



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

Newsletter

January-March 2008

Live Dental Seminar! –

Join us on Wednesday February 13th at 6:30 p.m. for a live dental seminar. In recognition of National Pet Dental Health Month we will, for the 2nd year, perform a dental cleaning and polishing live! Come watch our registered veterinary technician, Erin Mills, perform a complete dental cleaning and polishing, under the watchful eye of Dr. Virginia Scrivener.

Much of the hesitation for pet owners to have a dental cleaning performed on their pets is fear of the unknown. What actually goes on during a cleaning and

how does it affect your pet? We hope to alleviate some of those concerns by inviting pet owners to watch a cleaning and polishing from start to finish. Dr. Scrivener will communicate what is happening step by step and answer any questions that may arise.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get an inside look. We will provide a hospital tour as well as coupons toward dental products. Mark your calendars now to join us on Wednesday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. Please call ahead if planning to attend. See you there!

Satellite Adoptions –

"Dodger" and "Troy", 2 of the 3 most recent feline residents have found a wonderful forever home together. "Simon" also found a forever home where he will have brothers and sisters to play with. We are very happy that these sweet kitties are able to finally have families of their own.

We started participating in Satellite Adoptions through the Humane Society of Washington County in May of 2003. Since then we have found homes for over 50 cats and kittens! We are so happy to be a part of such a worthy cause however there are still thousands of animals, cats and dogs that are euthanized every year just in Washington County. We realize what a huge responsibility pets are but would encourage you to open your hearts and your

homes to these innocent creatures. They do not ask to be put on this Earth and certainly do not ask to be taken off again.

If adoption is not an option, the Humane Society is always looking for volunteers. They need help with everything from temperament testing to scooping the play yards. Another way to help the pet over population is to get your pets spayed or neutered. One female cat and all of her offspring if left un-neutered can produce upwards of 420,000 cats in just 7 years! Everyone loves puppies and kittens but to let pets reproduce just for the sheer fact of reproducing, is irresponsible and can have deadly consequences for the animals. We encourage you to be part of the solution instead of the problem.

Thank You! –

We are excited to announce that through the generous contributions of not only our clients and staff but the public as a whole, we have been able to send 4 boxes, weighing over 250 pounds, to our canine troops and their handlers overseas. There has been an incredible outpouring of donations, both of goods and money for these brave canines and their handlers serving overseas. Although the holiday season is drawing to a close, we will con-

tinue to support our troops throughout the year. Therefore if you were unable to bring a donation during the holidays we will still gladly accept them throughout the year.

Also thanks to the generosity of our clients we were able to raise funds of over \$175 for the Hagerstown Jaycees to be used to buy K-9 stab vests for the dogs working in the Maryland Division of Corrections. To date the Jaycees have raised almost \$10,000, which will buy 13-14 stab vests. They were kind enough to send us a photo of "Bam



Easy Does It –

Older pets can be stiff and sore and something as simple as getting in and out of the car at the vet's office can be a very trying experience. We are here to help! We have recently purchased a ramp that can be used to assist elderly pets in and out of the vehicle. Many pet parents have similar contraptions at home to help their four-legged family still be able to get on the couch or in bed. We want your pet to have the same convenience here as at home (not to mention save your back trying to lift pets in and out of the car). If your pet needs assistance at their next visit, please feel free to ask a staff member to assist you.

"Bam", a yellow Labrador retriever, who works as a drug dog with the Maryland Division of Corrections. He is responsible for numerous drug finds and arrests and routinely assists local police with searches. He is just one of many brave dogs dedicated to keeping our community safe and drug free! We truly appreciate your support of these worthwhile causes.

CRITTER'S CHRONICLE



“With the beauty and rebirth of spring comes the threat of insect bites and stings.”

Doctor’s Corner **Thyroid Disease in Cats –**

Many of us have heard of the thyroid gland but few know the importance of it. The thyroid gland produces the major thyroid hormone thyroxine and a lesser amount of another hormone called triiodothyronine. These hormones are responsible for regulating the metabolism and affect every system in the body. There are two kinds of thyroid disease: hypothyroidism, meaning an under active thyroid and hyperthyroidism, meaning an over active thyroid. Hypothyroidism is commonly seen in dogs whereas hyperthyroidism is commonly associated with cats.

Hyperthyroidism is seen most often in cats 8 years and older. Most cats do not show any dramatic symptoms until later on in the disease process. The most common symptom reported is increased appetite with marked weight loss. Hyperthyroidism increases the cat’s metabolism which in turn makes the heart, kidneys, and liver work harder, leading to heart disease, kidney failure, and hypertension. Such issues can increase anesthetic risk as well, putting the pet at risk for a stroke or cardiac problems.

The good news is, if caught early enough, hyperthyroidism can be successfully managed. Hyperthyroidism is diagnosed by physical examination and a T4 blood test. Because it seems to be mostly senior cats that are affected by thyroid disease, we strongly recommend that all senior cats be tested on a yearly basis.

There are several options for treatment of hyperthyroidism:

- Medication – Tapazole is given daily to twice daily to control hormone production. It is often the first option when dealing with thyroid disease. Thyroid levels, once in the therapeutic range, will need to be monitored every 6 months to ensure proper control.
- Surgery – A thyroidectomy can be performed to remove the abnormal thyroid lobe. This would be performed at a specialist and may need to be repeated. Surgery can be an effective cure for this disease. It eliminates the need for daily administration of medications and the animal only has to be hospitalized for several days in most cases.
- Radioactive Iodine - Radioactive iodine therapy provides a simple, effective, and safe treatment for cats with hyperthyroidism. The majority of iodine an animal receives in the diet or through an injection becomes concentrated in the thyroid gland. When given radioactive iodine, the iodine becomes concentrated in the thyroid gland and kills the over-producing cells. The parathyroid glands

are not damaged by this treatment. This would be the more costly of the treatment options.

In any case, early detection gives the pet the best chance of a normal life and good control of the disease. We recommend testing thyroid levels starting at the age of 7 unless there is a problem suspected sooner. In addition to T4 testing, we also recommend regular screenings of the liver, kidneys, and heart as part of our Senior Wellness Program.

Dr. Virginia Scrivener

Insect Bites & Stings –

Along with the beauty and rebirth of spring comes the threat of insect bites and stings. We all know how painful and sometimes deadly a bee sting can be for humans, but what about our pets? Dogs tend to get bit or stung on the nose due largely to their nose-first exploration style, while cats tend to be injured on their paws by playing with interesting bugs that catch their attention. Most bites are not of any concern and often go unnoticed except for possibly a little scratching by the pet. The real threat comes when either the bite is poisonous or the pet is allergic. Special attention should be paid to bites that swell, are red or irritated, seem hot to the touch, or cause the animal pain or discomfort.

In extreme cases of allergic reactions, a pet may go into anaphylactic shock. This is characterized by generalized swelling, hives, or labored breathing. This requires immediate veterinary attention. A lesser reaction may be swelling or irritation at the site of the bite or sting. However, if the bite causes swelling of the face or neck, this could cause problems with breathing and you should take your pet to your veterinarian right away for treatment. Although not all pets are allergic, it is still recommended to call your veterinarian if a bite or sting is suspected.

There are all sorts of fun stuff to play with outside (and sometimes inside) but often the fun bites back! Your attention and care can help lessen the stress and pain of insect bites and stings for your best friend. If there is ever a question as to what to do in the case of a bite or sting feel free to give the office a call. We would rather you be safe than sorry.



“Flea prevention should be a part of your pet’s regular health regimen. . .”



New Products –

Over the last few months if you have been in with a pet, you may have heard us discussing some new products. The veterinary medical industry is always looking to improve upon medications in the hopes of keeping our pets safe and healthy.

The first new product is called ProMeris. ProMeris is the newest flea control for cats and flea and tick control for dogs. Many of the previous flea and tick medications, although mostly still effective, are thought to be less effective due to the fleas becoming immune to them.



Metaflumizone, the active ingredient in ProMeris is brand new so fleas have never been exposed to it, making them readily susceptible.

Flea prevention should be a part of your pet’s regular health regimen just as vaccines are. Fleas can transmit a variety of diseases to pets and humans including tapeworms, cat scratch fever and typhus. Pets also suffer from Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD) which can be triggered by just one flea bite. By killing the adult biting fleas, ProMeris helps prevent FAD. Fleas can live and reproduce indoors year round and therefore it is recommended that flea prevention be used all year, even through the winter months.

Ticks can carry such diseases as Lyme disease, Ehrlichia, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever to name a few. Mild winters allow ticks to continue to be a problem all year long.

The second new product recently introduced to the veterinary field is called ProFender for cats. ProFender is a topical dewormer; the first of its kind. In the past, deworming your cat meant either trying to squirt a messy, sticky liquid down their throat or risking getting your fingers chewed off in an attempt to get your cat to swallow a pill only to find the pill later behind the sofa.

ProFender eliminates such difficulties. This product is applied similarly to Advantage or Frontline Plus, and in many instances, applied right here in the office for your convenience.

ProFender treats roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms in felines. In general only one dose is needed, however it is safe to give monthly on high risk patients. Outdoor cats in particular run the risk of being re-infested as many tend to be hunters and go to the bathroom outside.

Our goal is to make you and your pets’ lives easier. Please feel free to ask us any questions you might have about these products.

Schedule of Events –

January:

Tuesday January 1st – Office Closed

Thursday January 3rd – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday January 10th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday January 17th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday January 23rd – 2008 Winter Puppy Olympics – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday January 24th – Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank here

Thursday January 24th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday January 31st – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

February - National Pet Dental Health Month:

Thursday February 7th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday February 13th – Live Dental Seminar – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday February 14th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday February 21st – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday February 28th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

March:

Thursday March 6th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday March 13th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday March 20th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday March 27th – Staff Meeting 1-3 p.m. – Office Closed



New Year's Resolutions for Cats –

I will not slurp fish food from the surface of the aquarium.

I will not lean way over to drink out of the tub, fall in, and then bolt right for the box of clumping litter.

I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for late-night snacks.

I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare into her eyes until she wakes up.

I will not scream at the can of food hoping it will open by itself.

I will not bite the cactus, as it will bite back.

Birds do not come from the bird feeder. I will not knock it down and try to open it up to get the birds out.

I will not play "dead cat on the stairs" while my humans are trying to carry in groceries or laundry.

I will not play "Herd of Thundering Wildebeests Stampinged Across the Plains of the Serengeti" over my humans' bed while they are trying to sleep.

I will not drag the magnets (and the papers they are holding up) off of the refrigerator and then bat them underneath of it so they adhere to the underside.

New Year's Resolutions for Dogs –

I will not act half starved when I watch my master eat.

I will not lift my leg to water the Christmas tree.

I will not roll in any smelly stuff I find in the yard.

I will not treat my master's shoes as if they are chew toys.

I will try not to drink out of the toilet.

I will try to keep my nose out of the cat's litter box.

I will refrain from coughing and gagging while we have company.

I will not run away from home in pursuit of a good time (I will try to remember that I am neutered).

I will not sneak up on my master and lick him in the mouth while he is sleeping.

I will not pass gas in my master's presence, and then walk away as if I have been offended.

www.funkestownvet.com



Come one! Come all!
To the 2008 Puppy Winter Olympics! All puppies age 3 months to 1 year with current vaccinations are welcome.
Join us on Wednesday January 23rd from 6:30 p.m. – 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 puppy obedience and winter pet care tips.
We look forward to seeing you there!
Please call ahead if you plan to attend.



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Puppy Winter Olympics –