

ANIMAL AND AVIAN MEDICAL CENTER'S FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER!

Wellness exams and vaccinations are an integral part of your pet's health. During a routine exam, the veterinarian will assess your pet's overall condition and check for any abnormalities. Generally starting at the head, veterinarian checks the eyes, teeth and ears, listens to the lungs and heart (most heart murmurs are detected during routine exams- pets rarely exhibit symptoms until it has progressed), feels the abdomen and checks the skin for tumors. Routine exams are a perfect time to pose any questions or address any concerns you may have in regards to your pet's health. For normal, healthy pets, it is generally recommended that they have a wellness exam done yearly. Geriatric pets or pets with medical conditions may need more frequent exams in order to monitor their condition. Although it has only been one calendar year for you, your pet has aged 6-7 years during that time and a LOT can change! Most healthy pets will also receive their vaccinations during a routine wellness exam and dogs will be tested for heartworm disease. Dogs are given DHLPPC, Rabies and Bordetella vaccines while cats receive FVRCP, Rabies and Leukemia. Your veterinarian may recommend a different vaccine protocol depending on your pet's lifestyle and living arrangements. Here at Animal and Avian Medical Center, we follow the vaccine recommendations set forth by the American Veterinary Medicine Association (www.avma.org), the American Animal Hospital Association (www.aahanet.org), the American Heartworm Society (www.heartwormsociety.org) and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (www.catvets.com). Due to the large amount of information to be covered, we will address some of the topics this month and the rest next month. This month we are adding two new sections to the newsletter, Denise's Grooming Tip of the Month and a Q&A section!



RABIES

In 2011, there were 50+ confirmed cases of rabies in Ohio alone... one of which was a dog. Rabies poses a public health concern because it can be transmitted to humans through the saliva of an infected animal. It affects the nervous system and eventually causes seizures and death. There is no cure for rabies.

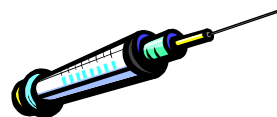
In Medina County, it is not required to vaccinate your animal for rabies, though it is highly recommended. Cuyahoga and several other counties in Ohio are the opposite; they require all dogs, cats and ferrets to be vaccinated. The state is currently working on a bill that will make vaccinating your pet for rabies a statewide requirement.

One common question we are asked is why we vaccinate indoor cats for rabies. In the state of Ohio, the most common vector for rabies are bats and in Medina county we have had several bats test positive for rabies within the last few years. Although unlikely, if a bat were to find its way into your home, your cat would probably be the first to find it.

The typical recommendation for Rabies for both dogs and cats is to vaccinate after 12 weeks of age. The first vaccination will last for 1 year, and then it will be boosted every 3 years thereafter.

Distemper (DHLPPC)

Canine distemper is an extremely contagious virus that is transmitted by any bodily secretion from infected animals and it can even go airborne. With its ability to also infect wildlife, pets are at risk in many different environments. The virus attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems causing fever, lethargy, anorexia, eye and nasal discharge, vomiting, diarrhea and possibly seizures. Nearly 90% of distemper cases are fatal.



Canine Parvovirus (DHLPPC)

Most common in puppies, the parvovirus is transmitted through contact with the feces of infected animals. Symptoms generally include vomiting, diarrhea (often bloody), fever, lethargy and anorexia. Parvovirus is often deadly, however survival chances increase with prompt treatment.

Leptosporosis (DHLPPC)

Generally, wildlife serves as the vector for this bacterium. Transmission to domestic animals and humans can be through contact with contaminated water, soil, food and much more. Leptosporosis has become more prevalent in recent years. Infected animals may exhibit general symptoms such as lethargy, diarrhea, vomiting, jaundice and fever. Because Lepto is potentially transmissible to humans, vaccination is extremely important as it is a potentially fatal disease in both animals and humans.

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

FeLV is a relatively common and fatal virus, any new cat or kitten should be tested. It is transmitted from cat to cat through contact with any bodily fluid so it is generally recommended that cats that venture outside be vaccinated. The disease can also be spread by sharing food or water bowls and mutual grooming, so it is essential to test any new cats you may bring home. The virus suppresses the immune system, leaving the cat more susceptible to other diseases which make the virus difficult to identify without testing. It also can cause cancerous tumors and severe anemia. Over the past 20 years, we have seen a steady decrease in FeLV cases thanks to client education, testing and vaccination.

Q&A:

Q: The confusion about vaccines and the possible cancers at injection sites "Should I or shouldn't I get my pets vaccinated"? Lynda K.

A: The actual risk of animals developing cancer at an injection site is extremely rare, an estimated 1 in 200,000 chance. It has only been reported in cats and only linked to the rabies and leukemia vaccines. So knowing this risk, why should you continue to vaccinate your cat? The answer is simple; "for cats at risk of exposure, the benefits of FeLV vaccination far outweigh the risk of injection site sarcoma" (Saunders Manual of Small Animal Practice, Third Edition, pg 124). Rabies is less prevalent, but poses more of a public health concern due to the ability of the virus to infect humans.

Q: Inside cats: do they really need to take a trip to the vet every year and get all of their vaccinations? Sheila W.

A: Short answer... YES! Having a yearly exam done on your cat is extremely important to their preventative health care. Cats are masters of masking illnesses; they typically don't show any symptoms until it's almost too late. With yearly exams, your veterinarian will be able to check for any abnormalities such as abdominal masses, heart murmurs or dental disease. If caught early enough, we may be able to treat or slow the progression of the disease. Indoor cats are vaccinated for several feline respiratory diseases which are airborne. They absolutely can contract diseases without ever stepping foot outside! Though not necessarily fatal, these diseases cause painful or uncomfortable symptoms such as tongue ulcers, anorexia, depression, fever, sneezing, conjunctivitis and much more. There is no cure for these feline viral diseases once they are contracted so prevention is key.

Q: Is it safe for your dog to eat a raw soup bone and raw marrow? Sheila W.

A: Definitely not! Bones can be broken up into small splinters and get caught in the esophagus causing much pain and discomfort. Rawhides are a much safer option for dogs that like to chew as they are digestible... but be sure to only give a rawhide when you are there to supervise.

Q: What is the importance of doing bi-annual to annual checkups? Viki B.

A: Your veterinarian will give you the best recommendation as to how often your pet should come in for an exam. Wellness exams are very important to your pet's preventative healthcare. Many conditions can be detected early during routine exams. And keep in mind, it is much easier on your wallet to prevent then it is to treat!

Denise's grooming tip of the month!

Care for your pet's feet! During the winter, our pooches have the tendency to get snow packed between the pads of their feet causing pain, discomfort and potentially infection. The solution is simple! Have the hair trimmed between the pads to reduce the risk of snow accumulating. In the grooming department, we do offer walk-in nail trims and foot-hair trims for \$15.00. Please call ahead to be sure we have a groomer in! We are also starting a "Nail Trim Club" card where you buy 5 nail trims (through the grooming department only) and get 1 free!

Follow us on **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/animalandavian) to keep up with specials, discounts and to watch for our Facebook trivia for your chance to win a \$10 Animal and Avian gift card!





CUTE FACE!

This month's CUTE FACE belongs to Peekee, a 4 year old parakeet who has NO PROBLEM speaking her mind!

Calendar of events:

FEBRUARY 4th - Saturday Safe Haven for Pets Volunteer Class **10AM**

To assist victims of domestic violence by fostering their pets while the owner is living in a domestic violence shelter in Stark County. The program is currently recruiting volunteers that are interested in providing short-term care for these pets. Once the animal's owner is back on her feet and out of the shelter, she is reunited with her animals. If you can help or know someone who can, please contact the program at peaceforpets@hotmail.com or by calling 330-848-9537. This training is offered free of charge but pre-registration is required.

FEBRUARY 5th - Sunday Smooches with Pooches adoption event **1-3PM**

The Grateful Dog Bakery, D.O.G. Apparel, FIDO's Companion and Love-A-Stray team up for a LARGE party hosted by Paws by the Lake, 33757 Lake Rd., Avon Lake. Large daycare area for dogs to mingle. Homemade Valentine's treats for both humans and 4 legged friends. Doggie Weddings - Kissing Booth for a Valentine's Photo - \$10 donation to Non-profit rescue. Raffles, Door Prizes and Refreshments. Best Valentine's Costume Contest and other fun contests for your dog. Visit www.loveastraydog.com for event and contest details. Info@loveastraydog.com.

FEBRUARY 11th - Saturday Wags to Riches Casino Night **6:30PM**

Join Fox 8's own Dick Goddard and the Friendship Animal Protective League for our 3rd Annual Wags to Riches Casino Night at Tom's Country Place located at 3442 Stoney Ridge Rd. in Avon. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. You and your sweetheart will enjoy a buffet dinner, cocktails (included), live music and casino games, while ensuring our animals receive the care they so desperately need and deserve. We have a wonderful array of prizes available to win from our Vegas-style casino raffle. Proceeds from this exciting evening help to offset the cost the shelter incurs from our spay/neuter program and other medical relief expenses. Tickets are \$80.00 per person and includes dinner, cocktails and Fun Money to get you started in our Casino. For more information, visit us at www.friendshipapl.org or call us at 440-322-4321.

March 10th - Saturday Animal and Avian's Canine Massage Seminar **1PM**

Want to learn how to pamper your canine companion through massage?

Here at Animal and Avian Medical Center, we are proud to announce our first seminar: Canine Massage Techniques with our own Wendy! The benefits of massage are many; relaxation, pain relief for stiff muscles and joints, increased vascular flow and also immune system stimulation. Wendy Harman has been an employee at Animal and Avian for over a year and is currently our personnel manager as well our physical therapist. Wendy is licensed by the Ohio State Medical Board for human massage, as well as being nationally certified in both Equine and Canine Sports Massage. Pre-registration is required as spots fill up quickly! Refreshments will be available! Dogs are welcome and encouraged to come in order for you to practice. All attending dogs MUST be fully vaccinated and friendly towards people and other dogs. If you are unable to bring a dog, please let us know and we will arrange something for you. Cost is \$5 and the seminar will be at Animal and Avian Medical Center 4171 Center rd Brunswick. (330)225-0095

... in loving memory ...

The past couple months were difficult for the doctors and staff as we had to say goodbye to some long time patients. To the families of those beloved pets: you are in our thoughts... our grieving does not compare to yours, but they are certainly missed.

"I explained it to St. Peter,
I'd rather stay here
Outside the pearly gate.
I won't be a nuisance,
I won't even bark, I'll be very patient and wait,
...I'll be here, chewing on a celestial bone,
No matter how long you may be.
I'd miss you so much, if I went in alone,
It wouldn't be heaven for me."
--Unknown Poet