



## Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

*"We'll treat your pet like family!"*

Newsletter

January – March 2009

### **Pet Portals –**

It's 9 o'clock at night. You have had a long day at work. You have just finished cleaning up from dinner, getting the kids bathed and in bed and it dawns on you that you were supposed to call and schedule an appointment for "Rex" for his vaccinations. The veterinary office closed 3 hours ago. "I guess I'll just have to try to remember to call tomorrow" you think to yourself. Three months go by and "Rex" is now way behind on his vaccines, you have a whole stack of reminder post cards in your desk, and you still have not been able to find the time to call and schedule an appointment. Or maybe you need Interceptor for "Rex" but can't manage to find the time to stop by the office to pick it up. Or perhaps it is Sunday morning you are leaving for vacation, and as you step out the front door to leave you realize you don't have a copy of your pet's up-to-date vaccines for the kennel. The veterinary office will not open until Monday morning. Does any of this sound familiar to you?

Now with Pet Portals you can schedule appointments, order refills of medications (to be mailed directly to you if you so choose), and have access to your pet's vaccination information 24 hours a day for FREE! Pet Portals are private, secure websites that contain your pet's health information. You can use your Pet Portal to:

Remind yourself with an e-mail when to give monthly heartworm or flea and tick prevention.

### **Satellite Adoptions –**

We would like to introduce "Nigel." He is one of our current resident kitties. Nigel is about 4 months old and was brought to us by a good citizen who found him lying in the middle of Eastern Boulevard after apparently being hit by a car. He was turned over to our care and was discovered to have a broken leg and a facial injury, both of which required surgery to repair. On Monday December 1st Dr. Smith and Dr. Cumley pinned the fracture in his left rear leg. He is doing well and is expected to make a full recovery. We would love to find him a very special forever home.

Also looking for homes are a litter of four beautiful 8 week old kittens. The litter consists of 2 boys, both all black and both polydactyl (meaning extra toes) and 2 girls, both tortoise shell colored and one that is polydactyl. When they were first brought to us on December 3rd, they were terrified; hissing

and growling when anyone even looked at them. However, after just a few days (and a few treats) they have come out of their shells and are happy, healthy, normal kittens. They have all tested negative for Felv/FIV, been dewormed, and have had first vaccines. Now all that is left is to find them loving forever homes.

Request refills of prescriptions and special diets which can be sent directly to you or can be picked up at the office.

Request an appointment.

Print out your pet's vaccination record for grooming or boarding purposes.

Check on your pet's vaccination expiration dates so as not to be late with yearly booster vaccines.

To sign up for your own Pet Portal simply:

Visit our website at [www.funkstownvet.com](http://www.funkstownvet.com) and click the Pet Portal login button. Just follow the instructions you'll find under the "Want a Pet Portal?" header.

Give us your e-mail address when you visit the hospital.

Give us your e-mail address when you next speak with us on the telephone.

You will receive an e-mail with your login information and password. To access your Pet Portal, visit our website and enter your e-mail address and password in the Pet Portal login box. You can bookmark the login page but not your Pet Portal since it is a secure site.

Now more than ever we realize how hectic life can be and we want to help. Please feel free to call with any questions about Pet Portals.

We began participating in Satellite Adoptions through the Humane Society of Washington County in May of 2003. Since then we have found homes for over 75 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.



### **2009 Winter Puppy Olympics –**

Calling all Olympians! Join us on Wednesday January 14th at 6:30 p.m. for our 2009 Winter Puppy Olympics. We invite all puppies ages 3 months to 1 year of age with current vaccinations to come and participate in an evening of fun and all out chaos! We will play games, enjoy refreshments, and learn about puppy care and training.

Please make sure your puppy is on a leash at all times and call ahead if planning to attend.

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 unneutered 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.



*“Now that you have the First Aid box made, what do you do with it in an emergency?”*

## **Preparing a Pet First Aid Kit –**

Nobody wants to think of their pet needing emergency care, but it is always better to be prepared. In case of an emergency the best thing you can do for your pet is to get him/her to your veterinarian or an emergency clinic as quickly as possible, however there are situations where you can start the treatment process immediately.

### **Some potential emergency situations might be:**

- Animal fights
- Car accidents
- Cuts and other wounds
- Extremely cold weather (frostbite)
- Extremely hot weather (heat stroke)
- Insect bites/stings
- Loss of consciousness for any reason
- Physical injury
- Seizures – Especially ones that last for 15 minutes or more or ones that stop and start within minutes of each other.
- Snake bites

To prepare an Animal First Aid box the first step is choosing the box itself. You want to make sure it is transportable, durable, water proof, and non-locking unless you have very small children. A plastic tool box works well as a first aid box. Be sure to label your box “ANIMAL FIRST AID”, store it in plain view, and make sure all family members know where it is. You may want to make more than one so that you can keep one in the car as well.

### **Some information to include in your first aid box would include:**

- \*Animal Poison Control – 1-800-492-2415 (there is a charge for using this number).
- \* Your veterinarian’s phone number including the emergency number if it is different from the office number.
- \* List of poisonous plants (can be found on our website [www.funkstowntvet.com](http://www.funkstowntvet.com))
- \*List of items you have in your first aid box.
- \* A copy of a good emergency book like *Emergency First Aid for Your Dog* by Tamara S. Shearer, D.V.M. published by Ohio Distinctive Publishing.

### **Items that should be included in your first aid box:**

- 2 rolls of 3” gauze bandage
- 3 large garbage bags
- 12 gauze sponges – 3”X 3”
- Ace or Coban bandage
- Adhesive tape – 1”
- Alcohol (for cleaning instruments, not the pet)



- Antibiotic ointment (e.g. small tube of Neosporin)
- Benadryl capsules (25mg) or liquid (12.5mg per teaspoon)
- Dosage syringe or turkey-baster
- Eye Dropper
- Hydrogen Peroxide – 8 oz.
- Muzzle – preferably nylon
- Nail trimmers
- Paper towels
- Physoderm or Chlorhexidine scrub
- Rectal thermometer
- Saline solution 8oz. (As used for contact lenses)
- Scissors
- Telfa Pads (non-stick)
- Tweezers
- Vodka (for antifreeze poisoning)
- Water soluble lubricating jelly (e.g. K-Y Jelly)



A few additional first aid items to keep on hand include a blanket to keep the pet warm and comfortable, a pet carrier to transport the pet safely, towels to restrain the pet, plywood board cut to the appropriate size for your pet and your car door to carry your pet safely in case of back injury or broken bones, and two 2-liter bottles with caps to use as hot water bottles for warmth or cold water for reducing body temperature in case of heat stroke.

Look for more information on how and when to use your first aid kit in our next newsletter.

## **New Year’s Resolutions for Cats –**

- I will not drag dirty socks up from the basement in the middle of the night, deposit them on the bed and yell at the top of my lungs so that my human can admire my “kill.”
  - I will not assume the patio door is open when I race outside to chase leaves.
  - I will not intrude on my human’s candle-lit bubble bath and singe my bottom.
  - I will not stick my paw into any container to see if there is something in it. If I do, I will not hiss and scratch when my human has to shave my paw to get the rubber cement out of my fur.
  - When I am chasing my tail and catch my back leg instead, I will not bite down on my own foot. This hurts, and my scream scares my human.
  - I will not teach the parrot to meow in a loud and raucous manner.
  - I will not eat spider plants and hallucinate behind the toilet.
- I will not put a live mole in my food bowl and expect it to stay there until I am hungry.

*“. . .we are becoming increasingly aware of the need for dental upkeep in our pets.”*



- If I must give presents to my human's overnight guests, my toy mouse is much more socially acceptable than a big live cockroach, even if it isn't as tasty.
- I will learn to relax at the vet's office so they write things in my records like "Good Kitty" and "Sweet Kitty" instead of stuff like "MEAN!!" "BITER!!" and "GET HELP!!"
- I will not walk on the keyboard when my human is trying to type important adjnsdou 344ffu p.
- Any critter that lives in the house (hamsters), stay in the house and any wild critters (frogs and earthworms) stay outside. I am not allowed to set the hamster free in exchange for finding a frog to put in the fish tank.

### **New Year's Resolutions for Dogs –**

- I will not lie down next to my human and commence making licking and popping noises.
- I will not dig up my human's favorite rose bush.
- I will not WATCH the cat while she is in her litterbox.
- I will not hide my bones under my human's pillow.
- I will not sniff the crotch of everyone I encounter.
- I will not harmonize with the cat at 2 a.m.
- I will refrain from becoming overly affectionate with my human's mother-in-law's leg.
- I will not chase the stick unless I see it leave my human's hand.
- I will not drop soggy tennis balls in the underwear of someone who is using the toilet.
- I will not walk under the big dog while he is peeing.
- When in the car, I will not insist on having the window rolled down when it is raining.
- I'll try to remember the trash collector is NOT stealing our stuff.

### **Dental Month –**

Did you know that 80% of all cats and dogs over the age of 2 years have some sort of dental disease, anywhere from gingivitis to severe calculus and tartar? When was the last time you brushed your pet's teeth?

As a society we are becoming increasingly aware of the need for dental upkeep in our pets. There are endless reasons why our pets do not get the dental attention they need and we have heard them all:



It's too expensive for a professional cleaning

I'm afraid to have my pet put under anesthesia.

I can't find the time to brush at home.

My pet won't let me brush its teeth.

While all of these are legitimate reasons, there are solutions to each of them. Let's explore some options.

It's too expensive for a professional cleaning. While dental cleanings can get expensive, the best way to avoid a large bill would be to have your pet's teeth cleaned before they become a problem. A routine cleaning and polishing does not cost much more than when you go to the dentist. There is pet health insurance available that can also help with the cost of a dental cleaning. We have the option to use Care Credit as a form of payment with a no interest payment plan. The only thing you can be assured of is the longer you wait, the worse the pet's teeth will be and in turn the more expensive the bill will be.

I'm afraid to have my pet put under anesthesia. While there is always a risk involved with anesthesia, we do everything we can to prevent any problems. Before anesthesia is administered, the doctor does a physical examination, and blood is drawn to screen for any problems that could either change our anesthesia protocol or cause us to cancel the procedure altogether. An IV catheter is placed and fluids are often administered to keep the pet's blood pressure stable, and to support the kidneys during the procedure. In the rare event that emergency medications need to be administered, the IV catheter ensures we have a port to give those medications through. During the procedure itself, there are two veterinary technicians with the pet at all times; one doing the actual cleaning and polishing and one monitoring the pet's temperature, heart rate, and respiratory rate every 5-10 minutes. The pet is also hooked up to a monitor that measures the amount of oxygen in the pet's blood stream as well as a heart monitor.

I can't find the time to brush at home. It is all too true that our lives are so busy that some things end up being pushed to the side. However, do you still find time to brush your own teeth? You can brush your pet's teeth at the same time. It can be incorporated right into your morning and evening routines. Sure, it may take a few extra minutes, but what a difference it will make in your pet's health. It would be ideal to brush your pet's teeth once daily. Imagine if you only brushed your teeth once a week....or not at all! You would not only have "bad breath" your mouth would eventually be sore and the other organs in your body could be affected.

My pet won't let me brush its teeth. The older the pet is when you implement a tooth brushing routine, the more difficult it may be. That does not, however, mean that it is impossible. The important thing to remember is to take baby steps. If you jump right in full force, you will not only frighten your pet but you will make the next experience terribly difficult. Follow these steps when it comes to brushing your pet's teeth:

Start out by just getting your pet used to your hands being around its mouth. Some pets don't mind this at all and some despise it. There can be a couple of reasons for resistance; either your pet's



## Dental Month – (Continued)

mouth is sore in which case they may need a professional cleaning and polishing first or it could just be that nobody has ever truly touched your pet's mouth and they are not sure what to think of it. Make it a happy thing; give treats, give kisses, sometimes just a "Good Boy" will do. Lift the pet's lips and touch around the gums and teeth. You can do this while your pet is sitting, hopefully relaxed, on your lap and you are watching TV. Once your pet is comfortable with you touching its mouth you can move onto the next step.

Next put some pet toothpaste on your finger let your pet smell it and even taste it if they choose. Pet toothpastes are usually flavored and pets like the taste. Once your pet is used to the smell and taste begin rubbing around the pet's teeth and gums. Once your pet is used to you using your finger as the toothbrush you can move onto the next step.

Now you want to use a finger brush to brush the pet's teeth. Finger brushes are soft bristled brushes that slip over your index finger. This will give more abrasion than just your finger and in doing so remove more plaque. You have the option of just using a finger brush or you can try a regular toothbrush, depending on the comfort level of your pet.

Now please be aware that these steps may take a few days or a few weeks to complete until your pet is comfortable with brushing. The younger your pet is when you implement a brushing routine the more accepting your pet will be, but at any age brushing is beneficial.

There are several other alternatives to brushing when it comes to home care. There are dental treats, dental diets, oral rinses, and even a solution that is put directly in the pet's drinking water. What could be easier than that?

As always, in recognition of Dental Month we will offer a 10% discount on professional dental cleanings performed during the months of January, February, and March. It is often a good idea to have a professional cleaning done first so you can begin home care with a clean slate. Please call us and we will be happy to start your pets on a home care regimen.

## Calendar of Events –

### January –

Thursday January 1st – HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed

Thursday January 8th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday January 15th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday January 22nd – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday January 29th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

### February – National Pet Dental Health Month

Thursday February 7th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday February 14th – Valentine's Day! Give your pet an extra smooch!

Thursday February 14th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday February 21st – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday February 28th - Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

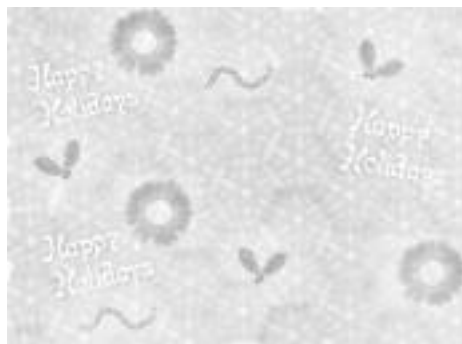
### March –

Thursday March 5th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday March 12th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday March 19th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday March 26th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed



www.funkestonvet.com

Join us on Wednesday February 18th 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 one of our trained veterinary technicians 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 18th at 6:30 p.m. Please call ahead if planning to attend. See you there!

## Live Dental Seminar –

Would you like to be able to make payments on your pets' veterinary care? Ask us about Care Credit! Care Credit is a credit card, however it differs from your normal Visa, Master Card, or Discover, which can be used anywhere. Care Credit is only able to be used at doctors, dentists, or veterinary offices. It offers a no interest payment plan on any charges over \$300. You can extend payments out over a year and as long as the balance is paid off within that year, you will not accrue any interest. Many of us budget for our pet's yearly vaccines, deworming, heartworm and flea and tick prevention, but what happens when your pet gets ill? One bout of vomiting or diarrhea can mount up in a hurry and you may not necessarily have the extra money to pay for treatments. With Care Credit, you can make payments, which allows your pet to receive the treatment he may need. Care Credit can be used for routine care as well; vaccines, dental cleanings, medications, etc. We have applications available at the reception desk or you can go to [www.CareCredit.com](http://www.CareCredit.com) and apply online. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Care Credit –

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