



Pet Trails

A publication made especially for the clients of Hudson Road Animal Hospital.

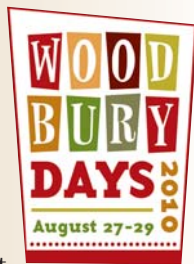
Hudson Road Animal Hospital
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Woodbury, Minnesota, 55125
www.hrah-pa.com
651-739-0117

HOSPITAL HOURS:
Monday-Thursday 8am-8pm
Friday 8am-6pm
Saturday 8am-2pm
Early drop-off available
every morning at 7:30am

Dr. Ronald Clappier Dr. Michael Westfall
Dr. Jodene Beck Dr. Carolyn Fletcher
Dr. John Clappier

Woodbury Days 2010

Once again, HRAH will be participating in Woodbury Days with a booth at the Business Fair and Carnival. We will be there August 27th-29th, enjoying the festivities and talking with everyone who stops by! Make sure you "Spin to Win" on our prize wheel, and don't forget to bring your dog by (on a leash, of course) for fresh water and a treat. We will also offer grooming and acupuncture demonstrations, and opportunities to talk with your favorite veterinarians. See you there!



Hunting Dogs

Warmer temperatures are here, but autumn will arrive before we know it! Fall is the prime time for high energy hunting dogs. Much of the joy of the hunting season comes from the time we spend working with our dogs in the field and watching them excel at what they were bred to do.

Caring for these canine athletes is extremely important due to the level of energy they expend throughout the hunting season. This energy needs to be replenished through proper diet and exercise. Preparing these dogs in advance is critical for them to have the necessary stamina once the season begins. Conditioning your dog ahead of time will also decrease the likelihood of injury during a promising hunting season.

Diet is important, as these dogs burn many calories in the field and need the extra nutrition. There are numerous diets available and HRAH can help you find the right one for your dog. Many of these diets have a higher calorie count for energy and higher ratio of protein to fat. With the extra energy hunting dogs will expend in the field, proper diet helps not only with endurance, but also with mobility and the general health of your dog.

First aid kits are a must-have for every dog. Hunting dogs are prone to many dangers in the field, such as barbed wire fences, skunks and bees. Make sure to take along any special medications your dog may be on, as well as eye and ear rinse, gauze for wrapping and scissors. Keep your dog's nails trimmed short to prevent lameness from torn nails. Hunters should speak to their veterinarians about bringing antibiotics for infections, anti-inflammatory medications for possible injuries, antihistamines for allergic reactions and topical antibiotics for nicks and scratches. In some areas, anti-venom may be a wise choice for those dogs sharing the field with rattlesnakes!

Hunters should also discuss proper parasite, flea and tick prevention with their veterinarian. Dogs in the field are at a higher risk for these threats and should be protected before heading out on a trip. At Hudson Road Animal Hospital, we can help you create a checklist to be sure your dog is ready, and your first aid kit is fully stocked. With the proper preparation and training, hunters and their dogs can enjoy this upcoming season safely.



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Fleas & Ticks

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, tick-borne diseases are on the increase across the country. Ticks can carry and transmit a wide variety of pathogens, including bacteria, viruses and toxins. In fact, a single tick bite can transmit multiple pathogens, which sometimes leads to confusing symptoms of illness.



Symptoms of tick-borne diseases range from quite subtle to severe, and vary by disease. They can include lameness, lethargy, loss of appetite, fever, rashes, depression, and neurological signs such as dizziness or seizures. Some of the more common tick-borne diseases include Lyme Disease, Babesia, Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis.

Fleas are the most common external parasite in pets. They can cause skin problems ranging from mild irritations to severe dermatitis. They can also carry tapeworms and serve as vectors for other diseases that can be passed to pets and humans. Sometimes you'll see fleas, but often you'll only find evidence of their existence in the form of scabs or dark specks of "flea dirt" on their skin.

If you discover fleas, you must treat both the animal and its environment. Indoors, vacuuming helps control flea populations in all stages of life, from eggs to adults. Your yard can be a haven for fleas, especially if it is shady and moist. Nematodes are one way to battle outdoor fleas; they are microscopic worms that kill flea larvae and cocoons, and are harmless to your pets. Look for them in your local garden supply store.

Both fleas and ticks pose a health threat to humans and pets, so it is important to keep these parasites in check. Talk to your veterinarian about the best methods of flea and tick control for your pet. Some products are safe for dogs but not for cats, and almost all products can be toxic if used incorrectly.

A New Method of Care

A blistering nightmare ravages the soldier with images of a horrific explosion in Iraq, until his dog turns on the bedroom light and wakes him, reminding him that he is safe at home. This is not an introduction from a fictional novel; it is the real job of a specially trained psychiatric service dog.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is an anxiety disorder that can occur after a terrifying event. Symptoms include flashbacks, nightmares, hyper-vigilance and detachment from family, friends and society. The U.S. Dept. of Veteran's Affairs (VA) estimates PTSD occurs in about 11%-20% of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.



Photo courtesy NEADS. ©2009 Winthrop Handy

Fred Barnes of the VA, "We are laying the groundwork for what will possibly be a new method of care, and the VA will be the vanguard of that care."

Separate from the government studies, several non-profit organizations have already started pairing service dogs with soldiers diagnosed with PTSD, including NEADS (www.NEADS.org), whose Canines for Combat Veterans program has matched dogs with veterans with dual diagnoses of a physical disability and PTSD, and *Puppies Behind Bars* (www.puppiesbehindbars.com). In some initial surveys of veterans paired with service dogs, they report reduced PTSD symptoms and a reduction in the daily medicines needed to help control the condition.

Dogs can be trained to remind a soldier to take medication, recognize the onset of PTSD symptoms and provide tactile stimulation to help the soldier become aware of those symptoms, retrieve a portable phone or call 911, and even to act as a "block" from strangers in public, where the dog holds his ground, preventing people from making body contact with his partner while in line, on a bus or other crowded space. A trusted canine companion can also help an individual to overcome the social isolation that often results from PTSD, drawing them outdoors for daily walks and helping them transition back into society.

Bastet

Egyptian officials recently announced that archaeologists have discovered the ruins of an ancient temple that may have been dedicated to the cat goddess, Bastet. The temple is estimated to be more than 2,000 years old.

Cats were revered by the ancient Egyptians, as they kept the royal granaries vermin-free, thus helping to protect the food supply. It was a crime to harm a cat. Among other things, Bastet was the goddess and protector of the home and pregnant women.



SEPTEMBER IS SENIOR HEALTH MONTH

Thanks to advancements within the veterinary field, we are able to spend more time with our pets due to their longer life spans. After the age of seven, HRAH recommends twice per year wellness examinations for senior pets to evaluate their health and well-being. As our pets age, they become more susceptible to certain conditions and diseases, including:

- weight and mobility changes
- osteoarthritis
- kidney, heart and liver disease
- tumors and cancers
- hormone disorders such as diabetes and thyroid imbalance

The team at HRAH can help you develop a plan for your pet, including senior health screening, lab tests, proper nutrition, exercise and pain management.

Farewell!

In May, Emily H., CVT, said good-bye to HRAH after 12 years of service. Emily dedicated herself to her profession and Hudson Road and she will be greatly missed by all of us. After finding a clinic only five minutes from her home in Wisconsin, she decided that would be best for her and her family.

"It's like the end of an era," said one of her co-workers when we heard the news. We wish her all the best! Thank you Emily, for your years of dedication to HRAH.



Emily H., CVT

A Day at the Spa!



We could all use some pampering every now and then—wouldn't your pet like the same treatment?

Grooming helps maintain your pet's healthy coat and skin, and contributes to your pet's overall wellness. Our grooming services include nail trims, ear cleaning, baths and coat trimming. We use

shampoos to meet your pet's specific needs, including medicated shampoos.

Our groomers are trained to detect possible medical problems and our doctors are available to examine your pet if requested. Call us today to ask about our grooming services and schedule an appointment!

We are proud to be an accredited member of the American Animal Hospital Association.

