happy and healthy, especially during their "Golden Years." We would be glad to discuss your pet's particular needs and get them started with a senior program. The best time to start is before there is a problem. Call us today to set up an appointment.



name a few.

Many of these conditions are difficult to diagnose with blood work or x-rays alone. The ultrasound will give us more information so that diseases such as these can be diagnosed and treated in a more timely fashion, which in turn means a longer, healthier life.

At your next visit, feel free to ask any questions you may have or to see an example of how the ultrasound works.

Another Fond Farewell –

Dr. Carol Gamble, our board certified avian specialist, has recently left the practice to spend more time with her family. Dr. Gamble has been a part of our clinic family since January of 2005 seeing primarily exotics; birds, rabbits, rats, lizards, etc. She opened up a whole new world for us and we are excited to continue working with our exotic patients.

We have not yet found a permanent replacement for Dr. Gamble but are optimistic that we will find one soon. In the mean time, if you have an exotic which needs attention, please call the office for referral phone numbers.

We wish Dr. Gamble and her family a bright and happy future and hope that she will keep in touch.





When you hear the word "zoonosis" what comes to mind?

Satellite Adoption –

We are happy to announce that "Bella" has gone to a new home and is very happy with her forever family.

Our current residents are "Jack", "Janet", and "Chrissy"; 3 adorable kittens from the HSWC. They are currently ~9 weeks old and are full of life and fun. They have tested negative for Felv and FIV and are current on their vaccines up to this point. They love nothing more than playing with their human, canine, and feline friends here at the clinic. However this does not take the place of a forever home. If you are looking for a new best friend or know someone who is, feel free to stop by and visit.



We also are looking for a forever home for "Beamer" a previous clinic resident. Beamer was adopted almost 3 years ago but was returned recently. She is approximately 3-4 years old, spayed, and up to date on all of her vaccines. She is such a sweet girl and is looking for a home with a family that perhaps does not have small children or other cats. She likes to be the queen and would appreciate the individual attention. Beamer is looking forward to meeting you.

Kitten Kindergarten Part 2 –

We hope you were able to join us on Friday May 4th & Friday May 18th for the first set of Kitten Kindergarten classes with Dr. Sandra Smith.



Often times our kittens, or cats for that matter, display strange behaviors that we do not quite understand. For instance, did you know that when your cat claws your furniture, it is not because he is being "bad"; it is because he is marking his territory. Cats have scent glands in the shafts of their claws similar to the ones in their cheeks.

This, among many other topics, was covered during the first series of classes. We invite you to join us on Friday July 20th at 6:30 p.m. for an encore of part one of Kitten Kindergarten and on Friday July 27th at 6:30 p.m. for part two

If you have a vaccinated kitten that is a minimum of 3 months old, feel free to bring them along for play time and social interaction. Please call ahead.

Doctor's Corner –

When you hear the word "zoonosis" what comes to mind? Wrong! Zoonosis refers to a disease that you can get from or give to your pet, not a family trip to the local zoo. The most recognizable disease that falls into this category is rabies, a fatal neurological disease. Because our pets can pass rabies to us, by law they have to be vaccinated. We vaccinate them for their protection from wild and unvaccinated animals but also to protect ourselves. Those of us that are considered high risk for rabies exposure are given pre-exposure vaccinations. Post exposure vaccinations can be administered and are effective but must be given as soon as possible after a known exposure.

Many other diseases are zoonotic. I will cover a few of them; their symptoms, treatment, and prevention. Leptospirosis is a type of bacteria that most commonly affects our kidneys, can cause a fever, and if left untreated can be fatal. Lepto is spread through the urine of both domestic and wild animals. Treatment for Lepto includes antibiotics and supportive care. Lepto is another disease which we vaccinate against to prevent our pets from getting sick but also to keep them from passing it to us. Lepto is a yearly vaccine. Good hygiene is the best way to keep ourselves from getting Lepto.

Other common zoonotic diseases are intestinal parasites such as roundworms and hookworms. These are passed through the feces of affected animals. Immature forms can also be found in the environment or in the fur (from feces in the fur) of our pets. Prevention again includes good hygiene, daily scooping of the yard and bathing pets regularly if found to have parasites. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) also recommends regular deworming and stool sample analysis. When was the last time your pet had a fecal checked? Monthly heartworm prevention with Interceptor also controls roundworms and hookworms and therefore decreases exposure for our families.

Ringworm is not truly a worm but rather a fungal disease. Ringworm is most commonly seen in the young (dogs, cats, cows, goats, people, etc.) but can be seen at any age. It causes a crusty itchy rash on our pets and often a classic ring on us. Ringworm has several species which are found on our pets and in the environment. Good hygiene, as well as regular check ups, will help prevent disease transmission.

Giardiasis, cryptosporidiosis, and toxoplasmosis are protozoa diseases. Giardia and crypts cause

Did you know that there are different foods for different life stages?



diarrhea and good hygiene can help prevent both. Toxoplasmosis is the disease many of us hear about with pregnant women. Toxo can cause damage to an unborn baby. Prevention includes scooping the litterbox daily, washing hands, wearing gloves when gardening and not eating undercooked meat.

Cat scratch fever or bartonellosis is typically caused by cat bites or scratches. However there is evidence that fleas and flea dirt play a role in bacterial transmission. Prevention includes decreasing bites, scratches and fleas; another reason to use Advantage or Frontline Plus once a month.

There are other zoonotic diseases but common sense and good hygiene will go along way toward keeping your family and pets free of zoonotic diseases. Regular check ups and examination by yourself and your veterinarian will also help decrease the potential for disease.

Dr. Virginia Scrivener

Nutrition –

How do you decide which pet food to buy for your best friend? Is it whatever is on sale? Maybe it is whatever happens to be at the store closest to your house. Or is it what your veterinarian has recommended? Only 1 of the 3 reasons mentioned would provide your pet with the best possible nutrition available; and it's not buying the one that's on sale.

Nutrition is an extremely overlooked area of pet care, yet it is something that affects our pets every single day! Your pet's diet affects their coat quality, weight, teeth, and internal organs. Their diet even has an affect on how much you have to scoop the litter box or yard! Now there is a reason to get your pet on a good quality diet!

Did you know that there are different foods for different life stages? We all know that puppies should be on puppy food, but did you know that once your pet reaches the age of 7, they should be put on a senior diet? Like us, our pets' nutritional needs change as they grow and mature. It is imperative that we, as pet parents, monitor our pet's eating habits and daily intake of food. The type as well as the amount of food your pet eats can have a huge impact on their overall health.

In addition to regular over the counter diets, there are also a number of prescription diets available for pets with special needs such as diabetic, pets with liver or kidney disease, urinary conditions, cancer, heart disease, and even arthritis, to name a few. For instance, cats with diabetes are fed less

carbohydrates, where diabetic dogs are fed higher fiber. Pets with kidney problems need less protein. These prescription diets are designed to work along with medications prescribed for the diseases and are found to be very helpful.

Calendar of Events –

July- Pediatrics Month

Wednesday, July 4th, Independence Day – Office closed

Thursday, July 5th, Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m.– Office closed

Tuesday, July 10th, Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank here

Thursday, July 12th, Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Saturday, July 14th – 18th – Technicians at National Veterinary Conference in D.C.

Thursday, July 19th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Friday, July 20th – Kitten Class Part 1 with Dr. Smith – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 21st – Muddy Volleyball – Office Closed

Thursday, July 26th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Friday, July 27th – Kitten Class Part 2 with Dr. Smith – 6:30 p.m.

August

Thursday August 2nd – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Thursday August 9th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Thursday August 16th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Thursday August 23rd – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Thursday August 30th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

September – Senior Pet Health Month

Monday September 3rd – Labor Day – Office closed

Thursday September 6th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Thursday September 13th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Thursday September 20th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Thursday September 27th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office closed

Employee Spotlight

We would like to spotlight Carletta, one of our two full-time receptionists. Carletta came to us from a clinic in LaVale in February 2006 with 4 years of experience in the veterinary field. She has worked as both a veterinary assistant and a receptionist, but found her true calling behind the front desk (where she can't get bit)!

Carletta is the proud pet parent of 3 cats "Moo" "Salem" and "Tookie", 1 dog "Mack", and 2 rats, "Eddie" and "Homer." In her spare time Carletta and her boyfriend Jaysen are volunteer firefighters with Maugansville Volunteer Fire Company.

Her quick wit and overwhelming fear of butterflies keeps us all laughing. We feel very fortunate to have her as a fellow employee and friend.

Congratulations! –

Dr. Amy Sultenfuss gave birth to a daughter, Ella Rose, on Wednesday May 9th! She weighed in at 6 lbs. 2 oz. and measured 18 inches long. Mother, father, and baby are all doing well and are finally getting settled in Michigan. Dr. Amy continues to send us pictures and updates and we look forward to hopefully seeing Ella soon. We all miss Dr. Amy very much and wish her and her new family well.

Things We Can Learn From A Dog

- **Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.**
- **Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face be pure ecstasy.**
- **When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.**
- **When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.**
- **Let others know when they've invaded your territory.**
- **Take naps and stretch before rising.**
- **Run, romp, and play daily.**
- **Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.**
- **Be loyal**

To be continued.....



www.funkestow.net.com

We are anticipating another fun filled day. We invite you to bring the whole family including any and all of your pets. We will have activities for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!

Prettiest

Most original

Scariest

Cutest

Pet Costume Parade with prizes for:

by Mason & Dixon Kennel Club

Flyball and agility demonstrations

Kid's Corner with pumpkin carving • Phoenix Landing Bird Rescue • Refreshments by donation • Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank • Grooming demonstration by Briar Patch Pet Salon • Briggs Animal Adoption Center with pets for adoption • Raffles • Hospital Tours • Doggie Games

For the 7th year now, we will celebrate the human-animal bond with a day of entertainment, education, and socialization. Some of our events/vendors include:

Join us on Saturday October 6, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for our annual Pet Fair & Fall Festival!

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Pet Fair and Fall Festival –

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