

COMPANION ANIMAL NEWS WINTER 2000

PET DENTAL HEALTH

Why should I worry about my pet's teeth? Poor oral health in cats and dogs can cause painful tooth loss and gum disease in addition to serious health problems. Imagine how your mouth would feel if you never brushed your teeth! The plaque and tartar would build to the point of causing periodontal disease, which leads to receding, infected gums, and infected tooth roots. People often say, "But he eats well, so his teeth can't be bothering him!" This is not necessarily true. Most animals can tolerate a lot of pain before they show any signs. In the wild, if an animal shows that it is hurt, it is often picked on or killed by other animals. They cannot tell us they hurt, and often learn to live with any pain – especially if it comes on gradually.

So lift up those lips and look at your pet's teeth. The back ones on top are usually the worst. February is Pet Dental Health Month. We will again be offering a 5% discount on all dental services for the month. Please call and make your appointment today!! You can also check out the Pet Dental and related websites at www.petedental.com.

FLEAS AND CATS

Would you like to have 6 months of flea prevention in one office visit? Program 6 month injectable for cats is the answer!! No more sprays, pills, or liquids. You don't even have to remember when the next injection is due – we do that for you. Call our office for an appointment to protect your cat from fleas, before the season starts.

DOES YOUR DOG HAVE AN ATTITUDE PROBLEM?

We have a head collar available called the Gentle Leader. It can quickly control jumping, pulling, barking, chewing and begging. It can also help curb aggressive behavior in some cases. It is a fast, gentle and effective way to control unwanted behavior. Because it is scientifically designed to work WITH your dog's natural instincts, their behavior changes in minutes.

If you're interested, stop by and watch the videotape about the Gentle Leader. Seeing is believing!!

CANINE KENNEL COUGH

Recently we have seen an outbreak of kennel cough, or Bordetella infections. Although this is not usually a life threatening illness, it is very contagious, and causes severe coughing spasms. It is usually treated with antibiotics, which will shorten the course of the disease somewhat.

There is a vaccine to prevent this disease. If your dog has contact with other dogs (showing, boarding, hunting, neighbor dogs, or walks), please call us for an appointment to vaccinate. There are now two types of vaccines available; injectable and intra-nasal. We'll help you decide which one would be best for your situation.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Dr. Jean is planning to be gone March 20-27, and June 3-11. We apologize for any inconvenience during these times. Dr. Jeff tries very hard to cover, but must also cover for Dr. Jean's husband Dr. Al. It is hard for him to be two places at once. We appreciate your understanding if we need to refer you to another practice.

We will temporarily be closed at 5 P.M. on Mondays. We are short staffed right now and just can not cover those long days with enough people. Dr. Jean will try to be available more Saturday mornings to help out those of you who can't come in during the week days. As soon as we can hire additional staff, we will return to our regular schedule. Thanks for your understanding.

GVS STAFF

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