

PET TAILS



Produced for Pet Lovers by The Village Vet - Animal Medical Center of Mt. Washington
www.baltimorevet.net - check us out on the web

DENTAL AWARENESS MONTH

Brush away health problems for your pets. We can help with a wide variety of dental products to fit your pet's specific needs. As we all know, there are no two pets that are alike and what works for one won't do for another. For this reason, animal health manufacturers have provided a variety of different products to help us keep our pet's dental health top notch. Why such a big deal you ask? Imagine for a moment that you NEVER brushed your teeth. Consider also what could happen if your water source was unclean or if your personal hygiene consisted of self cleaning in the same manner as a cat or a dog. Ok, stop imagining now....Just as in human health, the mouth is a breeding ground for bacteria. The bacteria live in the plaque that forms on the teeth (plaque contains mineralized food debris), and within the periodontal tissues. The initial point of entry consists of the plaque that develops near the gum tissue that forms a pocket between the gum and the tooth. Bacteria can then translocate into the blood supply of the local gum tissues and is then transported to other organs of the body such as joint tissues, liver, kidneys and heart valves. Chronic ailments such as kidney disease, liver disease and potentially heart valvular disease are common sequelae which ultimately lead to decreased longevity (not to mention more frequent visits to the vet). Early signs of periodontal disease are the appearance of a thin red line in the gum tissue at the junction of the tooth and the gums. The doctors at "The Village Vet" can aid you in the identification of significant plaque accumulation or the presence of periodontal disease that would necessitate a dental cleaning. We can clean your pet's teeth for you but even the simplest procedure requires light sedation. We can also recommend steps to minimize plaque accumulation that, in combination with regular dental cleaning, can help prevent the development of periodontal disease. The next time you stop by, ask about our tooth pastes (seafood flavor, yum!) or the CET chews and chlorhexidine rinses. By using these products on a timely basis, you can keep your pet's teeth cleaner longer and insure a healthier, longer life for your best friend. Here are some ways to tell if your pet needs dental attention. The most common problems are bad breath, a build up of plaque (yellowish to brown dental discoloration) on the teeth, broken teeth, reddened and painful gums, and swollen/ulcerated/enlarged gums. Tooth root abscesses can appear as large swellings on the facial area. A change in eating habit or loss of appetite could indicate that they are experiencing oral pain. It is our regular practice to screen for dental problems at all of your pet's annual health check ups, but please don't hesitate to call and schedule a dental exam if you note any of the above conditions or behaviors. Because February is National Dental Awareness Month we are extending and invitation to you to take advantage of a 2 month special promotion to help clean up the canine and feline mouths in Baltimore. At The Village Vet we care about the health and longevity of all of our patients all year round, therefore we already offer a greatly reduced fee for the non-anesthetic dental procedure but understand that not all pets will qualify due to age or advanced decay & plaque build up. Your pet's safety is our number one concern and the extra precautions we take for pets with advanced age or special needs are designed to ensure that regardless of conditions your pet goes home with a clean and healthy mouth. If you book your dental procedure between February 1st and March 31st we will give you an additional 20% off all dental related products as well as 10% off the regular dental procedure and extras, such as extractions or suturing. Don't let this year pass you by without taking advantage of this great offer, just bring in the voucher below & mention it when you book your pets dental

Discount Voucher - 20% OFF all dental products, & 10% OFF a regular dental cleaning
From February 1st/2009 until March 31st/2009

excludes non-anesthetic dentals and medications to go home/not to be combined with any other discounts

TECHNICIAN TIPS

Heartworms and fleas are not gone even though the warm weather is.

Unfortunately we do not experience cold enough winters in Baltimore to kill off fleas, ticks and other pests, therefore we recommend the use of Frontline or Advantage as well as Interceptor or Sentinel all year round. A less frequent application can be used in some cases but only if it is stated on the packaging. Feel free to call one of our technicians with any questions that you have about the product you are currently using.

Here are some common foods that are more prevalent this time of year and can be a big problem for our pets.

Alcoholic Beverages – can induce coma or death

Baby Food – (containing onion powder) can be toxic to dogs (no onion powder) when fed in larger quantities can lead to nutritional deficiencies.

Bones from Poultry, Fish or other Meats – can cause obstruction or laceration of the digestive system.

Cat Food – generally too high in fats for dogs causing vomiting, diarrhea and other digestive problems.

Chocolate, coffee, tea or other sources of caffeine – can be toxic and affects the heart and nervous system.

FRONT DESK...NOTES

We are dedicated to making sure that you are fully satisfied with your veterinary care and one of the ways we do that is by having open lines of communication and getting your feedback on what we can do to better serve you. Please let us know as soon as possible whenever there is something we can do to make sure your whole experience is a better one, or if there is something we already do that you like. We now have our website up with e-mail access at www.baltimorevet.net, just click the "contact us" link or add our e-mail address (animalmedcenter@comcast.net) to your favorites. Both of these are check multiple times a day, even on holidays and after hours so go ahead, we sincerely want to know what you have to say. Danielle – our head receptionist is here from 8am until 4pm, five days a week and she is very caring and thorough. Toya – Our closing receptionist has several of her own furry family members as do most of our staff, she is very compassionate and always willing to help.

Sylvia – is the newest addition to our AMC family and has proved to be very attentive to client needs and really gets things done. Michelle – Our hospital manager is always available to take or return your correspondence whether it be via e-mail, letter or phone.

TIP: In colder months it is helpful to towel dry your pets paws after walks to clean off the "ice melting" products that can burn sensitive pads or cause discomfort and always discourage licking and chewing as it can cause a secondary infection.



FROM THE KENNEL

At AMC we like to treat our client's pets as if they were our own and we like to spoil them rotten. Our kennel staff are compassionate, caring, sensitive, attentive and of course we continually train in animal health care and emergency treatment. Clare – Our kennel manager is highly focused when it comes to pet needs and she does everything she can to ensure they get tons of love and feel at home while here.

Darrell, Chris, & Emily are all devoted animal owners and want your input about your pets special needs, likes or dislikes. Not only are your pet's physical needs taken into consideration but also their emotional needs. We constantly observe your pets for signs of illness or depression and if noted a doctor is alerted at once. Upon entry to the boarding facility all pets having a pre-existing condition are required to have an exam by the doctors at our facility to ensure their needs are being met. We are always looking for ways to make your furry family members feel at home when they stay with us therefore our kennel staff is grateful for any input or personal information about your pet as well as your donations of blankets, towels or toys that are machine washable and Thank you for choosing The Village Vet, Animal Medical Center of Mt. Washington for your boarding needs.

WHAT'S MEWS



Wow, well where do we begin?

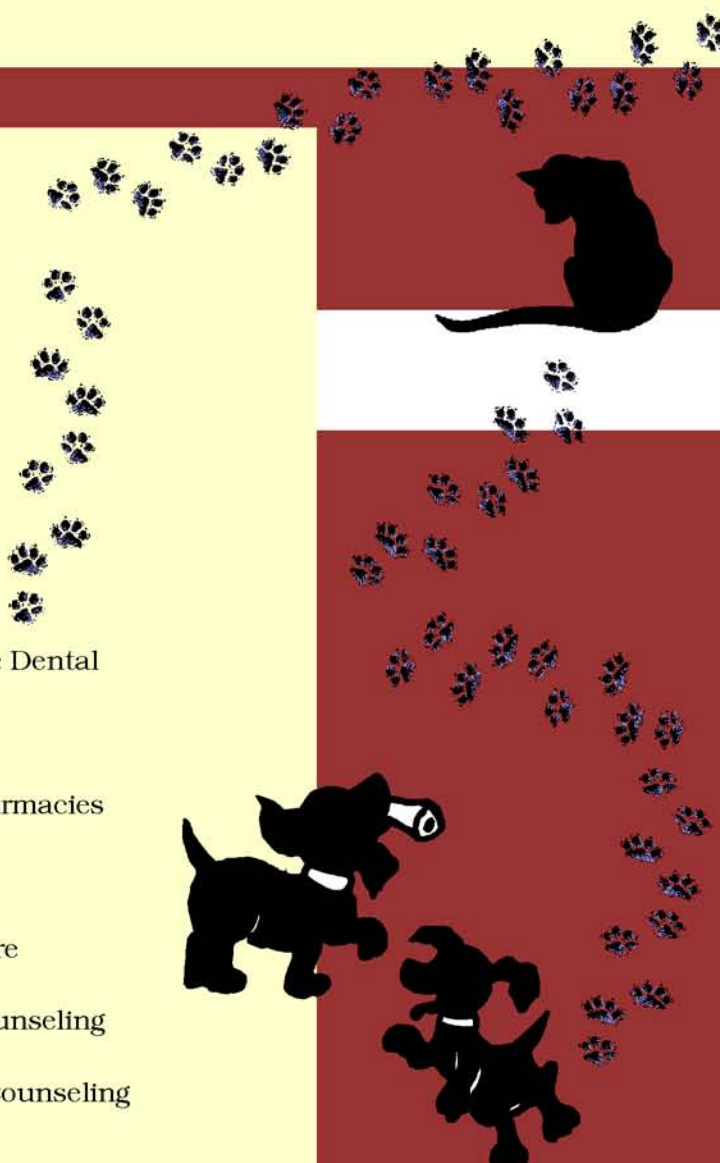
First of all we would like to say thank you to all of our clients for seeing us through the ghastly renovations to the river bank and the disruption of our parking area. We are all very glad that it is over and sincerely appreciate your patience.

We will be moving forward in 2009 with some exciting changes to our practice. First we are welcoming back a familiar face to some of you with the return of Dr. Kelly Papke, she is here full time now, Yah! great news. Early in the New Year we will be introducing "Vet Street". By partnering with this internet company we will be able to offer you on-line access to all your pet's records, e-mail reminders, on-line orders of food and much more. If we currently have your e-mail address on file you will be notified when Vet Street is available. The 2009 year will be a first for our website, it is up and running. We will be posting registration and boarding forms that can be filled out on line and you can e-mail or print them. It is our goal to make the web site an interactive information resource center for all of our clients so of course your feedback is important. Our web address is www.Baltimorevet.net, try it out! We would love to hear from you. Another addition for the New Year is Care Credit. With Care Credit we can now offer several payment options including interest free terms that will help when faced with unexpected vet bills due to illness or accident and we are currently researching a new pet insurance company that looks like it may be favorable. You can check them out on-line at www.petsbest.com. We will keep you informed of problems and updates.

OUR

SERVICES

- Wellness Care
- Laboratory-In House
- Out Sourced Laboratory
- Laser Surgery/Surgical
- Radiographs
- Cancer Therapy
- Anesthetic/Non-Anesthetic Dental
- In-Hospital Pharmacy
- Outside Compounding Pharmacies
- Dietary Products
- Boarding Services/Day Care
- Adult & Geriatric Care/Counseling
- Puppy & Kitten Training/Counseling
- Behavioral Counseling



OUR STAFF

Doctors:

Robert Berry Jr., DVM
Juliana Lee, DVM
Kelly Papke, VMD

Technicians:

Deb
Christina
Janice
Kendall
Megan

Receptionists:

Danielle
Toya
Sylvia

Kennel Technicians:

Clare
Darrell
Emily
Christopher

Hospital Manager:

Michelle



SEND A FRIEND

At AMC we always greatly appreciate your referrals and we currently offer a \$10.00 credit when your friends come in and tell us that you sent them. It is very simple and the money adds up quickly. If a friend of yours is looking for a vet and has never been here before and you suggest that they come here, just remind them to tell us when they are here for their first appointment that you are the one we can thank for their visit. At that time we will put a \$10.00 credit on your account. Then, the next time you come in your invoice will be reduced by the amount of referrals that you have sent in. Quick and Easy!

PETS NEED



EXERCISE

It does not matter what time of year it is, how old or young you are, or what your breed is. If you are a dog or a cat, a mouse, a rabbit, or a ferret, all pets needs exercise to keep them healthy and happy. The trick is to find out if it is vigorous running and ball play or a slow walk in the park that your pet needs and desires. As with humans, pets can have fitness restrictions and should avoid certain things and that is why it is important to talk to our vets about what type of exercise, duration time and alternatives for bad weather days before you begin a new routine. You won't need to go buy a lot of fancy equipment or sign them up at a doggy day camp either as most animals can get a good workout in their own homes. Toys, games and tricks are a great way to put a little physical fitness and mental exercise into your pet's life. There are even puzzles and toys that can keep your furry friends engaged in play while you are away. A great resource is on line at www.petedge.com



COMMUNITY

We are currently accepting donations for the Mt. Washington Elementary school children, as well as the Shrine of the Sacred Heart for supplies that some of the children might not otherwise get. The box is in the front lobby of our facility and will be there year round. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by all the teachers and children of our community. Supplies they need are as follows: pencils, erasers, sharpeners, crayons, loose-leaf paper, erasable pens, glue and scissors as well as 3 ring binders and backpacks. Anything we can do as a member of the community to help one another improves all of our futures.



FROM DR. BERRY'S DESK

- 1.) Toxic ornamental plants - almost all plants will cause gastrointestinal upset but a few are particularly toxic. Mistletoe and amaryllis bulbs are toxic; poinsettia WILL NOT cause problems. To keep cats away from household plants, spray the plant with water using a mister spray bottle and then sprinkle the leaves with powdered ginger.
- 2.) Antifreeze is very toxic to dogs and cats; they are attracted to its sweet taste. There are newer pet and environmentally friendly antifreezes containing propylene glycol that have a lesser potential to cause health problems (ethylene glycol kidney failure, if untreated or not treated in a timely manner).
- 3.) Liquid potpourri will cause skin irritation and GI injury if ingested. Keep out of reach to pets
- 4.) Keep the numbers of your local pet emergency hospital readily available (you can call our office during and after hours for these numbers). The number for the National Animal Poison Control Center is (1-888-426-4435). There is a fee for this information resource (unless your pet has recently been micro-chipped with the Home Again animal recovery system). They will provide access to animal toxicologist to give you information in the event of an accidental intoxication.
- 5.) Have your new puppy micro-chipped. All shelters and animal control facilities routinely scan for microchips to ID the pet and its owner.
- 6.) Litter attractants added to non-scented litters can be helpful for the older cat that is urinating inappropriately around the house or for the kitten that just doesn't seem to get the notion of where and why to use the litter box.
- 7.) The following books are a good guide to successful dog training.

"What all good dogs should know, The sensible way to train"

by Jack Volhard & Melissa Bartlett

"Training dogs the Aussie way"

by Danny & Sylvia Wilson

* Pick 10-15 minutes each day in which you have your puppy's undivided attention and train.

* Positively reinforce the desired response immediately with praise and a food treat.

* No verbal response or treating is mandatory for an inappropriate response.

* Train your puppy to perform and be rewarded to a command given once.

* Repeated commands followed by a reward teach your pet that it is okay to ignore you

All of us at The Village Vet, Animal Medical Center
hope you had a great holiday and look forward to seeing you in the
New Year.

