

## COMPANION ANIMAL NEWS SPRING 2003

**HAPPY SPRING!!** Don't forget that the ticks, fleas and mosquitoes all return in the spring. Remember to get your dogs heartworm tested and started on heartworm prevention. We also have a once-a-month tablet that will prevent heartworm and fleas. Our best selling topical tick product is Frontline® is an excellent way to prevent ticks and fleas on your dogs and cats. Call us if you have questions regarding any of these parasites.

**CHANGE IN VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS** - Recent studies have shown that the immunities for canine distemper and parvo as well as feline panleukopenia (distemper) last much longer than one year. The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) recently recommended that instead of annually, that these vaccines be given every 3 years for adult animals. Puppies and kittens should still be given a series of vaccines at 8-12 & 16 weeks. Then a booster is given one year later, followed by every three years. The Lyme vaccine, Bordetella vaccine, and Feline Leukemia vaccine should still be given yearly. We will keep track of all that for you, but wanted to let you know why the change. The most important thing you can do for your pet is to have an annual physical examination done. This will help detect problems early, and give us the opportunity to discuss any questions or issues you might have.

**ACUPUNCTURE** has been the focus of Dr. Jean's life for the last 5 months or so. She has now completed her course work and taken the certification exam. It is surprising what responses we are seeing for many different problems. Pain and arthritis are not the only issues it can treat. Chronic gastrointestinal problems, anxiety leading to behavioral changes, allergies and itching, panting or heat sensitivity as well as cold sensitivity. These are approached in a completely different light in Chinese medicine. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call and ask. We also have a brochure we can send out to you.

**WELCOME** to our new receptionist, Kim Boone. She is doing a great job helping Tammy out up front. As you know, this is a busy place, but she is handling it well. She hails from California, and lives in Greenwood. We know you will like her great smile and infectious laugh!