



Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

"We'll treat your pet like family!"

Newsletter

October – December 2008

CRITTER'S CHRONICLE

Leptospirosis Alert –

Leptospirosis or Lepto as it is more commonly referred to is a bacterial disease that can be found in many animals including livestock (cattle, pigs, and sheep) and wildlife (deer, skunks, raccoons, opossums, rats, and other rodents). The bacteria are passed via the urine into water sources where they live, reproduce, and eventually get passed onto the next animal. The bacteria can live for long periods of time in water, wet soil and infected urine.

Dogs are particularly susceptible to Lepto. It is transmitted through mucous membranes (eyes, nose, and mouth) or open cuts and sores where it enters the bloodstream. Therefore dogs that swim, play in or drink out of puddles, or simply walk through contaminated water can become infected. Lepto is highly contagious and can be transmitted from dog to dog even in very urban areas. Risk of exposure is usually greater during the summer and early fall months, and other periods of high rainfall.

Humans are also at risk for contracting Lepto. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that up to 200 human cases of leptospirosis a year are identified in the United States. Children are particularly susceptible due to their close contact with pets, play habits and inconsistent hygiene. The disease is rarely fatal in humans but can cause severe illness. To reduce your risk make sure you have your dog vaccinated against Lepto,

avoid water that is stagnant, and practice good sanitation with yourself and your children.

Some symptoms of Lepto in dogs include:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Dehydration
- Weakness
- Depression
- Lethargy

Jaundice appearance (yellowing of gums and whites of the eyes)

In severe cases kidney or liver failure that may be fatal

So what do we do about Lepto? The best form of protection is prevention in the form of vaccination. Many dogs have been vaccinated against Lepto for years and the owners do not even know it. In our DHLPP or distemper vaccine the "L" is Leptospirosis. As dogs age and are being switched to our 3 year vaccine protocol, it is still of massive importance to vaccinate against Lepto yearly. By vaccinating your dog before exposure to the disease, you may avoid the emotional and financial trauma of dealing with this disease.

If you would like to have your pet vaccinated for Leptospirosis or simply check to see if he or she already is, please feel free to give us a call.

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 4th year sending care packages to our canine troops and their handlers. We have had a terrific 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



Santa Pictures

For the 8th year now and in conjunction with Funkstown's Olde Tyme Christmas, Santa will be visiting Animal Health Clinic to get his picture taken with your pet!

Join us on Friday December 5th from 6 – 9 p.m. for pictures with Santa. The cost will be \$15.00 per pet per picture. All proceeds will benefit Operation K-9 Military Care. Please call ahead for an appointment. Appointments will be on a first come, first serve basis and they go quickly. See you there!

for both the two and four legged soldiers here at the office and also on our website: www.funkstownvet.com. Thank you for your continued generosity!





“ . . . a good citizen brought in two beautiful kittens”

Satellite Adoptions –

We are excited to announce that “Princess” has found a forever home! She was found as a stray in downtown Hagerstown and was estimated to be approximately 1-2 years old. We spayed her and gave vaccines and finally her wonderful personality won her a home. Her full name is now Princess Jada. Her new family is thrilled with their new addition.

Our three most recent residents, “Q”, “Poopy”, and “Peepers” have all gone to forever homes. The same day we found out the last of the three, Q, was going home, a good citizen brought in 2 beautiful kittens. At the time they were found, they were between 2 and 3 weeks old. They have been in the care of Rebecca but will be looking for forever homes as well. They will be ready for adoption after October 13th. Please let us know if you are interested.

Mudd Volleyball –

Although we only won 2 games out of 12, we had a muddy good time losing! The Funkstown Hellcats did not dominate the court but thanks to numerous contributions by folks like you, we one first place for donations raised!

July 19th was a beautiful albeit hot day for the 8th annual Mudd Volleyball tournament held once again at Citi Group. This year’s tournament, which is a fund raiser for the Washington County Community Free Clinic, consisted of 48 teams; over 600 players! It was a day of fun, food, and all out messiness. Even the spectators walked away muddy.

We want to thank you for your support and we are already looking forward to next year’s tournament.

Senior Pet Wellness Fair –

We hope you were able to join us on Wednesday August 27th for our Senior Pet Wellness Fair. Dr. Tara Cumley gave a wonderfully informative talk on senior issues and what to do about them; from senility to arthritis.

During the seminar, the attendants blood pressures were taken. Out of 14 senior pets that had their blood pressure taken 4 were above normal. That’s 28% that had an increased blood pressure. We raffled off a senior dog and senior cat basket.

Dr. Scrivener did a demonstration of our Ultrasound machine using Carletta’s dog “Mack” and her own dog “Katie” as the guinea pigs.

We would like to dedicate that night to “Abbey” Davis who would have been the oldest pet in attendance at 16 years old. Unfortunately as Abbey’s owner was preparing to come to the Wellness Fair, she noticed Abbey’s abdomen looked very swollen and she was in obvious distress. She rushed Abbey in as soon as she noticed and after X-rays were performed, it was determined that Abbey had flipped her stomach or gotten “bloat” as it is more commonly referred

to. After much soul searching, Abbey’s family decided that due to her age and other health issues, surgery (the only way to treat this condition) was just not an option and decided to have her euthanized. We were all heartbroken and want to send our deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Davis.

Pet Fair and Fall Festival –

COME ONE, COME ALL! Join us on Saturday October 18th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for our annual Pet Fair & Fall Festival!

For the 8th year now, we will celebrate the human-animal bond with a day of entertainment, education, and socialization. Some of our events/vendors include:

Kid’s Corner with pumpkin carving & games – going on all day
Caricaturist for your pet (\$20 minimum donation per pet) 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Doggie Games – 12:30 p.m.

- Musical Sit
- Snoopy Says
- Doggie IQ Game
- Red Rover
- Doggie Ball Pit

Phoenix Landing Bird Rescue – birds for adoption
Refreshments by donation – make sure you come hungry
Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank – Free Dog Blood Typing
Grooming demonstration by Briar Patch Pet Salon – Free Toenail Trims

Raffles - \$1.00 per chance or 6 for \$5.00

Hospital Tours – going on all day

Pet Costume Parade and Contest – 12:00 p.m.

* Prizes awarded for: Prettiest, Scariest, Cutest, and Most Original

M.A.S.H. Unit for all of your “sick” stuffed animals – Bring them along and assist in surgery as the doctor sutures them back to new!

Mason & Dixon Kennel Club with Flyball & agility demonstrations - 11:00 a.m.

Washington County Sheriff’s Department – K-9 Unit demonstration – 1:00 p.m.

Humane Society of Washington County – pets for adoption

All of the proceeds from this event will be donated to Operation K-9 Military Care. 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!



*“On the first day of
Christmas when I brought
home my tree . . .”*



Mountain View Animal Emergency

It's Sunday night, your dog is out running in the yard and suddenly you hear an ear piercing yelp and you find your dog limping up to you on 3 legs. You check the injured leg and your dog screams in pain. Now what do you do? You regular veterinarian is closed until tomorrow morning and you know your pet can not wait that long for care.

There is now an alternative to driving to Frederick for emergency care; Mountain View Animal Emergency. This emergency hospital will be temporarily located inside of the Cumberland Valley Veterinary Clinic but will be run by an entirely different staff of ER doctors and technicians.

Mountain View Animal Emergency is located at 17747 Virginia Avenue in Hagerstown, Maryland. For the time being, this facility will only be open on weekends for emergencies. Once it is up and running, they do plan on being open through the week and on holidays as well.

To be connected to this hospital in case of an emergency, you may either call our regular number (301) 733-7579 and our answering service will direct you further, or you may call Mountain View directly at (301) 733-7339. If your pet needs continued care after they close on Monday mornings, your pet will be transferred back to us for additional care.

Besides seeing emergencies, the Mountain View doctors and staff will be able to provide 24 hour care to our patients that need more supervision than what we would be able to offer during weekend hours.

We are very excited to have an emergency hospital right in our own backyard. We want the best care possible for our patients when we are not available and are looking forward to working closely with the Mountain View staff.

The Twelve Cats of Christmas -

On the first day of Christmas when I brought home my tree
My 12 cats were laughing at me.....

On the second day of Christmas I saw beneath my tree
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.

On the third day of Christmas I saw beneath my tree
3 Missing Wise Men
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.

On the fourth day of Christmas I saw beneath my tree
4 males a-spraying
3 missing Wise Men
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.

On the fifth day of Christmas I saw beneath my tree
5 shredded gifts
4 males a-spraying
3 missing Wise Men
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.

On the sixth day of Christmas I saw beneath my tree
6 fallen angels
5 shredded gifts
4 males a-spraying
3 missing Wise Men
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.

On the seventh day of Christmas I saw beneath my tree
7 half dead rodents
6 fallen angels
5 shredded gifts
4 males a-spraying
3 missing Wise Men
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.

On the eighth day of Christmas I saw beneath my tree
8 shattered ornaments
7 half dead rodents
6 fallen angels
5 shredded gifts
4 males a-spraying
3 missing Wise Men
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.

On the ninth day of Christmas I saw beneath my tree
9 chewed through light strings
8 shattered ornaments
7 half dead rodents
6 fallen angels
5 shredded gifts
4 males a-spraying
3 missing Wise Men
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.

On the tenth day of Christmas I saw beneath my tree
10 tinsel hairballs
9 chewed through light strings
8 shattered ornaments
7 half dead rodents
6 fallen angels
5 shredded gifts
4 males a-spraying
3 missing Wise Men
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.

On the eleventh day of Christmas I saw beneath my tree
11 broken branches
10 tinsel hairballs
9 chewed through light strings
8 shattered ornaments
7 half dead rodents
6 fallen angels
5 shredded gifts
4 males a-spraying
3 missing Wise Men
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.

On the twelfth day of Christmas I looked at my poor tree
12 cats a-climbing
11 broken branches
10 tinsel hairballs
9 chewed through light strings
8 shattered ornaments
7 half dead rodents
6 fallen angels
5 shredded gifts
4 males a-spraying
3 missing Wise Men
2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me.



Bridge Closed –

The Washington County Division of Public Works has announced closure of East Oak Ridge Drive due to the rehabilitation of the historic stone arch bridge in Funkstown. The road will be closed to through traffic, from Oak Ridge Place to North Westside Avenue, effective Tuesday, August 19, 2008. Rehabilitation of the stone arch structure on East Oak Ridge Drive over the Antietam Creek will necessitate the closure for approximately 150 days. A detour will be posted to route traffic on Frederick Street, East Wilson Boulevard, and South Potomac Street. For alternate routes please give the office a call or visit our website www.funkstownvet.com.

Beware of Bloat –

Gastric dilation and volvulus, or GDV, is a life threatening condition in dogs. More commonly known as “bloat,” this condition typically affects large breed, deep chested dogs, but all breeds and all ages of dogs are susceptible. Bloat is believed to be the number two killer of dogs in the United States, second to cancer.

The most typical causes of bloat are eating too quickly, drinking large amounts of water after meals and vigorous exercise after a meal. Following those events, the stomach enlarges (gastric dilation) and then the stomach may twist or rotate (volvulus), which can close off the esophagus.

- All pet owners should know the signs of bloat. They include:
 - Unproductive vomiting, or vomiting which produces only mucous or foam.
 - Anxiety or restlessness
 - A distended abdomen that may feel tight – although this is not always apparent.
 - The dog might look at their abdomen or give other indications of abdominal discomfort.
 - Pacing and sometimes refusing to sit or lie down

The dog just isn't acting “normal”

If you suspect your dog may be suffering from bloat, seek emergency veterinary care immediately, as dogs can die very quickly from this condition. Always call ahead so the veterinary team knows you are coming and preparations can be made. This will shave off valuable time needed for treatment.

Employee Spotlight –

We are pleased to highlight Angie, a veterinary technician who joined our team in January of 2007. Angie started as a client bringing her beautiful dog “Mango” and 2 cats “Davey” and “Leroy” to us.

Before working at the clinic Angie worked as a contractor for the Army. Growing up in a Navy family, Angie traveled all over but spent the majority of her childhood in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

She has a wonderful affinity for animals and can always be counted on to lend a helping hand. Her cheerful and chatty personality and smiling face make her a favorite among staff and clients alike.

She resides in Hagerstown with her husband Justin and 2 teenagers, Kyle and Lanie. We feel very fortunate to have her as part of our support staff and look forward to building a long professional life together.

www.funkstownvet.com

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October
 Saturday October 4th – The 6th Annual Kate Koogler Canine Cancer Ride
 Saturday October 18th – Our 8th Annual Pet Fair & Fall Festival 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. – OFFICE CLOSED
 Thursday October 30th – Funkstown Halloween Parade 6 p.m. – BE CAREFUL WHEN PARKING
 Friday October 31st – Happy Halloween! Dress up day...What will we be this year? Funkstown Trick or Treat 6-8 p.m.
November
 Wednesday November 26th – Office Closing at 4 p.m.
 Thursday November 27th – HAPPY THANKSGIVING! – Office Closed
 Friday November 28th – Office Opens at 10 a.m.
December
 Friday December 5th – Santa Pictures 6-9 p.m. – Appointments ONLY!
 Funkstown's Olde Tyme Christmas 6-9 p.m.
 Thursday December 18th – Staff Meeting 12-5 p.m.
 Wednesday December 24th – Christmas Eve – Office Closing at 12 p.m.
 Thursday December 25th – MERRY CHRISTMAS – Office Closed
 Friday December 26th – Office Opens at 10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday December 31st – Office Closing at 2 p.m.
 Thursday January 1st – HAPPY NEW YEAR! – Office Closed