



Hudson Road Animal Hospital

WINTER 2010

Pet Tails

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

Hudson Road Animal Hospital
8154 Hudson Road
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



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

Hudson Road Animal Hospital is proud to be an accredited member of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). Since 1995, we have regularly undergone evaluations by AAHA to ensure we meet or exceed the association's standards for care. These standards cover nearly every aspect of our hospital, including surgery, pharmacy, laboratories, exam facilities, patient care, cleanliness, client service, emergency service, diagnostic imaging and anesthesiology. AAHA standards are recognized around the world as the benchmark for quality care in veterinary medicine. Our accreditation demonstrates our commitment to the highest standards of veterinary care.

Welcome to the first issue of Hudson Road Animal Hospital's *Pet Tails*. From now on, you'll be able to greet each season with the arrival of our newsletter.

The goal of this newsletter is to provide useful pet care tips, keep you informed about what's going on at our hospital, and to entertain you. We believe that one of the best ways to cope with the stresses of life and work is to laugh a little, and some of what you'll read here is designed to accomplish just that.

We hope you enjoy this and future issues, and we encourage you to tell us what you like or dislike about the newsletter. As in running our hospital, we're always striving to improve. With your help and feedback we hope to make the next edition even better.

DID YOU KNOW?

At Hudson Road Animal Hospital, our goal is to provide the best possible care for your four-legged companion during each visit. In doing so, not only do we provide wellness examinations and preventive care, our practice is committed to top-of-the-line care with digital x-ray, laser surgery, ultrasound, lab work and even acupuncture! We also offer overnight boarding care and professional grooming services. Being able to provide all of your pet's services under one roof is another way that Hudson Road Animal Hospital can help you take the best care of your pet. In future issues of *Pet Tails*, we'll describe these services in detail. We are more than happy to discuss our services at any time; call us today!



February is Dental Health Month

One of the most prevalent health care problems in dogs and cats is preventable: periodontal disease. According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have signs of periodontal disease by age three.

Many people are unaware of the potential consequences of this insidious problem—not only can periodontal disease (and other dental diseases) cause pain, tooth and bone loss, the resulting bacterial infections can enter the bloodstream, then spread throughout the body and cause permanent damage to the heart, lungs, kidneys and liver.

Some of the symptoms of dental problems in dogs and cats include:

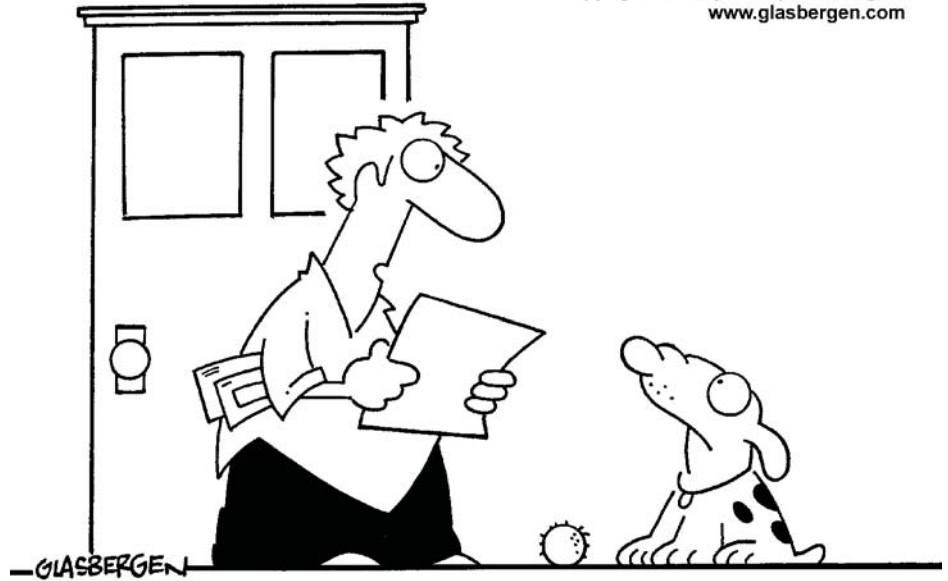
- bad breath
- yellow teeth and/or a yellowish crust along the gum line
- red, swollen or bleeding gums
- decreased appetite or difficulty eating, resulting in weight loss
- nasal discharge or tearing from an eye

Don't wait until symptoms occur! Prevention is safer, and in the long run, far less costly than treating the disease. Proper care of those pearly whites will help your pet live a longer, healthier life!

“We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.”

– Immanuel Kant

Copyright 2003 by Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com



“The government says your breath is destroying the ozone.”

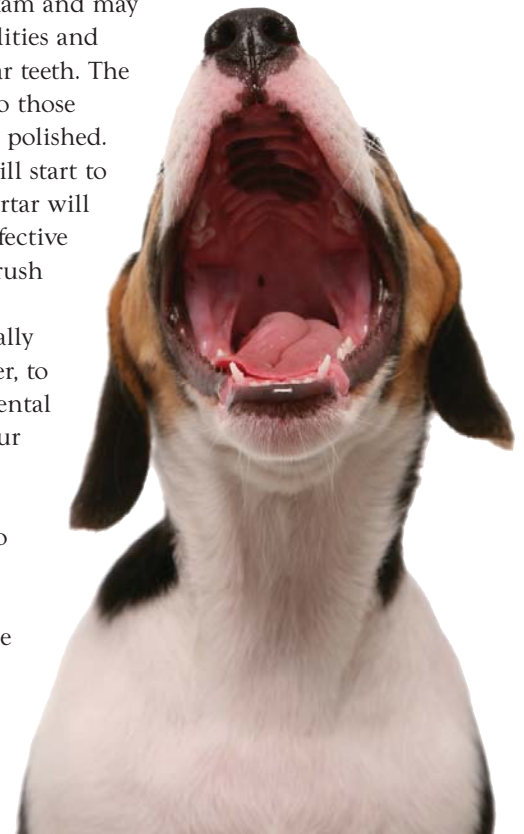
Open Wide!

An annual cleaning by your veterinarian, along with regular home care, is the best way to prevent periodontal disease in your pet. What's entailed in these procedures?

The phrase "Open wide!" doesn't work as well on pets as it does on humans. To obtain their cooperation for a thorough dental prophylaxis (examination and cleaning), pets need to be under anesthesia. Then your veterinarian can perform a complete oral exam and may take x-rays, which can help detect abnormalities and reveal the extent of damage to any particular teeth. The teeth are scaled using instruments similar to those used by human dental hygienists, and then polished.

Within 24 hours of a cleaning, plaque will start to build on your pet's teeth once again, and tartar will form over time. So between checkups, an effective way to help prevent plaque buildup is to brush your pet's teeth. There are many products available to help with brushing, from specially shaped toothbrushes that fit over your finger, to special (chicken flavored!) toothpaste and dental rinses. Do not use human toothpaste on your pet! It is not meant to be ingested and can cause stomach upset in dogs and cats. Ask your veterinarian for instructions on how to properly brush your pet's teeth.

A firm, premium kibble can help slow plaque buildup due to abrasive action while chewing, but will not prevent it entirely. Appropriate chew toys can also provide a measure of tartar protection.





Rabies

One of the most deadly zoonotic diseases that threatens pets and humans is rabies. Rabies is caused by a virus; it attacks the nervous system and is almost always fatal once clinical symptoms appear. The virus is secreted into the saliva of an infected animal and is usually transmitted by bites, although it is possible to transmit the disease when infected saliva comes in contact with an open wound, the eyes, nose or mouth.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, one to two people still die from rabies every year in the U.S., and more than 55,000 people die from it worldwide. It is estimated that 40,000 people in the U.S. are treated for potential rabies exposure each year, using a series of vaccines called post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

Only mammals are at risk for rabies. In the U.S., it is most often found in wildlife such as skunks, raccoons, bats and foxes. Rabies has also been found in livestock, including horses. Symptoms may include aggression, fearfulness, difficulty swallowing, drooling, staggering and behavior changes. Wild animals that are normally nocturnal may wander around during the day.

Talk to your veterinarian about whether to vaccinate livestock, and be sure to keep pets current on rabies vaccinations for their safety and yours. In some states, vaccination is even recommended for indoor cats, because it is possible for bats to find their way inside your home and infect your pet, or for your cat to escape outdoors and become infected. In fact, the number of rabies cases in cats exceeds that of any other domestic animal in the United States and continues to rise. Your veterinarian can help you determine the risk for your pet.

If your pet has been bitten or otherwise exposed, consult your veterinarian immediately. A booster vaccine may be recommended to help with protection. If you are exposed, wash the wound thoroughly and contact your physician right away.



Saving Lives

Tuesday, February 23, 2010, is Spay Day—an annual, international event aimed at promoting spaying and neutering to help decrease the euthanasia of homeless animals. More than four million animals are euthanized in shelters every year simply because there aren't enough homes.

The medical term for spay is "ovariohysterectomy." This operation removes the ovaries and uterus from females. "Gonadectomy" is the medical term for neuter (or castration) in males, and means removal of the testes.

Female kittens and puppies can experience their first heat cycle, or estrus, as early as six to eight months of age. They can become pregnant during that early estrus cycle, although it is roughly the equivalent of a ten-year-old girl getting pregnant. An adult female cat can produce three litters per year, with an average of four to six kittens per litter. In theory, that one female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years.

There are no physical or behavioral benefits to having their own litters; in fact, female cats and dogs spayed before their first heat cycle are less likely to develop mammary tumors later in life. There are other behavioral and physical benefits as well:

- Neutered pets are less likely to roam.
- Spayed females will not experience heat cycles, so they will not attract feral males and won't have blood "spotting."
- Unspayed females are susceptible to potentially deadly uterine infections, known as pyometra.
- Neutering reduces the tendency of urine spraying or marking.
- Neutering decreases aggressive behavior.

You can be part of the solution. Spread the word and we can all help to end the suffering of unwanted cats and dogs.



Felines have 26 deciduous teeth (also known as temporary or "baby" teeth) that begin to erupt at two to three weeks of age. They have 30 permanent teeth, 16 on top, 14 on the bottom, that erupt at about three to four months.

Canines have 28 deciduous teeth that erupt at three to four weeks of age, and 42 permanent teeth, 20 on top, 22 on the bottom, that begin to emerge at about four months.





Julie Elliott and Becca Dablow

Our Staff... Our Graduates!

Hudson Road would like to congratulate Julie Elliott and Becca Dablow on completing their Associate Degrees in Veterinary Technology. We are very proud of their accomplishments! We would also like to recognize Kellie Rosenberg, Sarah Chambers and Sarah Sprecher, who are all currently working towards their veterinary technology degrees.

Our Continuing Education Benefits Your Pet

In 2009, the Hudson Road Team attended more than 200 hours of continuing education. Among the topics were pet anxiety, acupuncture, OSHA compliance, feline and canine heartworm disease, practice management, skin care and dental care. In order to participate in continuing education, our team must travel to different seminars, both locally and regionally, during their time away from the clinic. Some members were also able to participate in online webinars and clinic presentations. We are very proud of the dedication of the Hudson Road team. With the rapid changes that can take place in the veterinary industry, we take pride in staying up-to-date on the latest innovations and resources that benefit your pets.

Another Resource for our Clients: www.hrah-pa.com

In today's fast-paced world, online communication is an easy way for us to reach our clients, providing valuable resources and updated information of happenings in the veterinary industry.

From our website, www.hrah-pa.com, you can explore areas ranging from learning about our clinic staff to the extensive services our clinic offers. You may access your Pet Portal directly from our homepage, and use it to schedule appointments, request prescription refills and see your pet's reminders. You can also read numerous articles written by our staff on pet care and health issues and find links to organizations such as MVMA, VHA and AAHA.

We recently added boarding and new client forms that can be filled out directly from our website. Clients who have recently visited Hudson Road Animal Hospital can enter a monthly drawing by filling out a client satisfaction survey found in the Contact Us link on our homepage.

