



## Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

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

Newsletter

July – September 2011

### ***Transitioning to a New Food –***

When you make a change in your pet's diet, from puppy to adult, adult to senior, or from over the counter to prescription, you should do it gradually. Some animals are consistently fed the same diet and it can be hard on their digestive system to change foods too suddenly. Start by progressively mixing smaller amounts of their current food with larger amounts of their new food. Follow the guide below to help you:

- Give 25% of the new food and 75% of the old food for days 1, 2, & 3.
- Then give 50% of the new food and 50% of the old food on days 4, 5, & 6.
- Give 75% of the new food and 25% of the old food on days 7 & 8.
- By day 9 you should be feeding 100% of the new food.

If, during the transition period, your pet has problems with vomiting or diarrhea, you may be switching too quickly or your pet may not be able to tolerate the new diet at all. Please call the office to discuss your concerns and possibly have the pet examined by a veterinarian. If your pet is known to be a picky eater, you may need to increase the length of time in which you transition the food. Keep in mind you will need a week's worth of the old food on hand to get you through the transition.

It is recommended that your pet stay on a consistent, high-quality diet, appropriate for his or her life stage however if a change is necessary these steps will assist in a smooth conversion. If your pet is being switched from an OTC diet to a prescription diet, be sure to ask your veterinarian if the switch can be gradual or if it needs to be an immediate change.

### ***Bordetella –***

Bordetella or kennel cough is highly contagious to dogs. Dogs are exposed to kennel cough by coming in contact with other dogs carrying the virus. Some places this might happen are boarding or grooming facilities, pet stores, dog parks, obedience classes, veterinary offices, or even their own backyard. Because infected dogs can shed the virus for 6-14 weeks post treatment, even a seemingly healthy dog can pose a risk to your best friend.

The most common symptom of kennel cough is a dry hacking cough sometimes followed by retching. A watery nasal discharge may also be present. In less severe cases, dogs continue to eat and be alert. In more severe cases, the symptoms may progress and include fever, lethargy, inappetence, pneumonia, and in very severe cases, even death. Although any breed at any age is susceptible the very young and immune compromised dogs are at the highest risk.

Kennel cough is usually diagnosed through symptoms and recent exposure to other dogs. Bacterial cultures, viral isolation, and blood work can be performed to verify individual agents of the disease, but due to the characteristic nature of the symptoms, these tests are not routinely performed.

Treatment will depend on the severity of the case. In mild cases, antibiotics are generally prescribed and possibly cough suppressants or bronchodilators. In moderate to severe cases where the pet's clinical signs are more involved they will be given antibiotics as well as cough suppressants, bronchodilators, or may even be hospitalized to monitor the pet for signs of pneumonia. Most infections last for 14-20 days.

The good news is there is a vaccine for kennel cough. If you have ever boarded a dog or had one groomed you are probably already aware of this fact. Most kennels require dogs to be vaccinated every 6 months although vaccines are approved for yearly use. There are two types of vaccines; intranasal (goes up the nose) or subcutaneous (under the skin). Both are equally effective and given at the doctor's discretion.

It is highly recommended that all puppies be vaccinated two times, 3-4 weeks apart beginning at the age of 12 weeks regardless of exposure risk. Adult dogs should be vaccinated yearly depending on their risk. Dogs that are boarded or groomed regularly should have bi-yearly vaccines.

To check on your dog's vaccine status, feel free to give us a call.



*“My job as their mother is to find them forever homes”*

### ***Mudd Volleyball –***

Just a reminder! Mudd Volleyball is coming up quickly and we need your donations! All proceeds from this yearly event go directly to patient care through the Washington County Community Free Clinic.



As always, we need a cheering section on Saturday July 16th starting at 9:00 a.m. at Citi Group near the Hagerstown Regional Airport.

It should be a fun, muddy day for everyone. One word of warning, come dressed to get messy as the mud is everywhere!

### ***Waiting for You -***

Hello everyone! I am affectionately known around Animal Health Clinic as Momma Cat. I believe myself to be a very beautiful and regal 1-2 year old (I won't tell anyone my real age...what woman wants to admit to that)! I was brought here by my owner's daughter-in law (a receptionist here) on April 12th after giving birth to my second litter of babies (I promised myself I would only have one litter but you know how things happen). My kids were only a day old so I was very particular about who got to touch them but after a few days of good food and attention I realized these are nice people who mean my kittens and I no harm.

The last 8 weeks have been a blur of nursing, cleaning, playing, eating...the typical life of a new mother. Thankfully I have a whole staff of nannies to help me! It has been wonderful watching my babies grow into the spunky kittens they are today but my time with them is drawing to a close. Now

my job as their mother is to find them forever homes. I am very picky about who adopts my babies, as any mother would be. They need homes, together or separate, with humans that will be kind to them, will make sure they are healthy, that they are spayed or neutered when the time comes, and that will not abandon them but hold them close their whole lives. Sounds reasonable right?

Now, let me take this opportunity to introduce my babies:

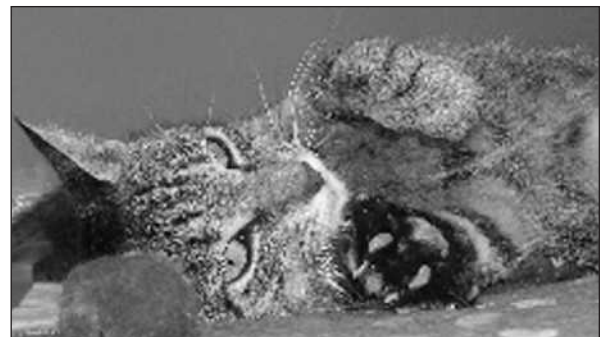
Bonsai is my big, robust boy! He got his name because for a while we thought he was going to be cross-eyed! Although I would have loved him either way I am pleased to say his eyes did straighten out. He is quite the cuddler, after he wears himself out playing. He is black and white with a small black spot on the left side of his nose. Adorable!

Next is Scottie, named after our newest American Idol. He is a sweet kitten who likes to watch the world around him. Make no mistake though, he will certainly join in the chaos and cause some trouble of his own! He is also black and white with a small black dot on the right side of his nose. It's hard to tell him and Bonsai apart but a mother knows her babies!

Then there is MJ (momma junior). MJ looks just like me (brown tabby), although he is a boy; and what a momma's boy he is. He is always the first to climb on me or try to nurse as soon as I lay down and get comfortable. But I wouldn't have it any other way. One more thing you should know about MJ, he has the most beautiful blue eyes...my mini Sinatra!

And last but certainly not least is my baby girl, Miss Charlie. Miss Charlie got her name because of her full black mustache over her pretty white face. Miss Charlie is more of a loner...perhaps because she is the only girl. I personally think that she would do well in a single pet household where she doesn't have to compete for attention. As much as she loves her brothers, they can be quite the nuisance.

Throughout our 8 weeks here, we have tested negative for Felv/FIV, been dewormed 4 times and have started our vaccine series. Although my kittens are too young now to be spayed or



*“. . .resulting in the proud and aristocratic breed we know today.”*



neutered, that will be a requirement of their new family. I will be spayed before I am ready to go to my forever home (did I mention I am looking for a permanent home too)? That's a mother for you...always thinking of my family first.

If you are interested in meeting us, I would certainly like to meet you too. Be aware, before you have the privilege of taking one of my kittens home, there will be an application process and nothing good in life is free! Thanks for taking the time to learn about us. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Regards,  
Momma Cat

## ***The Siamese -***

### **History:**

The Siamese has an Asiatic origin, but the exact species it is descended from is unknown. The breed was first introduced to England in the early 1800's when the King of Siam was supposed to have made a gift of two Siamese to Mr. Owen Gould, English Consul-General in Bangkok, which he took to London. The breed reached America in 1890, probably as a gift from the King of Siam to an American friend. They became fashionable in the 1920's, and the demand for kittens caused repeated inbreeding, making this breed weak and almost extinct. Better breeding habits were established, resulting in the proud and aristocratic breed we know today.

### **Appearance:**

**Body Structure:** The Siamese is lanky, of medium size with long, slim hind legs, slightly longer than the forelegs. They have small, oval feet and good muscle tone. They are very elegant with haughty movement.

**Eyes:** The eyes are oblique and almond-shaped, inclining toward the nose. Siamese eyes are always a deep, vivid blue and should never be crossed.

**Coat:** The Siamese has a close-fitting, short-haired coat with a fine texture, but thick and glossy.

**Color:** The outstanding feature of the Siamese is its contrasting color pattern known as color



point. The points are the mask, ears, legs, feet and tail, which are a richer color in contrast to the rest of the body, which is a shade of white. The colors known in America are seal point, blue point, chocolate point and lilac point.

### **Character:**

The Siamese is extremely sensitive and sometimes unpredictable. Its mannerism may change radically day to day. It may be lovable and playful one minute and fickle and temperamental the next. It is known for its meow, which resembles a newborn baby's cry.

## ***Calendar of Events -***

### **July**

Monday July 4th – Independence Day – Office Closed

Wednesday July 6th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Tuesday July 12th – Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank here

Wednesday July 13th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Saturday July 16th – MUDD VOLLEYBALL 9:00 a.m. at Citi Group

Saturday July 16th - Battle of Funkstown re-enactment (slower traffic)

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

Wednesday July 27th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

### **August**

Wednesday August 3rd – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday August 10th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday August 17th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday August 24th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday August 31st – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

### **September**

Monday September 5th – Happy Labor Day – Office Closed

Wednesday September 7th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed



Wednesday September 14th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday September 21st – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday September 28th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

## ***Just for Fun –***

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The five most common dog names:

Male: Max, Jake, Buddy, Bailey, Sam

Female: Maggie, Molly, Lady, Sadie, Lucy

The ten most popular dogs (AKC, 2007) are in order:

Labrador Retriever, Yorkshire Terrier, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Beagle, Boxer, Dachshund, Poodle, Shih Tzu, and Bulldog

Dachshunds were originally bred to fight badgers in their dens.

Some dogs have coats with two layers: the beautiful hair you can see, and a hidden, second coat called an undercoat. This undercoat helps a dog stay warm and dry in cold weather and it protects his skin from the hot sun, too.

Dalmatian puppies are pure white when they are born and develop their spots as they mature and grow older.

A dog's temperature is between 100.2-102.8 degrees Fahrenheit.

The American Kennel Club recognizes 157 different kinds of purebred dogs.

Irish Wolfhounds are the tallest dogs among all breeds.

German Shepherd Dogs love to herd. Although this dog's name sounds like 'SHEPARD', the correct spelling is 'SHEPHERD'. Notice the word 'herd' in his name.

Dogs were the first animals domesticated by people.

At 4-8 weeks of age, a puppy's mouth will get 28 baby teeth. At 4-7 months of age, the baby teeth fall out and are replaced with 42 permanent adult teeth.

In the middle ages, Rottweilers were used to hunt wild boar.

Dogs were first domesticated about 12,000 years ago.

The phrase "Dog Days of Summer" comes from an ancient Roman belief. It was believed that the Dog star, Sirius, gave off a lot of heat and caused higher temperatures during the months of June, July, and August.

To keep themselves warm in the winter, dogs sometimes curl up with their tail covering their nose.

Chihuahuas are the smallest dog breed among AKC registered dogs.

Did you know that dogs have three eyelids? They have an upper and lower eyelid and a third one inside of the other two. It helps protect the eye from dirt and dust. It is also called a "haw".

www.funkestownvet.com



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