



The Southtowns Journal

A Quarterly Newsletter Prepared by the Doctors and Staff of Southtowns Animal Hospital

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Our First Pet Fair was a HUGE Success!

Southtowns Animal Hospital had never hosted a Pet Fair before, so none of us knew what to expect. All we knew was that we were proud of the changes we made to our hospital and wanted to share them with all of you.

We were touched and overwhelmed at the response. We can't say how much it meant to us to see all of our good clients, and meeting all the new people who came in to show their support for us. Be assured that we are here for you, and it was great to get a chance to show off the "behind-the-scenes" parts of the hospital to you.

There aren't enough thanks we can send those of you who participated in our bake sale, Chinese auction and dogwash. A lot of money --almost \$1500.00 -- was raised for some great causes. Ten Lives Club Cat Shelter, GRROWLS Golden Retriever Rescue, The Pet Emergency Fund, The Wyoming County SPCA, Animal Birth Control, and The Buffalo Zoo all appreciate your generosity.

We also congratulate all the winners of our gift baskets and prizes. It brightened our days to get to meet you all as you came in to pick up your prizes.

There aren't enough thanks for all the helpers, sponsors, and donors that made our Pet Fair possible...all we can say is "Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

This event was such a success we hope to make it an annual event. If there is something you enjoyed, or something else you would like to see, please, drop us a line and let us know.

Our mission is to achieve excellence in the treatment and care of all pets. That means we strive to care for your pets as if they were our own. Anything we can do to further that mission is a step forward for the care we provide.

Be sure to watch for our next Pet Fair! We look forward to showing you all the ways we have grown.



Scott Mason of Novarits

Dave Perry of Fort Dodge

Patti Cramer

Jean Brill

Shirley Mayer
The Miss Buffalo
Jamie Chandler
Jeanete Sidoti
Nino's
Montana's
Salvatore's Italian Garden
The Buffalo Zoo
The Buffalo Bills
Carruba Collision
Ebenezer Florist
Le Hydrant
Mary Kasperczyk
Phyllis and Don Winkle
Don Winkle
Jeff Winkle
Mr & Mrs Ritzenthaler
Continental Transmission
Wild Eye Photos
Bill Kiel
Hill's Pet Foods
Bayer
The Maid of the Mist
Chef's Restaurant



Salmonellosis is a bacterial disease caused by the bacterium Salmonella. Many different kinds of Salmonella can make people sick. Most people have diarrhea, fever, and stomach pain that start 1 to 3 days after they get infected. These symptoms usually go away after 1 week, but it is best to see a doctor because the diarrhea can be severe or the infection can affect other organs.

Usually, when people think of salmonella, they think of food poisoning, or handling uncooked chicken and eggs, and that is a common way for people to become infected. But in addition, many kinds of animals can pass salmonellosis to people. However, animals can carry Salmonella and pass it in their stool or on their skin. That is why it is so important wash their hands after touching the feces of animals, cleaning cages, or handling the animals themselves. Reptiles, such as lizards, snakes, and turtles, baby chicks, and ducklings are especially likely to pass salmonellosis to people.

Some people are more likely than others to get salmonellosis. A person's age and health status may affect his or her immune system, increasing the chances of getting sick. People who are more likely to get salmonellosis include infants, children younger than 5 years old, organ transplant patients, people with HIV/AIDS, and people receiving treatment for cancer. Special advice is available for people who are at greater risk than others of getting this disease from animals, and if you are concerned, you should contact your doctor.

To reduce the likelihood of contracting this illness, wash your hands with soap and warm running water after contact with animal feces and after touching reptiles or any objects and surfaces that a reptile has also touched. If you have a compromised immune system, avoid contact with reptiles, baby chicks, and ducklings. Also be extra cautious when visiting farms and contacting farm animals, including animals at petting zoos.



Christmas Puppies

People see a puppy as the embodiment of the spirit of love and giving and generosity that goes with the season. Unfortunately, it is easy to forget the necessary commitment to raising and socializing and educating that puppy. It is better to get that new puppy at a less emotional time of the year. A carefully considered decision, uninfluenced by seasonal generosity of spirit, will last long after the tree comes down and the lights are put away.

If you are absolutely set upon getting your family a puppy for Christmas, consider this alternative instead: Purchase a leash, a collar, a good book on raising a puppy, one of our gift certificates for a veterinary checkup, a gift certificate for puppy socialization classes, and a book on the topic of how to select the right dog for your family. Wrap these up and put them under the tree. As family members unwrap the various pieces of the "puzzle", their delight and anticipation will grow.

Then, after the Christmas tree is taken down and the frenzy of the holiday season is behind, the family can once again enjoy together the anticipation and excitement of discussing and selecting a breed. This will increase the family's mutual commitment to, and investment in, the well-being of the newest family member. It will be a project the family has done together, which is a wonderful way for any adoption to commence. A dog with a good introduction to its adoptive family is much more likely to become a long term companion rather than just another tragic statistic.



Keep Kitty Safe for the Holidays

As we prepare for the holidays, we should keep in mind securing the safety of some very special family members - our cats. Their environments change dramatically with new sights and scents as we decorate and prepare for Christmas festivities. We should be aware that some of these tempting delights and decorations can pose health risks for our curious cats.

Many of our holidays decorations are live plants that cats may be tempted to explore with their mouths. Cats should be kept away from dangerous plants such as poinsettias, holly, and mistle toe. Mistletoe, if eaten can cause decreased

heartbeat and a drop in blood pressure. Ivy is another common decoration that can pose health dangers . If eaten, it can cause diarrhea, convulsions, and if in large quantities, even death.

One of the biggest cat holiday temptations is the Christmas tree with its fresh smell and bright, colorful decorations. Dropped needles from the tree can become lodged in a cat's esophagus if ingested making it painful when swallowing. Tinsel from the tree may cause stomach problems or choking. Obviously any broken glass ornaments should be carefully removed so that there are no remnants to become stuck in paws. Ribbon from packages makes tempting cat toys, but be sure not to leave your kitty unsupervised as again, there is a choking danger. One final Christmas tree concern is the water in the Christmas tree stand. Cover the tree base tightly with your tree skirting to keep your pet from drinking the water which can cause diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite or mouth sores.



Welcome to the newest members of the Southtowns Team!

Kristin, Vet Assistant

Angela, Receptionist

and

Annie, Animal Caretaker



February is Dental HealthMonth

Oral disease is the No. 1 health problem diagnosed in dogs and cats, according to the American Veterinary Dental Society. Without proper dental care, 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by age three, and only 3 percent of dogs and 1 percent of cats get treatment.

Animals can suffer the same kinds of dental problems as humans, including infection, severe pain, and fractured teeth. Fortunately, pet owners can help prevent dental disease in their pets by providing dental care. This is similar to dental care for humans, only animals can't brush their own teeth.

To prevent dental problems, call our office at 824-4108 to schedule regular dental exams for your pet. Brush your pet's teeth with specially formulated pet toothpaste. Do not use toothpaste formulated for humans because it can upset your pet's stomach.

After a dental cleaning, we may recommend feeding your animals a prescription dental diet that can reduce the accumulation of new plaque and tartar. We may also recommend giving your pet dental chews, rawhide, or dental bones.

Avoid hard bones, such as cow hooves. According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, aggressive chewing on hard objects, such as commercially available cow hooves, is a primary cause of broken teeth in dogs.

All pets are at risk for developing dental problems, so it is important to check your pet's mouth and teeth often for warning signs, such as bad breath; tartar buildup on the teeth; swollen, receding, or bleeding gums; fractured or abscessed teeth; and a change in eating habits. Call us right away if any of these symptoms are present. They could be a signs of a serious dental health problem.

Proper dental care is critical to a pet's overall good health. If oral infections such as periodontal diseases are left untreated, they can travel through the bloodstream and damage internal organs, and that can shorten your pet's life.



Continuing Education Has Many Benefits

The field of Veterinary Medicine is constantly changing and growing. New medicines and treatments are always becoming available to our doctors, and more are around the corner. In order to bring your pets the best care possible, the doctors and staff of Southtowns Animal Hospital often attend regular continuing education classes to keep abreast of these changes.

This year several members of the technical staff, and Doctor Jacobi, participated in a continuing education seminar in Washington, D. C. They attended several sessions, including one on Anesthetic Safety. They learned many ways to make surgical procedures safer for your pets.

In addition to the educational benefits of the seminars, Licensed Veterinary Technicians Darlene and Dawn were fortunate enough to meet, and hug, Johnny Reznik of the Buffalo-Based band The Goo-Goo Dolls. The Goos were in Washington for a concert sponsored by Merial to help Paws to Save Pets



Congratulations to Vet Tech Sara, and her husband Mike on the arrival of
Kylie Paige

Their daughter arrived on November 11th at 5:43 am, and weighed six pounds, four ounces



Spay Day 2008

This coming February, Southtowns Animal Hospital will again be participating in Spay Day USA by offering low-cost spays and neuters for our clients whose pets meet the following requirements:

To qualify for a dog spay, the dog must be between 5-6 months old, and not be in heat. A dog to be neutered may be up to a year old, but must be under 60 pounds.

A cat to be spayed may be up to 2 years old. and a cat to be neutered may be up to 5 years old.

Please be aware that the discounts for spay day only apply to the spay surgery, not to vaccines, bloodwork, or medications, should any be needed.

We will be providing these surgeries from February 25-29 2008. There are only a limited number of spaces available, so be sure to book early. We can only offer these surgeries on a first come, first served basis.

We ask that all participants in Spay Week bring in a donation of cat food or cat litter to be taken to Ten Lives Club of Western New York. Also, a \$3.00 donation to Animal Birth Control will be added to your bill.

Thousands of kittens and puppies are born every hour in the United States. While these baby animals are adorable, the fate of most of them is tragic. Spaying or neutering our pets is an effective way to reduce the numbers of unwanted animals in shelters.

Please help by participating. Even if your pet is already spayed or neutered, please consider calling one of our local shelters to volunteer, or make a donation of food, blankets or money.

Happy Holidays!



From Our Family to Yours!