



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

Newsletter

October-December 2007

Lyme Disease

Most of us have heard of Lyme disease, but what exactly is it and what does it have to do with you and your dog?

Lyme disease is an infection called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, a member of the family of corkscrew-shaped bacteria known as spirochetes and is transmitted by ticks. Lyme disease has been traced back to Sweden as long ago as 1908 but gained recognition and fame in the United States in 1975 and has been going strong ever since. Lyme disease can be transmitted to humans and dogs alike.

Some symptoms to look for with Lyme disease include but are not limited to:

- Fatigue
- Muscle & joint pain resulting in limping
- Chills and fever
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Headaches
- A bull's eye shaped rash

Even with the seemingly obvious symptoms, only about 4% of dogs will ever exhibit such signs, which makes diagnosis, and in turn treatment, very difficult. If left untreated Lyme disease can lead to problems in many parts of your dog's body, including the heart, kidneys, and joints. In rare cases it can cause neurological disorders.

So now comes the question, what can be done about Lyme disease?

Mudd Volleyball

As an event sponsor this year, entering 2 teams (the Hellcats and Hell Hounds) and donations raised, we were able to donate nearly \$2,400 to help support the Community Free Clinic of Washington County!

We all had a blast playing in the

The best option, as with any disease, is prevention. There are several things you can do at home to prevent Lyme disease in your dog; the first being to vaccinate your pet against this devastating disease. If your dog has never had the vaccine before, he will need to go through the series of 2 vaccines, 3 to 4 weeks apart first, before receiving yearly boosters.

The second thing you can do to prevent Lyme disease is to use Frontline Plus, which kills fleas and ticks, on your dog once a month. This topical medication is applied between your pet's shoulder blades on the skin. It will then cover your entire pet, as it dissipates through the oils in your pet's skin. It does not absorb into the pet's blood stream but sits in the hair follicles where it is most effective.

Another important thing to do for yourself as well as your pet is daily tick checks. This is especially necessary if you and your pet have been in a particularly high tick area, such as a wooded area, or tall grass. Be sure to pay special attention around your pet's ears, eyes, and stomach as these are the most likely places to find ticks.

If your dog has not been vaccinated against Lyme disease yet, please consider it as soon as possible. To double your dog's protection use Frontline Plus once a month on all pets in the household.



Santa Pictures

Join us on Friday December 7th from 6-9 p.m. as Santa comes back to Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown. We will hold an open house at the same time in conjunction with Funkstown's Olde Tyme Christmas. For the 7th year, Santa will come for an evening of fun and pictures with your pets. The cost will be \$15.00 per pet per picture. All proceeds will benefit the homeless pets in our area. Please call ahead for an appointment.

Appointments will be on a first come, first serve basis. See you there!

mud. The Hellcats came out victorious over the Hell Hounds winning 2 games out of 3! Of course the Hellcats had to gloat just a little but it was all in



good fun as the real winners of the day are those folks who the Community Free Clinic helps every year.

Thanks to everyone that helped make this year our best ever!

CRITTER'S CHRONICLE



“ . . .can add an additional 2 years to their lives.”

Obesity

Obesity – it really is a medical problem. New research indicates that fat cells secrete hormones that make us hungrier and decrease our metabolic rate meaning we burn fewer calories. This helps explain why it is so hard to shed those extra pounds. Something as simple as feeding our pets to stay lean can add an additional 2 years to their lives. Many of us see giving treats as showing our love for our pets, but in reality all our pets really want or need is our attention. So instead of giving “Fido” a biscuit when you get home, take him out for a walk or a game of fetch. He will love spending the extra time with you and he will be getting the extra exercise he needs, as well as less calories in his diet.

It is not difficult to accidentally over feed our pets. We see the sad eyes watching us as we eat, or the tail wagging as we pass the treat jar. But did you know feeding your cat just an extra tablespoon of food a day for one year can result in a one pound weight gain. It doesn't sound like much but one pound on a cat is the same as 10 or 20 pounds on us! That's a problem!

As many as 70% of the pets in the United States are overweight and at least 40% are obese. It's time to reverse that trend. Over weight pets are at an increased risk for diabetes, arthritis, injury to bones and joints, hepatic lipodosis (liver disease) in cats, breathing problems, heart disease, reduced activity, and skin and hair/coat problems, to name a few.

We are determined to help our patients live longer and healthier lives. Therefore we have set up a nutritional counseling program for our clients to help get their pets back

into shape. Through specialized diet plans and exercise programs, we can work together to help our pets lose those stubborn pounds. If you think your pet is over weight or have been told so in the past, please call and speak to Heather, our nutritional counselor.

Coming soon....a new medication to help combat obesity in dogs. Stay tuned for more details.



Satellite Adoption

We are thrilled to announce that “Jack”, “Janet”, and “Chrissy” have all found forever homes! Jack and Chrissy went to a home together and Janet found a home with another cat. We hear they are all doing very well!

Sadly, our longtime resident cat “Beamer” is still in search of a home! She has been with us this time around since May. Beamer is a very sweet adult feline that would love to have a home where she can be queen. As hard as she tries, she can not seem to get used to dogs and as such would love to have a home with strictly felines (or where she can be an only cat). Beamer is spayed and is up-to-date on her vaccinations. She is not declawed however she does not show tendencies to claw furniture, carpeting, etc. She is approximately 2 - 3 years old.



She was brought to us by the Humane Society of Washington County when she had been hit by a car. She had a broken jaw and an extensive injury to her eye. However, with corrective surgery and a lot of TLC, she bounced back quickly and has been doing well ever since.

We beseech anyone who is either looking for a companion or knows someone who is to please consider Beamer. She manages to keep her spirits up but is tired of living in kennels and exam rooms. She would adore a home of her very own where she can stay and be loved forever. Feel free to stop in for a visit; she loves company.

Street Relocations

For those of you who come to the clinic via Edgewood Drive:

The town of Funkstown has decided to make both Chestnut Street and Poplar Street one way but only on the block closest to Edgewood Drive. In order to continue park in our rear parking lot you will now need to continue to the traffic light directly after the entrance to Chestnut Street and make a right. You then want to make a right onto North High Street where you will come to a four way stop which is where Chestnut Street becomes two lanes again. Make a left onto Chestnut Street and continue as normal.



*“It’s hard enough
on our human soldiers,
but what about our
canine ones?”*



Operation K-9 Military Care

The holidays are fast approaching, the most joyous and endearing time of the year; unless you are thousands of miles from home, in a strange country, without your family and friends. It’s hard enough on our human soldiers, but what about our canine ones?

Everyday these brave animals put their lives on the line for the good of our troops. They are faithful, trustworthy, and in need of supplies. This is why Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown will continue to be a drop off site for Operation Military K-9 Care.

Based in Burlington, New Jersey, The United States War Dogs Association sends donations of goods all over the world to the K-9 troops and their handlers. With winter fast approaching, they are more in need now than ever.

This is our third year sending care packages to our canine troops and their handlers. We have had a wonderful response from the animal-loving community and wanted to remind everyone that we are still very much involved in this wonderful project. We will continue to collect goods and/or monies to defer the cost of mailing these packages as long as our soldiers are in need.

We want to show our support for not only the men and women who unselfishly protect us every day, but also the canines that protect them.



We have a list of all goods needed for both the two and four legged soldiers here at the office and also on our website: www.funkstownvet.com. Thank you for your generosity!

Schedule of Events

October:

Saturday October 6th – 7th Annual Pet Fair & Fall Festival 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday October 11th – Staff Meeting: Schering Plough Lunch & Learn

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Tuesday October 16th – Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank here

Thursday October 25th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday October 25th – Funkstown Halloween Parade 6:00 p.m. – BE CAREFUL WHEN PARKING

Friday October 26th – Funkstown Trick or Treat 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday October 31st – Halloween Dress Up Day!

November:

Thursday November 1st – Staff Meeting: Pfizer Lunch & Learn

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday November 13th – Staff meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday November 21st – Closing at 4:00 p.m.

Thursday November 22nd – HAPPY THANKSGIVING! – Office Closed

Friday November 23rd – Office opens at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday November 29th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

December:

Friday December 7th – Santa Pictures 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. – Appointments ONLY!

Funkstown Olde Tyme Christmas 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Thursday December 13th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday December 20th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Monday December 24th – Closing at 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday December 25th – MERRY CHRISTMAS! – Office Closed

Wednesday December 26th – Office opens at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday December 27th – Staff Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Monday December 31st – Closing at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday January 1st – HAPPY NEW YEAR! – Office Closed



Employee Spotlight

We would like to spotlight Dr. Sandra Smith in this issue. Dr. Smith is dedicated to her family and her career as a veterinarian. David, her husband, and her two sons Nathan and Christopher are part of her two legged family. Her four legged family consists of a Lhasa Apso named "Scottie", and a rambunctious Lab puppy named "Oshi" as well as two young, energetic cats named "Daylight" and "Nightlight."

Dr. Smith is a 1990 graduate of the Virginia - Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. She worked for many years at Park Circle Animal Hospital before joining our team in January of 2003. She works here on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; filling in on other days when the need arises.

She has a special affinity for not only dogs and cats but children as well. She is well loved by her patients and their parents. We often have to retrieve her out of the exam rooms because of her friendly and talkative nature.

We feel very fortunate to have her as a doctor and often recruit her to examine our own pets. We hope to have her around for quite a while.

Things We Can Learn from a Dog (cont.)

- **Never pretend to be something you're not.**
- **If you want what lies buried, dig until you find it.**
- **When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.**
- **Thrive on attention and let people touch you.**
- **Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.**
- **On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shady tree.**
- **When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.**
- **No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout....run back and make friends.**
- **Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.**

www.funkstownvet.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:
Flyball and agility demonstrations by Mason & Dixon Kennel Club
with pets for adoption • Raffles • Hospital Tours • Doggie Games
Society of Washington County • Briggs Animal Adoption Center
station by Briar Patch Pet Salon • Bulldog Rescue • Humane
donation • Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank • Grooming demon-
stration • Phoenix Landing Bird Rescue • Refreshments by
Kid's Corner with pumpkin carving & scavenger hunt • M.A.S.H.
Unit - Bring your "sick & injured" stuffed animals for our doctors
to stitch up!

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

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Pet Fair and Fall Festival

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