



Le Sueur Office



Le Sueur Belle Plaine



Belle Plaine Office

VETERINARY CLINIC NEWS

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Trust Your Instincts

As veterinarians we rely heavily on the instincts and feelings that our clients have for their pets, our patients. Without your judgement about how your pets are feeling, we often wouldn't have a starting point for beginning our examination into the cause of a pet's illness.

You know how your pet acts normally. You also know when they are "not quite right." It's important that you trust your instincts when it comes to your pet's health.

Let me illustrate this point with a couple of examples.

Penny was a 10 year old black Lab that was just acting old lately. She was an outdoor dog so it was a little harder for the owner to notice. With the hot weather, it didn't seem too abnormal that she was slowing down. The owner noticed that she was drinking a lot of water. She couldn't seem to get enough of it. The owner called a vet at another clinic and he told the owner that it was a side effect of Penny's medication. Penny came to board at our clinic and we also noticed that she was drinking way too much water. We couldn't keep the dish full. We called Penny's owners and received permission to run some tests on Penny. It turns out that Penny did have a serious problem called pyometra. Pyometra is a condition where the uterus is infected and full of pus. The patient needs to be spayed right away to keep the infection from spreading in the body and killing the animal. Unfortunately, the owner chose to put Penny down. They had to make the decision on their vacation because they got poor advice from the other clinic and didn't trust their instinct.

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Flea Alert! Infestation Heavy!

We have seen many animals with fleas this year – both cats and dogs. The infestations appear to be very heavy. We have seen a lot of products come and go but there has never been one that beats Frontline Plus®. Frontline kills fleas on your pet up to three months. It kills ticks for one month. Frontline helps to kill fleas in the environment (the house) too. The dander (dead skin and loose hair) that the animal sheds has Frontline in it, which helps to kill the fleas. If your pet has fleas, you must treat your house too.

Be sure to keep your pets protected. Prevention is easy. Having fleas in your house is more difficult to deal with than any thing you can imagine.

Protect your pets today!

Please use parking off the street

This past week we had a near tragedy at our Le Sueur clinic. A client was getting his dogs out of the car on Main Street and one of his dogs ran in front of a car and was knocked down. Luckily we were able to help right away. The puppy came in unconscious. We examined her, got her on fluids and medication right away and were able to stabilize her. It was a close call though.

We do have off street parking on the south side of the building in Le Sueur and we encourage you to use it. You never know when your pet will get scared and try to run away.

Communication in Cats



Cats communicate in several forms, including visual, auditory, olfactory and tactile.

Visual communication in cats is extensive and perhaps the easiest for humans to understand. Tails up signals friendly intention. When two cats approach each other with tails up rubbing is likely to occur. The tails may

be straight or bent over at the end like a fishhook.

Rubbing is a form of communication that probably has many components, visual, olfactory and tactile. Rubbing occurs between preferred associates especially after separation. Rubbing is similar to a “handshake” or “hug” between humans. Cats are most likely to rub up against their humans after separation, for example, the human returning home. Cats may also be leaving their scents on one another during rubbing.

Three other forms of tactile communication include grooming, nose touching and lying together. These are friendly greetings and occur between preferred associates.

Scratching has multiple signals functions. Scratching may leave visualized clues and olfactory from the interdigital glands. Scratching is often thought of as a territorial marker. Scratched areas are not left around the periphery of the cats home range, which would be expected if the behavior were true territorial marking. The scratch marks are left along regularly used passage ways.

Visual signs of dominance occur through the body. The entire body is held high, limbs extended to their full extent and tail and head elevated. Ears are rotated to the side but held erect. The dominant cat has a direct eye stare with a fixed gaze. The subordinate cat will signal with its entire body as well. The entire body will be held lower and the cat will avoid direct eye contact. They may lie down and roll over.

The best known olfactory communication is urine marking. This form of communication probably has many meanings, depending on chemical make up, location and context. More study is needed to understand this behavior.

Cats have many more vocal sounds than the dog. There are three categories; mouth closed, mouth open and mouth open while gradually closing. Mouth closed calls include the trill, chirp, and greeting. The purr – either happy and content or extreme pain, it is a care and contact solicitation call. Mouth open sounds are generally aggressive, including the growl, yowl, snarl, hiss, spit and shriek. The meow - the mouth is held open and gradually closed. It is a greeting, calling and searching call. It is not fully understood.

Enjoy communicating with your cat!



Thorough examinations are important

A detailed examination at least once a year is extremely important for your pet’s health. Every day we find ear infection, dental infections and cancerous masses on a routine physical exam. Brandy was a 7 year old black lab with breast cancer found at a routine

physical exam. Cocoa was a chocolate lab with an ear infection found on routine physical exam. The list goes on and on. Vaccinations are important but nothing can replace a thorough physical examination in keeping your pet healthy! Call and schedule one today!

Rabies Vaccinations

Many people always ask the question. . . “Why does my dog/cat need to be vaccinated for rabies?”

Well beside skunks and raccoons, bats are one of the most common carriers of rabies and we all know how bats just love to find that one little hole to squeeze through to get into the house. To protect your pet from a rabid animal you should have them vaccinated against rabies. If your pet has been vaccinated and is bitten or exposed to a rabid animal, they should be revaccinated immediately and could be quarantined for up to 40 days. If your pet has been exposed or bitten by a rabid animal and has not had a rabies vaccination it should be euthanized to protect you and your family in case your pet would develop rabies.

Do the right thing to protect your pet and yourself by having your pet vaccinated for rabies.

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Mack, on the other hand, was much luckier. Mack was a 12 week old retriever with a very perceptive owner. Mack’s owner thought he just wasn’t acting puppyish enough and wasn’t growing as fast as he could. It turned out, Mack had a very treatable blood disease. Because his owner acted early, his treatment was straightforward and he is doing very well.

As these stories illustrate, it’s important to follow your instinct and trust yourself when you think something isn’t right.

Please be sure to call if you think your pet might be having a problem. You may be right and save your friends life.

Back-to-School Special!



**\$10.00 off a
Dog or Cat
Spay or Neuter**



Offer good until Sept. 30, 2005.

Please mention this ad when calling for an appointment.

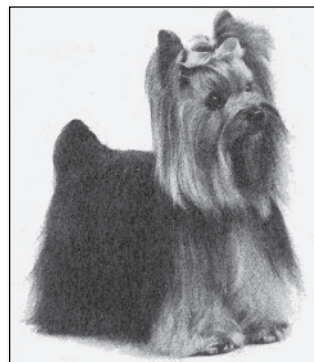
Does Your Dog or Cat Have Bad Breath?



Bad breath is not normal. It’s a sign of infected gums, bad teeth, etc. Not treating it could cause your pet to have a very sore mouth, have teeth removed, gingivitis (inflamed gums). It can even cause heart, kidney or liver disease which could result in death. Just imagine not brushing or having your teeth cleaned for a long period of time. They need examinations and cleanings to make sure they have a healthy mouth also. Have your pet come in for a free dental exam and a demonstration on how to brush your pets’ teeth. This will help your pet live a longer and happier life. Please call ahead for an appointment for the free exam.

Featured dog breed . . .

Yorkshire Terrier



The Yorkshire Terrier originated from Great Britain back in the 1800s. The breed was developed by the miners of the west riding areas of Yorkshire and were first used to hunt rats.

The most distinctive feature of this breed is its coat, which is steely blue in coloration with areas of golden tan on the head, silky in texture, and sufficiently long to reach the ground. Yorkies usually weigh less than seven pounds and have a height of nine inches.

These dogs are very intelligent and confident and are happiest in homes with lots of activity and stimulation.



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.; Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. for Boarding Drop Off

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. Noon - 8:00 p.m.; Sat. 9:00 a.m. - noon (urgent care)

Drop Off/Pick Up Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed. 7:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.;
Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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