



Le Sueur Office



Le Sueur Belle Plaine



Belle Plaine Office

# VETERINARY CLINIC NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 3

Fall, 2004

## Fleas and Ticks

Now that summer is over and fall is here it's time to brush up on our knowledge of fleas and ticks again.

Fleas and ticks are carriers of many diseases such as Lyme, haemobartonella, ehrlichia, tapeworm and anemia (low red blood cells). It is important to remember that it is best to prevent fleas and ticks rather than treat them. Frontline Plus or Advantix for prevention is highly recommended. Treating your pet is easy but we must not forget the environment. As the weather turns colder, ticks gradually die off and the fleas begin looking for a warm place and host to live on. If you get fleas in your house, you need to do a very thorough cleaning, and spraying to get rid of them. Fleas like warm, dark places such as under couches, chairs, cushions, rugs, etc. These places should be vacuumed and then you need to toss the vacuum cleaner bag. Most veterinary clinics carry a special spray to be used around the baseboards and throughout the whole house. All bedding and clothing that your pet has had contact with or sleeps on needs to be washed to rid yourself and your pet of those pesky fleas. If you prevent your pet from getting fleas and ticks before they become a problem you can rest assured that your pet will thank you.



## ProHeart6™ Recalled By FDA

For the last two years we have offered ProHeart6™ to our clients for heartworm protection. Although we have not experienced any complications in our practice area, there have been some reports of reactions to the drug elsewhere.

The FDA has requested the drugs manufacturer, Fort Dodge, to withdraw ProHeart6™ from the veterinary market. Currently we have used many doses and have had no reactions reported to us. Fort Dodge has indicated to us that ProHeart6™ has not been removed from the market permanently. It may become available again but it's impossible to say when that will be.

We are recommending that ProHeart6™ users go back to using Heartgard as soon as their dog would be needing the next injection. We sincerely regret any inconvenience this may cause and will keep you posted as soon as further news becomes available.

## Grooming

Welcome Julie Thomas, Groomer. Julie is moving to the

area from Bloomington and has many years of experience grooming dogs and cats. She will be our Friday groomer. Denice Devito, our groomer for the past three years, will continue to groom on Tuesdays. Please call ahead for a grooming appointment. We fill up fast before holidays and in the spring, but with two days now the wait is not so long.



## Holiday Special

on Dog and Cat  
**Spays & Neuters**  
November and December, 2004

## Employee Update . . .

### Welcome Jolene Stinson



Jolene is our new kennel helper. She will be taking great care of our boarding pets and our pound.

Jolene lives in Le Sueur with her husband and two sons and says she is very proud to work here and be a part of our team.



### Congratulations Kim & Lindsey!



Kim (Steinborn) Goettl, our veterinary technician, had a beautiful October 2nd wedding. Our best wishes to Kim and Shawn.

Lindsey Walerius, our veterinary assistant, became engaged to Jess Poehler on her birthday in May. Their wedding is planned for September 24, 2005. Congratulations!

## Senior Care

Dogs and cats that are seven years and older are considered to be “seniors”. Depending on their size, animals age seven years for every one year that we age. When your pets become seniors, we give you a “Senior Folder” and talk about senior care at the time of their annual exam and vaccinations. During our senior talk we tell you your pet should start eating “senior formula” dog or cat food and recommend a “senior profile” blood test. Senior food is lower in calories and keeps your pets healthier in their senior years. The bloodwork will help us diagnose diseases in the early stages so they may be treated with special diets or medication. This will also give us a baseline to compare if your dog or cat should become ill. Early detection of abnormalities is very important. Together we can help your pet enjoy a lifetime of good health.

## Holiday Pet Tip

Holiday food and candy treats are for us . . . Not Our Pets! Candy, chocolate, and holiday “people” food is not acceptable as a treat for our pets. They may develop very serious intestinal problems that require hospitalization, IV’s and medication and could even lead to death.

## Saying Good-bye

Saying good-bye to a pet you love, who is just like a family member, can be very hard. Often this is the hardest decision a pet owner will make. Many people ask us when “it’s time”. Unfortunately there is no simple answer. As veterinarians we feel it is our role to provide medical information and a prognosis (outlook) for recovery. We also are happy to answer questions, provide advice and be as supportive as possible. The pet owner knows their animal best and is in the best position to make the decision about euthanasia.

We would like to offer a few guidelines. First, think about the quality of life. Is quality of life important or quantity? Is the condition irreversible? Is your pet suffering? Signs of suffering include: inability to rise or get up, loss of appetite-not eating, soiling themselves or their bedding, losing extreme amounts of weight, depression, and moaning in pain. Keep in mind that ending the life of a devoted pet that is suffering is the final act of caring.

We offer two options for euthanasia, either at the clinic or your home. There is an additional charge for home euthanasia. Sometimes owners feel their pet will be more comfortable at home or perhaps they feel the trip to the clinic will be too emotional for everyone. The process of euthanasia is the same in either case. The process includes a sedative to decrease the animals anxiety; it also helps the euthanasia solution work better. An IV catheter is placed in the leg vein and the solution is given. The animal takes one or two deep breaths and is gone usually in 2-3 minutes.

The options for your pets remains include: mass cremation (ashes are not returned), individual cremation (ashes are returned), or home burial. Our cremation service is very reputable and you can be assured your pet will be treated with respect during the cremation process. If you choose to have the ashes returned, they will be your pets and include a certificate.

Talking about euthanasia is difficult. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

# Pets have teeth too!

As the field of veterinary medicine begins to focus more on keeping our pets healthy for a long life, the focus often is on our pets' teeth. Our pets need good pain-free mouths in order to live a long, healthy and happy life.

Dental tartar (soft yellow plaque on the teeth) will lead to dental calculus (hard rock-like material) on teeth. In the past this was viewed as normal for dogs and cats. The problem is that it is **not** normal. Dental tartar and plaque leads to periodontitis. Periodontitis leads to painful gum infections, loose teeth and cavities (also known as resorptive lesions). It has also been shown in humans and in animals that these bacteria get into the bloodstream and damage the kidneys and heart.

What can be done about this problem? Just as with people, brushing the teeth is best. At the clinic we can always tell when people brush their pets' teeth. It really helps! Often the teeth need to be cleaned first. This involves general anesthesia. Pets don't lie back and allow us to clean their teeth like people do. General anesthesia frightens some people. While it can have some risk associated with it, we include many pre-cautionary steps to ensure that your pet will do well under anesthesia. Let me outline them for you.

- We always do a pre-anesthesia exam and pre-anesthesia bloodwork to be sure the internal organs are working properly.
- We put an IV catheter in pets 3 years and older and give them fluids to keep their kidneys working well.
- We always intubate your pet and put them on gas anesthesia. This lets us provide the safest anesthesia possible.
- We always monitor anesthesia with an oximeter to measure oxygen in the blood.
- We always evaluate every tooth.
- We always ultrasonically clean and polish every tooth.



- We always monitor your pet after anesthesia - even after they're awake.

In case of loose or broken teeth we often need to extract them. If we do an extraction, we always use a dental block (like novocaine) to keep your pet comfortable.

We believe that pain relief speeds healing so your pet will receive pain meds as needed. Our veterinarians and technical staff have taken special seminars on dental health so that we may correctly diagnose problems in the mouth.

We pride ourselves on providing superior life-long care for your pet. Although some veterinary clinics don't provide all these services, we feel they are important to keep your pet safe and healthy. Dental care is important. Lift your pet's lip today and see if their teeth need attention. It will add years to their life.

## Featured dog breed . . .

# Australian Shepherd

Despite its name, the Australian Shepherd, a herding dog, was developed mainly in the United States. It is descended from Collie stock possibly crossed with other herding breeds. The Australian Shepherd has moderately long hair and a bobtail. Every dog has a unique pattern of markings and coat variation. The Australian Shepherd is a very active and intelligent animal that can weigh up to 70 pounds, and is helpful in search and rescue work.



These dogs are happiest in homes with lots of activity and stimulation. They also need to provide lots of room for exercise.



## LE SUEUR VETERINARY SERVICES

700 North Main St., Le Sueur, MN 56058

COMPANION ANIMALS AND PETS, BOARDING AND GROOMING

**507-665-2377 or 1-800-439-2376**

**Hours:** Mon., Wed., Thurs., Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Tues. 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Drop Off/Pick Up Hours:** 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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## BELLE PLAINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

304 S. Ash St., Belle Plaine, MN 56011

COMPANION ANIMALS AND PETS

**952-873-VETS (8387)**

**Hours:** Mon., Tues., Wed., Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Drop Off/Pick Up Hours:** 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

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