

Have your  
pet's picture taken  
with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 10th  
9:00 a.m. - Noon

at the  
Belle Plaine Animal Hospital.

Cost is \$5.00.  
Will get the picture that day.



Le Sueur Office



Le Sueur

Belle Plaine

VETERINARY CLINIC NEWS



Belle Plaine Office

Volume 15, Issue 4

Winter, 2005



*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!*



Front Row: Dr. Ricci Kelso, Kristi Kitsmiller, Dr. Maryann Nelson. Back Row: Anne Penaloza, Mary Michels, Bonnie Hank, Lindsey Poehler, Brenda Kotasek, and Kim Goettl. At right shown top to bottom are kennel assistants Sammy Hank, Tami Johnson and Dave Pinney.

*The Staff at the Belle Plaine and Le Sueur Clinics  
wish to thank all our clients  
for their support during the year.*

*We wish everyone a joyous Christmas and  
a very happy and prosperous New Year!*

Address Service Requested

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

**BELLE PLAINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

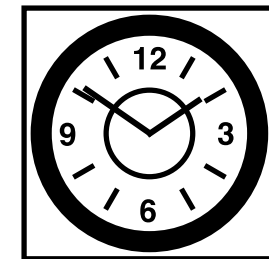
700 North Main St., Le Sueur, MN 56058

**LE SUEUR VETERINARY SERVICES**

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LE SUEUR, MN 56058  
PERMIT NO. 65

# Top 10 Most Important Health Concerns

- 1) SPAY OR NEUTER**  
Your pet will be a better companion. You will reduce or eliminate some forms of cancers or infections that can be life threatening.
- 2) YEARLY PHYSICAL EXAMS**  
Early detection of dental disease, eye problems, ear infections, tumors or bone problems leads to more favorable outcomes.
- 3) YEARLY BLOOD WORK FOR ALL AGES**  
Our pets age 4-7 years to our one year. They need monitoring in order to detect problems early. Thyroid, kidney, liver disease and diabetes mellitus may not be noticeable on the outside, but will show up in routine testing.
- 4) HEARTWORM TESTING**  
We live in an area that is heavily infested with heartworm disease. It is spread by mosquitoes. Dogs have to be tested before going on prevention. (a monthly chewable tablet to prevent heartworm) Dogs need to be tested every year even if on prevention. No medication is 100% effective.
- 5) HEARTWORM PREVENTION FOR DOGS AND CATS**  
Dogs and cats can get heartworm disease from mosquitos. Prevention is a once a month pill for dogs.  
  
Cats have two choices, a chewable pill or a topical treatment called Revolution. If heartworm is left untreated it will kill your dog or cat.
- 6) DENTAL CLEANINGS**  
Most dogs and cats need their teeth cleaned by age three to prevent gum disease. Gum disease leads to heart, liver,



## Important Reasons To Be On Time for Your Appointment

We strive to give all our patients quality exams and our clients quality time with us. You can help us accomplish our goals by being on time for your appointments. Ideally it's best if you come five minutes early. And don't forget the construction in Belle Plaine. It has been slowing the whole town down.

Help us to serve you better. Be on time!


- kidney or brain disease in the dog and cat. Most pets need yearly dental cleanings.
- 7) FLEA AND TICK PREVENTION FOR DOGS AND CATS**  
Fleas spread diseases such as hemobartonella, which is a form of anemia (low red blood cells) and tapeworms. Ticks can carry diseases like lyme and ehrlichia (low white blood cells). Prevention is easier and less expensive than treatment. Flea and tick collars are completely ineffective.
- 8) YEARLY STOOL SAMPLES**  
Stool samples check for intestinal parasites such as round worms and hook worms, as well as giardia and coccidia. The worms are carried by dogs, cats, mice and rabbits. The parasites can also be carried by other dogs and cats or the water.
- 9) FELINE LEUKEMIA TESTING FOR CATS**  
Test all kittens before exposing them to your current cats. Feline Leukemia is spread by blood and saliva. Kittens can be born with it if the mother is infected. A very good vaccine is available.
- 10) DISTEMPER AND RABIES VACCINATIONS**  
Distemper is an annual vaccination for both cats and dogs. It is a combination vaccine to protect against common diseases that kill dogs and cats. Rabies vaccination protects your pet against this 100% fatal disease. It is also protecting you by reducing your risk of exposure to the virus.

These ten health concerns are important for every dog and cat regardless of life style. Outdoor pets need the most protection against heartworm, flea and tick and disease. Please call with questions.



## Top 10 Reasons for Senior Care for Your Pet

1. Exam to check your pet for any lumps, bumps or abnormal sized lymph nodes.
2. Early detection of kidney, liver and heart disease.
3. Early detection of cancer before it spreads.
4. Early detection of thyroid disease.
5. Bloodwork to check for underlying infections.
6. Bloodwork to check for anemia.
7. Glucose check for diabetes.
8. Eye exam for cataracts, glaucoma or dry eye.
9. Check teeth (periodontal disease, gingivitis, cancer)
10. Joint check (arthritis, hip dysplasia)

# Top 10 Holiday Hazards

- 1) Tinsel**  
Cats like to chew on the tinsel and swallow it. The tinsel can become lodged in the small intestine, resulting in an obstruction. The obstruction requires surgery to remove. Signs are vomiting and lethargy.
- 2) Chocolate**  
Dogs will eat chocolate. Chocolate contains two toxins, theobromine and caffeine. A ten pound dog only needs to eat one ounce of baking chocolate or 13 ounces of milk chocolate to become very sick. Signs include vomiting, restlessness and hyperactivity. Death can occur due to cardiovascular collapse. Chocolate also contains sugar which may lead to diabetes mellitus.
-  **3) Poinsettias**  
Today's poinsettias are not as toxic as in the past, but still cause problems. Signs include salivation, irritation and blistering of the mouth and gastrointestinal tract with diarrhea.
- 4) Ribbons**  
Cats love to chew on ribbons, especially the curling ones. Refer to Tinsel for the signs of problems.
- 5) Mistletoe and amaryllis**  
Cats like to chew on plants. These plants cause vomiting and diarrhea, which can be severe.
- 6) Pan Juices and Table Scraps from Turkey, Ham or Roasts**  
Dogs and cats like to eat these. They can not be fed to our pets. The fat can lead to life threatening pancreatitis, or at

least vomiting and diarrhea. Purchase your pet a special treat made for dogs or cats.

- 7) The Christmas Tree**  
Kittens and some athletic cats love to climb the Christmas tree. Secure the tree with guide wires attached to the wall or ceiling to prevent it from falling on your favorite feline. 
- 8) Crowds and Noise Control - Panic Attacks or Anxiety**  
The crowds of people and noise can be very upsetting to some dogs and cats. Provide a quiet room for them away from the festivities. Consider boarding your pet during large parties.
- 9) Travel**  
If you and your pet will be flying, your pet will need a health certificate and current vaccinations. Be sure to bring a favorite blanket or toy, food and water with you. If your pet is on medication check your supplies. If you will be boarding your pet, check to see what is required by the kennel, usually current vaccinations, a recent stool sample, and flea protection.
- 10) Crafts**  
Cats love to explore the craft box full of needles, thread and sequins. Cats have been known to eat needles and thread. The needles can migrate through the intestinal wall and cause peritonitis. The thread can get stuck in the small intestine and have to be surgically removed. Signs include vomiting and lethargy. 

## New Receptionist

Kristi Kitsmiller has joined our team as part-time receptionist in Le Sueur.

Kristi lives on a hobby farm with her two daughters, Chloe and Halla, and many pets including cats, dogs, and horses.

Welcome, Kristi!

## Parking in Le Sueur

Please use the parking area on the south side of the Le Sueur office. You are welcomed to use the side door. This will be safer than parking on Main Street and coming in the front.

## Continuing Education

Our doctors and staff have attended classes to keep up our knowledge and provide your pets with the latest treatments available.

Dr. Kelso – 8 hours of advanced reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Nelson – 8 hours of advanced knee and hip surgery.

Kim and Anne (Certified Technicians) – 8 hours of advanced hematology (bloodwork) and cytology (lumps).

Our entire staff has attended lectures on ear infection treatments and dental cleanings.