



Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

"We'll treat your pet like family!"

Newsletter

January – March 2010

CRITTER'S CHRONICLE

New Year's Resolutions for Cats –

- I will not puff up my entire body to twice its size for no reason after my human has finished watching a horror movie.
- I must not help myself to the Q-tips, and most certainly not proceed to stuff them down the sink's drain.
- I will not eat large numbers of assorted bugs, then come home and puke them up so my humans can see I am getting plenty of roughage.
- I will not fish out my human's partial plate from the glass so that the dog can "wear" it and pretend to be my human. (It is somewhat unnerving to wake up, roll over in bed, and see the dog grinning at you with your own teeth.)
- I will not back off the front porch and fall into the bushes just as my human is telling his girlfriend how graceful I am.
- I will not complain that my bottom is wet and that I am thirsty after sitting in my water bowl.
- It is not a good idea to try to lap up the powdered creamer before it dissolves in the boiling coffee.
- I will not stuff my rather large self into the rather small bird feeder (with my tail hanging out to one side) and expect the birds to just fly in.
- Yes, there are still 2 very large dogs in the back yard. They have been there for several years. I don't have to act as if I've just discovered the Demon Horror of the Universe each time one of them appears in the window.
- I will not swat my human's head repeatedly when she's on the family room floor trying to do sit-ups.
- When my human is typing at the computer, her forearms are *not* a hammock.
- I will not stalk the deer in the apple orchard next door. They have sharp hooves and could hurt me if they weren't laughing so hard.
- The goldfish likes living in the water and should be allowed to stay in its bowl.



New Year's Resolutions for Dogs –

- I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he is on the toilet.
- I do not need to suddenly stand up straight when lying underneath the coffee table.
- I will not roll my toys behind the refrigerator.
- I must shake the rainwater out of my fur BEFORE entering the house.
- I will not eat the cat's food, before or after they eat it.
- I will stop trying to find the few remaining pieces of clean carpet in the house when I am about to throw up.
- I will not wake my Mommy up by sticking my cold, wet nose up her bottom end.
- We do not have a doorbell. I will not bark each time I hear one on TV.



HGE –

HGE or Hemorrhagic GastroEnteritis is a disease of dogs which is not commonly known about among pet owners but that can have dire results. Symptoms of HGE include an acute onset of bloody diarrhea, vomiting, listlessness, and anorexia. Although dehydration is not an immediate symptom, without prompt medical treatment it can quickly develop.

Not much is known about HGE in dogs. Although there is no definitive cause, there are many theories such as:

- Diet
- Bacterial infection
- Bacterial toxin
- Virus
- Reaction to intestinal parasites
- Stress

HGE is diagnosed basically by ruling out other causes of bloody diarrhea; parasites, bacterial infection, parvovirus, coronavirus, GI ulcers, colitis, pancreatitis, GI cancer, poisoning, etc. A low PCV (pack cell volume) in a normally healthy dog can also be an indication of HGE.

Although any size, breed, gender, or age of dog is susceptible toy or small breed dogs between the ages of 2 and 4 years seem to be the most often affected by HGE. HGE is treated with aggressive supportive care including hospitalization, IV fluids with potassium added to them, IV antibiotics and no food or water for 1-4 days.

HGE is an extremely and often deadly disease however with prompt veterinary treatment most dogs can recover in a few days. Dogs that have had previous episodes of HGE can be more likely to experience reoccurrence. Any time your pet experiences vomiting or diarrhea, especially with blood in it, you need to contact your veterinarian immediately.



“A diseased mouth not only causes immense pain for your pet but. . .”

Scheduling Appointments –

In an effort to reduce wait times and ensure every patient gets the attention they deserve here are a few guidelines to remember when scheduling your pets' appointments:

- 1) Appointments can be scheduled Monday thru Saturday and surgery appointments Monday thru Friday.
- 2) Patients are seen by scheduled appointments only. We cannot accept walk-in appointments as this is not fair to the clients that have scheduled appointment times. If you have a medical emergency, please call the office before coming in to ensure there is a doctor on site.
- 3) If the reason for your appointment has changed since originally scheduling it (i.e. the pet was scheduled for vaccines but now is limping) or you want to bring an additional pet, please call the office to ensure we can accommodate the change.
- 4) If you are more than 5 minutes late for your scheduled appointment time, we will attempt to see you in a timely fashion, however there is the possibility that you may be asked to reschedule.
- 5) If you need to cancel your appointment for any reason, please call so that someone else may use the time slot. We would appreciate 24 hours notice.
- 6) Recheck appointments scheduled with a doctor will be charged a recheck exam fee. Any diagnostics, treatments, and/or medications will be additional.
- 7) If your pet has a “tech” appointment, this means they are scheduled with a technician only and will not be seen by a doctor. If your pet needs to be examined by a doctor a separate appointment must be made.
- 8) If your pet is scheduled for a “drop off” appointment, expect your pet to stay for the day. Drop off times are between 8 & 9 a.m. Monday thru Friday. Discharge times vary from patient to patient but are typically between 3 & 6 p.m.
- 9) Surgeries are admitted Monday thru Friday between 8 & 9 a.m. Authorization forms will need to be signed by the owner so please allow 15-20 minutes that morning doing so. When possible the owner of the pet should be the one dropping the pet off. If you must send someone else with your pet, they must be 18 years of age or older.

10) FOR EMERGENCIES – Monday – Friday you may call our office at (301) 733-7579 or Frederick Emergency Animal Hospital at (301) 662-6622. Weekend emergencies are referred to Mountain View Animal Hospital, (301) 733-7339 at 17747 Virginia Ave. Hagerstown, MD 21740.

We certainly understand that occasionally there are extenuating circumstances however our goal is to be able to provide the best medical care possible while being mindful of all of our clients.

We realize your time is valuable and we want to make every visit to our hospital a positive one. By establishing these few guidelines we hope to avoid any confusion, as well as ensure every patient is seen in a timely matter. We appreciate your trust in us and look forward to enhancing your relationship with your pet through a partnership in education and health care.

Dental Month –

Imagine how you would feel if you were 5 years old and had never brushed your teeth? Imagine the taste in your mouth. Imagine the smell coming out of your mouth. Imagine the discomfort you had to endure due to gingivitis and possibly loose or broken teeth. Have you ever stopped to think that perhaps that is what your pet is dealing with every day? Now suppose you were not 5 years old but 10 years old! Ten years of plaque, tartar, gingivitis all festering in your mouth and there is nothing you can do about it. It's a good thing someone cares enough about you to help.

Although dental disease is a constant concern for our pets, during February, which is National Pet Dental Health Month, we focus our attention on bringing dental health to light. Approximately 85% of dogs and cats over the age of 2 years have some form of dental disease which makes it the most common disease diagnosed in adult pets. For many years nothing was known regarding dental disease in dogs and cats but as more information becomes available it is obvious how important healthy teeth and gums are. A diseased mouth not only causes immense pain for your pet but it can also have catastrophic affects on your pet's liver, kidneys, and heart.



Just like humans, pets need to have their teeth brushed at home and professional cleanings done periodically by a veterinary technician. And the more proactive you are with at home care, the less often your pet will need a professional cleaning. Also, as with humans, the longer your pet goes between dental cleanings, the more extensive and expensive it will be.

We understand that brushing your pets' teeth is not always an option, especially if your pet is not used to having their teeth brushed. There are numerous alternatives such as diets, treats, rinses, or even solution that is added to your pet's drinking water. We are happy to discuss the many options available with you.



*“We believe the best tool
when it comes to our
pets is knowledge.”*



If your pet is coming due for their professional dental cleaning, don't forget that during January, February, and March we offer a 10% discount. This discount also applies to dental supplies such as toothpaste, treats, diets, and rinses. Call soon for your appointment as they fill up quickly.

Employee Spotlight –

We would like to introduce Becky Whitmore in this issue's employee spotlight. Becky is a part of our veterinary technician staff. She joined our team in April of 2009 having worked 6 years previously in an animal hospital.



She currently resides in Keedysville with her husband Jerry and 2 daughters Hannah and Skyler. Her pet family includes Aira a German Shepherd, Titan a Great Pyranese, a Siamese cat named Zoey, and a rat named Sheamus. During her spare time she enjoys photography and spending time with her family.

She is our first employee with six (6) names: Rebecca Jean Charmaine Virginia Leigh Whitmore. Her quick wit and friendly personality are a welcome addition to our support staff.

2010 Referral Program -

As always, we deeply appreciate referrals from our clients and in the past have offered a free gift for referring new clients to our practice. This year, as a special "Thank You", we are giving our clients a \$20 credit toward goods and/or services here at the clinic for each new client referred.

The greatest compliment we can receive from our clients is the referral of new clients. We are thrilled that you entrust not only your own pets to our care but are willing to refer your family and friends as well. Thank you.

Pet CPR & First Aid Class –

You are cordially invited to join us on Wednesday March 10, 2010 for a FREE pet CPR and First Aid Class. Our technicians and doctors will demonstrate the proper CPR techniques as well as basic first aid. We believe the best tool when it comes to our pets is knowledge. We never want to think of our pets in an emergency situation but wouldn't it be nice to know how to deal with it calmly so that your pet gets the most rapid medical care possible?

You are welcome to bring your pet(s) along but it is not required. Please RSVP by March 3rd if you are planning to attend.



Calendar of Events –

January –

Friday January 1st – HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed

Wednesday January 6th – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday January 13th – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Tuesday January 19th – 2010 Winter Puppy Olympics – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday January 20th – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday January 27th – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

February –

Wednesday February 3rd – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday February 10th – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Sunday February 14th – Valentine's Day – Give your pets an extra kiss!

Wednesday February 17th – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday February 24th – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

March –

Wednesday March 3rd – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday March 10th – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday March 10th – Pet First Aid and CPR Class – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday March 17th – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday March 24th – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday March 31st – Staff Meeting
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed



2010 Winter Puppy Olympics –



Calling all Olympians! Join us on Tuesday January 19th at 6:30 p.m. for our 2010 Winter Puppy Olympics!

Puppies ages 3 months to 1 year with current vaccines are encouraged to attend. Puppies and their parents can participate in games, enjoy refreshments and just generally have fun socializing with each other. We always have a great time relishing the pure chaos. Please RSVP by January 10th. See you there!

Care Credit –

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 and apply online. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Pet Portals –

Many of our clients have taken advantage of Pet Portals but for those who haven't please feel free to go to our website

www.funkstownvet.com and click on the Pet Portals icon and sign in to your Pet Portal or request one if you haven't already done so. Simply provide us with your e-mail address and you will receive an e-mail within 48 hours with your Pet Portal password and information.

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.
- 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.

Pet Portals is a fast and easy way to keep track of your pets' information. Please give the office a call with any questions.

www.funkstownvet.com



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