



# THE SOUTHTOWNS JOURNAL

## A Quarterly Newsletter

Prepared by the staff of the Southtowns Animal Hospital

Newman, Editor-in-Chief

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### A MESSAGE FROM DOCTOR WINKLE



Thanks for all the positive feedback on the first issue of our newsletter. We try to keep a family atmosphere here at the Southtowns Animal Hospital, and we thought it would be a nice way to keep you informed of changes at your hospital and to dispense useful information to you. As usual, any commentary you can give, good or bad, is appreciated.

One aspect of veterinary medicine that is very important is continuing education. The doctors and technicians take part in the Buffalo Academy of Veterinary Medicine--a monthly educational program that runs from October to May.

Recently, Doctor Edinger and Technicians Dawn and Debbie attended a day seminar on Dentistry and Ear Problems. Doctor Edinger also went to the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Conference in Denver, and I took two on-line courses: one on Avian Medicine and another on Dental Radiology. This, along with the numerous journal articles we study helps us keep current on the latest advancements in the ever-expanding field of veterinary medicine.

### CONGRATULATIONS DOCTOR EDINGER!

Hurray For Doctor Edinger! He finally got his puppy! After much deliberation he finally chose a wonderful yellow Labrador puppy. His name is ROCKET and he is the new darling of the entire hospital. Rocket currently likes teething, peeing on the floor and snoozing in his crate. He aspires to be a field champion retriever.



### POP QUIZ! When did you give your dog his monthly heartworm preventative?

Can't remember? You are not alone. One in three dog owners admits to occasionally missing the monthly dose! Often folks stop giving the preventative altogether. This forgetfulness can leave your dog vulnerable to heart damage, organ failure and even death. We know it's difficult to remember your dog's heartworm preventative every month, but there is a new medication to protect your pet.

PROHEART 6 (moxidectin) is a new long-term preventative that provides 6 months of protection in one dose. We will administer PROHEART 6 twice yearly, so there will be nothing to forget.

Unlike INTERCEPTOR, however, PROHEART 6 does not prevent roundworms and whipworms. It is important to consult us before changing your dog's medication, and we will be happy to discuss both methods of treatment with you.

No matter which medication is right for you, it is important to protect your dog from this killer parasite.

### TREAT OR TRICK, CHOCOLATE CAN MAKE YOUR PET SICK

Happy Hallowe'en everybody! This is just a friendly reminder not to let your pets get into the treats this year.

Dogs are usually the worst culprits when it comes to sneaking off with your Hallowe'en stash, but cats are often attracted by the crinkly, shiny paper many candies are wrapped in, as are pet birds.

Chocolate is the most dangerous treat your pet can get into. If he gets even a small amount of chocolate candy, we need to know right away. The active ingredient in chocolate is theobromine. The concentration of theobromine varies with the type of chocolate, milk chocolate has the least, baking chocolate the most. The size of the animal, and his particular sensitivity will determine how sick he gets.. Generally, the smaller the pet, the less chocolate it takes to make him sick. For example: in a 10 pound dog, the toxic dose of baking chocolate would be only one oz, but the dog would have to eat 3 oz of semisweet or 10 oz of milk chocolate to get the same dose of theobromine. Low doses can still cause clinical signs.


The symptoms of chocolate poisoning include vomiting, excitement, increased urination, muscle tremors and rapid heart rate. These signs can lead to secondary problems like hyperthermia (increased body temperature) or even seizures or cardiac arrest.

Should your pet ingest chocolate at any time, call us at 824-4108. After hours contact the Emergency Clinic at 839-4043

And please, keep your pets away from the treats!



## Company Picnic A Rousing Success!



The Southtowns Animal Hospital annual Staff Outing was held at beautiful Chestnut Ridge Park, and a good time was had by all. The weather was delightfully warm for September, a great asset for our yearly horseshoe Olympics. The menu, headed by fresh, plump delicious clams, (provided by Doctor Winkle) was varied and scrumptious, including Pam's German potato salad, Merry's bar-b-q beans, Dawn's chocolate cake, Celeste's ambrosia, Mary's marinated veggies, Shannon's Taco salad, Darlene's burgers and Debbie's Vast Array of munchies. Newman was unable to attend, but he had a private celebration of his own with a new catnip mouse and a can of ocean fish formula Science Diet.



## Newman wants to know!

In addition to his duties as Editor-in-Chief and Official Cat That Sheds On The Doctors' Desks, Newman is thinking of writing his own column, which he would like to call "Ask Newman." If you have a question on pet care you would like Newman to answer, please send it to him. Newman has always wanted to get mail. Correspondence should be directed to: NEWMAN c/o Southtowns Animal Hospital, 154 Orchard Park Road, West Seneca, NY 14224. If you prefer, you can E-mail questions to: [AskNewman@aol.com](mailto:AskNewman@aol.com)



### **WE SEND OUR PRAYERS TO EVERYONE AFFECTED BY THE RECENT NATIONAL TRAGEDY**



**The doctors and staff of Southtowns Animal Hospital wish to express our sorrow to those who have lost loved ones in the recent tragedy at the World Trade Centers, the Pentagon, and those brave passengers on the downed flight in Pennsylvania. We also want to encourage and thank the valiant service animals and their handlers who are working so hard in the rescue and recovery effort. These well-trained dogs and cats will be instrumental in our efforts to ensure our safety as they work in airports, and with police and fire/rescue departments throughout the country.**



As soon as the weather warms up in spring everyone with pets begins to worry about fleas, and well they should. But did you know that the worst flea infestations usually occur in the late summer and Autumn? The worst problems pets suffer, like flea allergy dermatitis, and hot spots also are at their peak in the fall.

Flea problems are one of those "pesty" annoyances which illustrate the old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Many folks believe that if their cat never goes outside, they can never get fleas, and many others have had dogs for years and years with never a flea to be seen, but there is always a first time, and even indoor pets are susceptible. We can pick a flea up on our shoes or pants and bring it into the house.

What can one flea do, you may wonder. One flea can do quite a bit. Fleas are the intermediate host of a parasite called tapeworms. So if your pet bites at and eats a single flea, they can become infested. A flea pupa can live for a year or more waiting for a host to come along; and a single female flea can lay fifty eggs a day! Those eggs do not remain on your pet. They roll into the carpet where they hatch into larva (eeeww!) and grow into hungry adults, which lay fifty eggs a day, and...well, you get the idea. If you are one of the unfortunate ones with a flea infestation you know only too well the results of one flea.

Once you have an infestation the only solution is to go to war. First, call us at 824-4108 and let us give your pet some relief by recommending either Advantage or Program. Both will also help reduce the flea population in the house, but will do so in different ways. These medications are only available with a prescription, arrange a visit and we will help you decide which one of these is best for you. We will also help you combat fleas in the home by helping you select the appropriate products for furniture and carpets. You and your pet will feel much better with no fleas on the scene.



# THE WELL-HEELED DOG

## or, A Beginner's Guide to A Properly Socialized Pet Canine, PART ONE

***In the wake of several well-publicized stories about dog attacks, the subject of dog socialization has been bantered about on television and radio with varying degrees of accuracy. Our aim in this series of articles is to separate the fact from fiction and help our clients keep well-adjusted, group-integrated family pets.***

***In the first part of the series we will discuss puppies and young dogs. In the second, adolescent and adult dogs, and in the third we will address specific, common behavior problems related to poor socialization.***

Dogs are pack animals, descended from wolves. A wolf pack is a social unit. When we keep pet dogs, we become part of the dog's pack. In many ways a human based pack is similar to a wolf pack. Wolves have a dominant male and female leader, known to science as the Alpha male and female. This is usually the only breeding pair in the pack. The adult man and woman in a family are often perceived by a dog to be the Alpha pack leaders, and will sometimes view children as other puppies.

The socialization of a puppy begins when it is born. Some puppies are stronger and more dominant, while others are more submissive. A good breeder will handle the puppies from an early age to accustom them to human contact. The early socialization of a puppy is complete at between 8 to 12 weeks. This is why it is so important to accustom your dog to new surroundings at an early age. A puppy who only spends time in his yard can be difficult to walk, aggressive or extremely shy around other dogs and a potential danger in an automobile.

There is no foolproof method of socialization that works for every dog, every time. Many factors dictate which techniques will work for a particular puppy, including age, breed, and its social status within its litter.

A simple test can help you determine a puppy's probable temperament; this test is especially useful to a first time dog owner looking at an entire litter of puppies. Play with each puppy alone for a few minutes. Try to gently roll each pup onto its' back, show each puppy a new toy and try to call each one into a new environment (if possible)

A dominant puppy will resist vigorously, whine and possibly nip or bite when you try to roll it over. They will also usually accept a new toy with gusto, and will frequently refuse to release the toy. A dominant puppy will usually follow you into unfamiliar surroundings with little or no hesitation. Dominant dogs are not guaranteed to make bad pets, but they can be more difficult to train, and require much firm patience. In the hands of a nervous owner a dominant dog can become aggressive and wild.

A submissive puppy will roll over instantly, tucking its' tail between its legs. A submissive dog may also try to bite, or will urinate, from fear, and they are unlikely to accept a new toy or a new environment readily. Submissive dogs are not to be discounted as new pets

either, but they are more likely to become fear biters when they feel threatened or when confronted with new people and new situations. Submissive dogs require consistent gentle discipline and slow exposure to different environments, things, and situations.

A dog that struggles briefly then relaxes under the tester's hand, who approaches a new toy with caution and then plays happily, is a puppy between the two extremes of dominant and submissive and usually is a good choice for a pet, but there is no guarantee that such a dog will grow up to be a well-adjusted animal without considerable help from the owner.

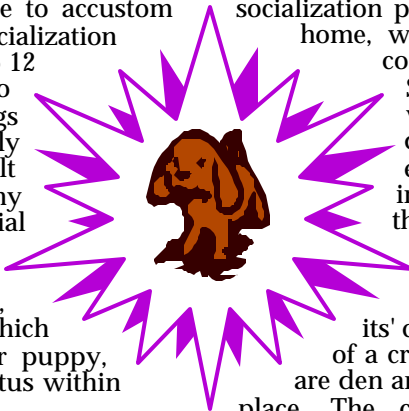
Puppy classes, which expose the young dog to other dogs, surroundings and experiences are not usually begun until the puppy is 12 weeks or older. This ensures that the pup has had sufficient vaccines to protect it from catching a disease from another dog. Most puppy schools will require proof of vaccination to enroll. It is a good idea to continue classes with your dog into adulthood. Dogs like to have something to do, and a bored dog of any temperament can become destructive or obnoxious.

Before the dog is enrolled in a puppy class however, there are things an owner can do to help the socialization process. As soon as the puppy comes home, work can begin on "SIT" and "STAY" commands. The dog should be made to SIT before he is fed, before going for a walk and before toys are offered. A dog who understands "SIT" will be easier to control when grown. It is important to note here that even though these seem like simple commands to us, they are major behavior modifications for a dog.

The puppy should be introduced to its' crate the very first day. The advantages of a crate for your dog are numerous. Dogs are den animals and the crate provides a secure place. The crate should never be used as a punishment, but rather as a refuge. Whenever it is not safe for your dog to be at large he should be comfortable spending time in the crate. To be effective in housetraining, the crate must be only large enough for the puppy to stand up, lie down and turn around. If it is larger, the dog will relieve itself in one portion of the crate and sleep in the other. Crate training is only an adjunct to housebreaking, however, and frequent trips outside, especially after sleeping and shortly after play and feeding times will be necessary to encourage the puppy to eliminate outside. In general, puppies are physically able to control their bowels and bladder at around 12 weeks.

Lastly, it is imperative that all human members of the household "pack" use the same commands and concentrate on the same goals. All family members should attend puppy classes. Consistency is the key to socializing your dog.

Feel free to contact us at 824-4108 during hospital hours. We would be glad to go into any of these suggestions with you in more depth.



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# THE SOUTHTOWNS JOURNAL

**Crisp Autumn Days Are Here Again! Here's  
What You'll Find In This Issue!**



*Back to obedience school tips for your dog*



*Keep your pet from getting tricked this  
Hallowe'en*



*A Special request from Editor-In-Chief  
Newman*



*Tips to take the bite out of fleas*



We love to treat your pets!