

COMPANION ANIMAL NEWS SPRING 2007

Thank you to all of you who took advantage of **Dental Health** Month in February. There are 25 pets who are healthier and have fresher breath thanks to you!

Often people ask us what they can do at home to reduce tartar formation in their pet. We now have a new product for dog teeth called **Oravet®**. This product reduces plaque and tartar formation by preventing bacteria from attaching to your pet's teeth. At the end of a professional dental cleaning, we apply this barrier sealant to your pet's teeth. We send you home with a supply that you can use weekly at home to prevent the plaque from sticking to the teeth. Cost is \$15-30 added to the dental cleaning. The take-home product is then \$20 for an 8 week supply. Not bad if it can increase the time needed between dental cleanings! If your dog's teeth look relatively clean right now, you can start using Oravet® at home without the professional cleaning first. Call us if you have questions, or go to www.oravet.com.

There is also a **new vaccine** for smaller dogs called Porphyromonas. It is not designed to prevent plaque and tartar, but to prevent tooth loss from the bacteria that live underneath that plaque and tartar. That bacteria is called Porphyromonas. It gives off toxins that break down the dental ligament and the bone around the tooth, leading to loose teeth and more dental disease. If you own a small dog please consider getting this vaccine for the love of your pet!

It is finally spring!! 'Tis the season for **Heartworm testing**. This year we have a new test called the **SNAP 4DX test**. This will test not only for heartworm and lyme disease, but 2 other tick-borne diseases as well – Anaplasma and Erlichia. We have been surprised by the number of positive Anaplasma cases this year. We expect to see a fair number of Lyme exposure, but not the Anaplasma exposure. All 3 of these diseases can cause a variety of symptoms, including lameness, fever, lack of energy, and loss of appetite. The Anaplasma can also cause a low platelet count, which can lead to bleeding problems. The bottom line is that we are encouraging all of our canine patients to have a 4DX test done this year. You might be amazed at what we find! All 3 tick-borne diseases are treatable with doxycycline. But they respond better when treated sooner rather than later.

How do we **prevent tick-borne disease**? Our best product is called K9 Advantix®. The reason we like this product so well is for its' repellent activity. It repels ticks, fleas and mosquitoes. When used once a month, it has 97% efficacy. That's the best efficacy on the market. There are many over the counter products out there for ticks, but we feel K9 Advantix® is the best. Remember that if you any problems develop, Bayer and Grassland Veterinary Service will be there for you.

For cats, we have the feline Frontline® to kill any ticks or fleas that end up on your cat. The ticks are out early this year. Make sure you get a jump on them!

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