



from

All Creatures Veterinary Hospital



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DOCTOR'S EDITORIAL ...

SPRING 2002

News from

All Creatures Veterinary Hospital

As we move into the spring season, there are many health issues that may affect your pet. To help make use of our services fully, we would like to inform you of several programs and resources that are available through us.

We provide a service through funding by the California Veterinary Medicine Association (CVMA) that allows you to bring in the wild cats in your neighborhood to have them spayed or neutered at no charge to you. This highly successful service has been in place for over a year and will continue through at least June 30, 2002. CVMA also offers a program for qualifying low-income owners to have their dogs or cats altered anytime before June 30. Both programs have a chance of being continued for another two years in some form. We also offer a program with the Vallejo Humane Society for a 20% discount on the altering of any pet and pets adopted from BVHS have an even lower fee.

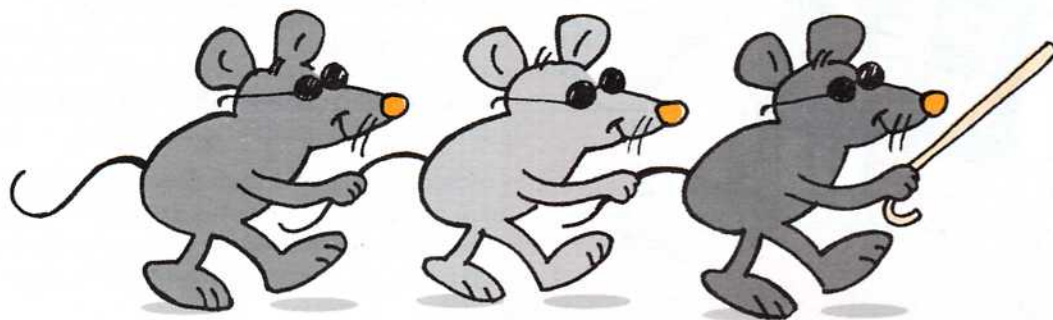
There are also several coupon offers that you may already have heard about. Advantage® offers one free flea treatment at a puppy's or kitten's first office visit and Hills offers a free bag of puppy food and a care kit for your new puppy or kitten. We have manufacturer's coupons for both Heartguard® and Advantage® for rebates with the purchase of two packages.

Dr. Linville has also recently updated the **All Creatures Website**, which now includes a big section offering information or links for information on almost any health issue which threatens your pet. The website has received awards in the past and is a great source of information for you. The website also offers info about the clinic, copies of past newsletters and much more. The address is www.petdoc.ws - check it out!

Hopefully this newsletter has helped to keep you informed of new issues involving your pets' care. Have a great spring and we hope to see you soon!

HELPFUL TIPS

WHEN IS AN INCIDENT AN EMERGENCY?



If your pet is suffering from one of the following, he or she is in need of EMERGENCY care:

- Your pet has undergone a traumatic event such as being hit by a car or falling from a distance. (Do this even if your pet looks perfectly fine!)
- Your pet is not breathing nor can you feel a heartbeat.
- Your pet is unconscious and won't wake up.
- Your pet has been vomiting or has had diarrhea for more than 24 hours or is vomiting blood.
- You suspect that bones are broken.
- Your pet is having trouble breathing or has something stuck in its throat.
- Your pet is having or has had a seizure.
- Your pet is bleeding from the eyes, nose, or mouth or there is blood in the urine or feces.
- You suspect that your pet has ingested something toxic like antifreeze, rat poison, medication or household cleaners.
- Your pet (especially a male cat) is straining to urinate or is unable to do so.
- Your pet shows signs of extreme pain by whining, shaking and refusing to socialize.
- Your pet collapses or suddenly can't stand up.
- Your pet begins bumping into things or suddenly becomes disoriented.
- You can see irritation or injury to your pet's eyes or your pet suddenly seems to become blind.

- Your pet's abdomen is swollen and hard to the touch or your pet is gagging and trying to vomit.
- Your pet is having a severe reaction to the heat of the sun.
- Your pregnant dog or cat has gone more than three to four hours between delivering her puppies or kittens.

This is a list of emergencies that are most often seen by veterinary practices but the list is far from complete. If it is after hours and you think your pet is in need of emergency services, call our office and follow the directions on the message for after hours care.

(Source: AAHA)

IS YOUR DOG PRONE TO HEALTH PROBLEMS?

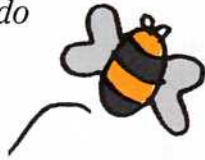
According to a study published by the British Veterinary Association, the following are the canine breeds most likely to suffer from health problems:

Breed	Degree of Risk
Boxer	26%
Irish Wolfhound	24.1%
Great Dane	23.9%
Doberman	22.9%
Giant Schnauzer	22%
Bernese Mountain Dog	21.4%
Airedale Terrier	21.2%
Rottweiler	21.2%
Standard Schnauzer	20.3%
Flat-Coated Retriever	19.9%

PET MATTERS

SPRINGTIME PET HEALTH CHECKLIST

We suggest that every pet owner do the following this time of year.



Heartworm

Heartworm is found in every state in the union and pet owners need to take logical steps to protect their pets from this disease. If your pet is on a heartworm preventative, please continue to administer it. There are some exciting new products on the market that make prevention easy. Please give us a call to discuss your pet's needs.

If your pet has not been tested for heartworm and you have not been faithful in administering a heartworm preventative, we suggest that you call us to schedule an appointment for a heartworm screening. We will take a small blood sample to determine if heartworms are present in your pet. If heartworms are in your pet's bloodstream, we will immediately begin treatment. If the test is clean, we will prescribe a preventative that best fits the needs of your pet.

Flea Prevention

There are so many effective and easy-to-administer products on the market that there is absolutely no reason why any pet or household has to be tormented by fleas. Please call us and we will suggest the correct products to meet the needs of you and your pet.

If your home or your pet is currently battling the ill effects of a flea infestation, call us immediately. Not only do we understand what you're going through but, most importantly, we have the knowledge, the staff and the items needed to make your pet and your home flea free!

Tick Problems

Depending upon where your pet travels, he or she may encounter ticks. There are several different types of ticks from wood ticks to deer ticks and they can all infect their hosts with various

ailments including Lyme Disease. If you think your pet may be in an area where he or she will come in contact with ticks, call us and we can supply the products needed to protect you and your pet.

Check Your Pet's Ears

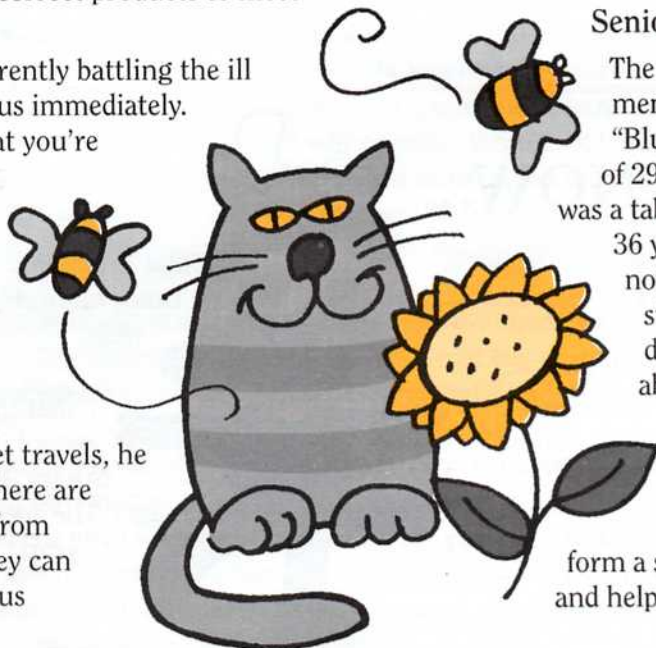
For several reasons, we see a lot of ear problems during the spring. Place your pet in a position so that you can smell your pet's ear canal. If you detect an odor, there may be a problem. Smelly ears are a clear sign of an ear infection - a chronic problem for dogs with floppy ears. Antibiotics are often needed to correct the problem. Give us a call if your nose tells you there's a problem.

Check Your Pet's Teeth

The overwhelming majority of dogs and cats suffer from some sort of dental problem. The American Veterinary Medical Association states that canine and feline dental problems are the number one medical ailment seen by veterinarians throughout the country. If you have never had your pet's teeth cleaned or if it has been some time since they were last done, we STRONGLY urge you to call us immediately to let us determine your pet's dental condition.

Senior Pet Screening

The oldest dog that was reliably documented was an Australian dog named "Bluey" who lived to the ripe old age of 29 years, 5 months! The oldest cat was a tabby named "Puss" who lived to be 36 years old! "Bluey" and "Puss" did not make it to these impressive milestones without the help of their dedicated owners and knowledgeable veterinarians. Our pets mean a lot to us and our health is a proven beneficiary of their companionship. Please, if your pet is getting older, let us perform a senior screening so we can detect and help prevent potential problems.



Human Health Benefits of Pet Ownership

As pet owners we know that our pets are really special. But many of us don't know how special and how beneficial our pets are to their human owners. It is important that we occasionally review the research on the human-animal bond to remind us of the benefits of this special relationship.

Researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo studied 48 stockbrokers who were taking medication for hypertension (high blood pressure). Those who were given a pet for six months had significantly lower blood pressure during stressful situations compared to stockbrokers who didn't have an animal.

Additionally, compared to non-pet owners, research indicates that people who own pets ...

- typically visit the doctor less often and use less medication.
- have lower cholesterol and lower blood pressure.
- recover more quickly from illness and surgery.
- deal better with stressful situations.
- are less likely to report feeling lonely.

So when we suggest that you have certain things done to ensure your pet's health (like the list on page 3!), please keep in mind that your pet's continued good health is directly linked to your continued good health. If we can do anything to assist in the maintenance of your pet's well being, please call us today. You will be glad you did!



TIP TO REMOVE CAT URINE ODOR FROM CARPET

There is no odor in the world that seems to linger longer than the smell of cat urine in wall-to-wall carpet. If your home is for sale, that smell can cost you thousands of dollars!

Cat urine should be cleaned using a special enzyme cleaner. Because the urine often penetrates through to the padding, you may have to peel back the carpet, cut out, and replace the affected padding.

Cats that are having urination problems may have a medical problem. Call our office if you suspect your cat is having a medical problem. We are here to help you.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that the largest litter of puppies on record is 23! An American Foxhound, a St. Bernard and a Great Dane share the honor.

...that an old English Mastiff holds the record for being the heaviest dog. "Zorba" weighed in at 343 pounds in 1989!

...that cats spend 18 hours out of every 24 sleeping!



...that the canine nose works one million times more efficiently than the human nose!

...that the oldest goldfish on record is "Freda" who died in Sussex, England at 41 years of age! The average age of a goldfish is 17 years!