

Snippets

Small animal newsletter

Issue 21

Winter 2015

Hello and welcome to our winter edition of Snippets. We hope you're enjoying the best of winter, warm fires and yummy puddings. Read on for your chance to win a free dental for your pet—only at Town & Country Vet.

WIN A FREE DENTAL

Dental health is not just about creating a white smile and pleasant smelling breath in your cat or dog. Bacteria associated with dental disease can cause illness and disease elsewhere in the body, especially if bacteria circulate in the bloodstream and lodge on heart valves or in the kidneys and liver.

These risks are greater in animals with other problems such as diabetes, heart or kidney disease.

Periodontal disease is an inflammation of the gums and soft tissues surrounding the teeth.

Bacteria lodge in these tissues and on teeth in plaque, slowly causing inflammation and infection. Plaque mineralizes on the surface of the teeth over time and forms a hard deposit called tartar. The rough surface harbours even more bacteria.

You may notice red gums, bad breath and brown discolouration of teeth. Deterioration of periodontal ligaments, pocketing of gums about the tooth and decay cause tooth loosening and pain.

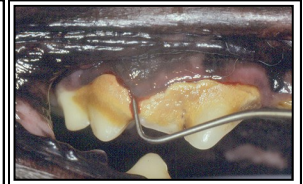
Early intervention is the key to prevention. What can be done?

Ideally we prevent tartar build up on teeth to start with:

- Brushing is the best way, and there is flavoured toothpaste for cats and dogs, applied with thimble or long handled tooth-brushes. Ask at the front desk if you think your pet would allow this.
- Hills Prescription Diet™ T/D™ (Tooth diet) is formulated as a bigger kibble requiring the proper chewing, and has vegetable striations to aid plaque removal when eaten. The only diet on the market with VOHC approval for both plaque and tartar.
- Plaque and tartar prevention just became easier; A new plaque control product which therefore reduces tartar has just been released for dogs and cats - "Healthymouth" is an all-natural product which is added to your dog or cats drinking water. Approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) it has shown promising results in trials, (74% plaque reduction), and proven safe for daily use. Ideal if you need to use a prescription or tailored diet for some other health issue, but would also like to guard oral health.
- The worst candidates for tartar/plaque we see are small dogs and cats, and for these pets 'Healthymouth' is most cost effective too.



Healthy



Un-healthy
and will soon decay

BUY ANY BAG OF



**And go into the draw to
WIN A FREE DENTAL
Valued up to \$300**

Purchases before 31 August 2015
Scale and Polish Only - Extractions Extra

Hills's Prescription Diet™ is a trademark of Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.

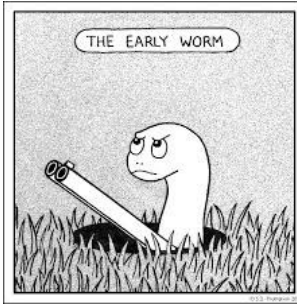
Once tartar has built up on the teeth we need to:

- Perform a dental scale and polish under anaesthetic to return to the smooth enamel surface of the tooth. There are now set prices for this procedure at the clinic dependent on the size of your pet – call to check.
- Address ongoing prevention after the dental with the products mentioned earlier.

Call the clinic now to book in for a **FREE NURSE DENTAL CHECK** for your pet.

WORMS - Out of sight, out of mind ...

Dogs and cats are not just pets. They are treated like members of the family. And like any member of your family, it's important to keep your pet healthy and free of parasites.



Worming must be part of a regular health program. Not only do these parasites affect your pet, they also have the potential to infect humans with children being most susceptible. It is therefore important you get the right product to do a thorough job – and not all tablets are created equally. Worm products should be an 'all-wormer' and contain the correct amounts of praziquantel, febantel and pyrantel.

Dogs and cats are victims of several internal parasites frequently referred to as worms. The most common are the roundworms, hookworms, whipworms and tapeworms. Of these four only two are commonly seen in the stool with the unaided eye: roundworms and tapeworms.

Most worm infestations cause any or all of these symptoms:

- ◆ Diarrhea, perhaps with blood
- ◆ "Potbelly" appearance, especially in puppies and kittens.
- ◆ Weight loss despite eating heartily.
- ◆ White segments in droppings, on the coat and around the anus.
- ◆ 'Scooting' – when your dog sits and rubs its rear along the ground.
- ◆ Poor or dull coat.
- ◆ Anaemia, including pale skin and gums.

However, some infestations cause few or no symptoms; in fact some worm eggs or larvae can be dormant in the dog's body and activated only in times of stress, or in the case of roundworms and hookworms, until the later stages of pregnancy when they activate and infest the soon-to-be-born puppies and kittens.

Prevention:

- ◆ Regular deworming programs for year-round prevention with broad-spectrum anthelmintics against gastrointestinal parasites
- ◆ treatment of pets and their environments to control fleas and ticks
- ◆ daily disposal of canine and feline feces, and compliance with pooper-scooper laws
- ◆ covering children's sandboxes when not in use
- ◆ preventing predatory behavior (e.g., keeping cats indoors)
- ◆ feeding cooked, canned or dry pet food
- ◆ washing or cooking vegetables for human consumption
- ◆ adequate hand washing after contact with anything contaminated with dog or cat feces.



"You need strong medicine to relieve your stress. I'm prescribing a puppy."

Come into the clinic for all your worming needs and advice.

NEW IN STORE

Katie's Homebarked Goodies



- Delicious & healthy homemade dog treats for your furry friend.
- Our dog treats are 100% natural and contain quality ingredients.
- There are no preservatives or additives in our treats.
- We make a selection of different goodies from itty bitty bite sized treats (great for dog training) to extra yummy treats for a special occasions.
- Katie's Home Barked Goodies is a local family run business.



VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are one of the most important preventive measures you can take for the health of your pet. Bringing your pet for an annual vaccination improves the pet's immunity to particular diseases.

What diseases do we need to protect against?

DOGS

Canine Parvo Virus

A highly contagious infection that can be spread by just a microscopic piece of infected feces. It causes hemorrhagic (bloody) diarrhea and vomiting, which results in dehydration. It is very expensive to treat and often fatal, especially in young or old dogs.

Distemper

A viral disease that in most cases proves fatal.

Hepatitis (Adenovirus)

Is an acute infectious disease of the liver.

Leptospirosis

A disease that is normally transmitted from rats that affects the kidney and liver. It is zoonotic, meaning that humans can also contract it. It is worth noting that any area where rats might live could be a source of infection, eg. Drains, farmsheds, chook houses and even puddles rats have urinated in. When a dog contracts the disease by licking infected urine, the symptoms are severe and often fatal.

Kennel Cough

Is a highly contagious respiratory disease which can only be treated symptomatically (treating the symptoms not the cause). Antibiotics are the most common treatment. All boarding kennels require dogs to be vaccinated for Kennel Cough.

Vaccination Protocol:

Puppies—vaccinate at 8-9 weeks, 12 weeks and a third vaccination at 15-16 weeks. A booster is required after the first year.

Adult dogs should be vaccinated with Vanguard 5 plus every 2-3 years.

Kennel Cough Vaccines require annual boosters.

Leptoguard requires two vaccination boosters at a 3-4 week interval, with an annual booster every year.

Kennel Cough Vaccine Alert

There are current supply issues with the fast-acting intra-nasal Kennel Cough vaccine.

Please arrange your annual shot **at least 2 weeks** before you are booked into the boarding kennel.

CATS

Calicivirus, Herpesvirus and Parvovirus

Calicivirus and herpesvirus cause 'Cat Flu' and parvovirus causes potentially fatal vomiting and diarrhea.

FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus)

Is a virus that causes a potentially fatal disease in cats, it causes suppression of the immune system making them more susceptible to infections. Once infected the virus remains in the body for the rest of the cat's life. Life expectancy of an affected cat is shortened due to increased susceptibility to other infections.

FIV is spread from cat to cats primarily through bite wounds. The actual bite is an integral part of the spread of the virus. It is unlikely that the infection will spread by cats drinking or eating out of the same food dish, or by mutual grooming.

Vaccination Protocol:

Kittens—Vaccinate at 8 weeks and 12 weeks of age. Adult cats require booster vaccinations every 1-2 years.

For FIV Vaccinations - a course of three vaccines, given 2-4 weeks apart as an initial course, then a yearly booster vaccination.

