



Le Sueur Office



Le Sueur Belle Plaine

VETERINARY CLINIC NEWS



Belle Plaine Office

Volume 17, Issue 2

November, 2007



Happy Holidays!



Back Row: (l to r) Dr. Maryann Nelson, Kim Goettl, Brenda Kotasek, and Dr. Ricci Kelso. Front Row: Corynda Rapacz, Kathy Hindercheid, Anne Penalosa, and Mary Michels.

The staff at the Le Sueur and Belle Plaine 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!



Holiday Hazards for your Pet . . .

The holiday season is fast approaching which means cold temperatures, good food, and many hazards for your pet. During this holiday season keep these tips in mind so you and your pets can stay healthy and happy.

Tinsel – Looks great on the tree but can cause serious problems for those cats that enjoy playing with it.

Plants – Poinsettia and Mistletoe can both cause GI upset if ingested.

Leftovers – Feeding greasy food, bones & chocolate can make your pet very sick.

Poisons – Many people put rat & mouse poison out this time of the year to take care of unwanted rodents. If your pet ingests enough of the poison they may develop a condition that causes

their blood not to clot which will lead to internal bleeding and death if left untreated. So if you must use poison, please use caution where you place it so your pets will be safe.

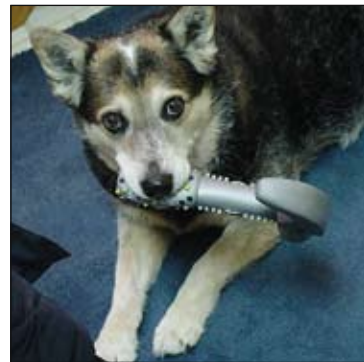
Antifreeze – When using antifreeze it is very important to clean up any spills that may occur. Antifreeze has a very sweet taste that many animals love. If they swallow enough it can lead to kidney failure.

Ice Melt – Ice melt products are irritating to the skin as well as the stomach if your pet licks it off their feet. Make sure you wipe off your pets' paws after they have been outside and store the ice melt out of the reach of your pets.

Please follow these helpful tips and enjoy a happy, healthy and safe holiday season with your pet.

Recovery is faster with Laser Surgery

Reba is a very sweet 14 year old blue heeler. She was found to have a small tumor about the size of a pea in one of her anal sacs that turned out to be cancer. Reba's bloodwork was normal and she was in excellent health. Reba's owner chose to remove the anal sacs and the tumor with the laser. The surgery went very well. Reba had previously been through surgery for both of her knees before we had the laser. Jeannie, Reba's owner says; "This is the quickest she has ever recovered from surgery! The day after surgery, she felt so good, it was like she never had the surgery. The laser is a miracle." Normally dogs recovering from anal sac surgery are uncomfortable for 5-7 days. The laser dramatically reduces the pain involved with this surgery. Anal sac surgery is similar to hemorrhoid surgery in people.



Anal sacculitis is another disease that sometimes requires anal sac removal. It is an inflammation of the anal sac. The anal sacs are located near the anus of dogs and cats and when they become full or inflamed they can be extremely painful and uncomfortable for your pet. The inflammation has been associated with low fiber diets and allergies. The condition can often be controlled with medication, special diets and regular expression of the sac. Some animals have severe cases that cannot be controlled by these methods and they require surgery. This surgery is very painful if done with a conventional scalpel blade. The laser is truly a miracle for these dogs. After laser surgery, they have very manageable pain levels.

Reba has done very well since her surgery and Jeannie is happy to have her healthy, and so are we.

Behavior Tips for Your New Puppy!

It's easier to prevent than to treat behavior problems . . .

- **Be Consistent** - All family members should discuss what is acceptable behavior and what is not and handle the behaviors the same way.
- **Set your pet up to succeed** - It's hard for a puppy to pay attention for a long period of time or in an area with a lot of distractions – so have short training sessions more often.
- **Reward good behavior.**
- **Avoid Punishment** - We want your pet to see people as their friends. Other behavior issues may arise from harsh punishment. The only correction should be a loud "NO" used to interrupt the pet when caught eliminating in an inappropriate area. Submissive or greeting urination should never be punished.
- **Leadership Exercises** - Ask your pet to do a command before getting anything it wants or needs. For instance make it sit before petting, giving treats or playing with it. Don't allow your pet to demand attention from you. Ignore any pushing, nudging or leaning. Once your pet stops soliciting attention for 10 seconds, ask your pet to sit / stay, then give it the attention it needs..
- **House Training** - Teach the puppy where you want it to eliminate. Puppies often need to go after eating, drinking, sleeping or playing. Adequate supervision and confinement are a must. Teach the puppy to signal when it has to eliminate – training it to ring a bell is a popular method.
- **Socializing your puppy is very important.** Week 4-12 for your puppy is a critical age. They learn how to interact with members of the same and other species. Puppy classes can be very beneficial. Introduce your puppy to new experiences, i.e.: new people, the car, different noises, floor surfaces, dog parks, etc. Continue socializing for the entire first year of life.



Exams Are Important!

- Choose a veterinarian to visit regularly; "Fluffy" needs a personal doctor just as you do.
- Regular checkups are very important so the veterinarian will be familiar with and have records for your healthy animal. Then if your pet gets sick there will be a complete history to help with the diagnosis. If you hop from one clinic to another, skip vaccinations, or forget to tell this doctor about medications prescribed by that doctor, the veterinarian who treats your pet for an injury or illness will be at a disadvantage and the animal may suffer.
- With many dog/cat illnesses and health problems, you won't be able to see if something is wrong by just observing

your pet. A yearly physical exam gives your veterinarian the chance to evaluate your pet's health and detect problems before they become serious diseases or illnesses. Senior pets (7+ years) should have twice yearly visits for optimal health care. X-rays are recommended with senior pets. *Early detection can often save lives.*

- Do weekly home health inspections of "Fluffy" from head to tail so you will immediately know when something changes or if an area becomes sensitive.
- Keep your pets' teeth and gums healthy by scheduling annual dental visits and cleaning your pets' teeth at least three times per week at home.

Urinary Stones in Pets



Can you believe the size of the urinary stones we took out of this dog's bladder? Even we were impressed and that's saying something! We've included X-rays from three different pets. We had to remove the stones from two of these patients (Illustration 1 & 3), the third pet is on a special diet to dissolve the stones (Illustration 4).

The only symptoms these pets showed were urinating small amounts of urine frequently. Their physical examination was normal but the urinalysis contained small amounts of blood and no bacteria. X-rays of these pets showed the stones in their urinary bladder. This really highlights the need for the physical exam, urinalysis and X-rays for dogs and cats that are urinating inappropriately.



1 Large stones removed



Urinary stones are a cause of frequent urination or inappropriate urination in the dog and cat. There are several different types of urinary stones. The most common includes struvite (triple phosphate), calcium oxalate or urates. The pH (acid or alkaline level) of the urine determines the type of stone that will develop. Diet and genetics influence it also. The acid loving stones include urates and calcium oxalates. The alkaline loving stones are struvites. Struvites are the most common stone we see. Struvite crystals can also be in the urine and are associated with infection. Struvite stones form in alkaline urine, which can be caused by the diet fed. Calcium oxalate stones form

in acidic urine. Acidic urine is influenced by the diet fed, and helps prevent struvites but it can increase the risk of calcium oxalates, especially in cats. Other risk factors include feeding extra calcium, excessive dietary protein, vitamin D, chocolate, peanuts, and vitamin B6 deficient diets. Additional risk factors include furosemide (a diuretic), prednisone & stress.

Some breeds are at a higher risk for stone formation than others and include; Mini Schnauzers, Lhaso Apso, Yorkshire Terrier, Bichon Frise, Shih Tzu and Mini Poodle. Cat breeds include; Himalayan, Scottish Fold, Persian, Ragdoll and Burmese.

Urate stones are much less common. They are caused by a metabolic problem in the pet. Dalmatians are at risk for developing these stones. Often the stones can be controlled through diet.

There are other factors that contribute to urinary crystal formation (struvites & oxalates). Cats don't drink a lot of water which leads to higher urine concentration. When urine concentration is high crystals can form. Not only do cats drink less water, they can concentrate their urine more than dogs.

Struvite stones can sometimes be dissolved with special prescription dissolution diets. These diets promote acidic urine and increase water consumption to dilute the urine. They can lead to oxalate crystal formation and should only be used under veterinary supervision.



3 Fine crystals removed



4 Stones passing from the kidneys. A special diet was used to dissolve the stones.

Keep your pet's mouth healthy

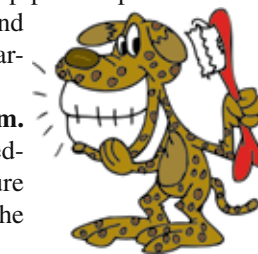
The best holiday gift you could give your pet is a healthy mouth, clean teeth free of gum infection and nice smelling breath.

Now is the time to check your pet's mouth for signs of tartar, red swollen gums or bad breath. This condition can cause very serious medical conditions if left untreated. It is also painful for your pet and makes it very uncomfortable to eat. December, January and February are good times to bring your pet in to have a dental cleaning.

We are continually adding new procedures to keep teeth

healthy. There is a new vaccine to help prevent periodontal disease. OraVet™ sealant, special treats and food are also great ways to prevent tartar buildup.

Please call for a **free dental exam**. We will want to discuss the care needed for your pet, go over the procedure and give you a cost estimate for the procedure.





Pet's Picture with Santa

Pictures are \$10.00, digital photos include:
1- 4x6 print, 1 - 4x6 print with border
and we will e-mail the original.

Available the next week.

Christmas Open House

Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007

9 am – noon

Belle Plaine Animal Hospital

304 South Ash Street, Belle Plaine, MN

Phone: (952) 873-8387

**COOKIES
HOT CIDER
AND COFFEE**



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