



Paw Talk

A professional publication for the clients of East Valley Animal Clinic

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Meet Ashlie

Ashlie is the newest member of the East Valley Animal Clinic family, and we couldn't be happier. Ashlie came to us to finish her internship after completing the veterinary technician program at Argosy University and we were so impressed by her skills and great personality that we kept her. She recently passed her national certification examination for veterinary technicians and is our newest Certified Veterinary Technician.

Ashlie is from the Apple Valley area. She and her fiancé just bought their

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A picture is worth a thousand words

Dental x-rays (radiographs) are the most accurate way we have to determine if your pet is experiencing pain from a bad tooth. If you think about it, how do you know if someone has mouth pain? They probably tell you about it. Our pets do not have the ability to describe their pain.

The accompanying x-ray is a great example of the importance of dental radiographs. This pet came in for a routine dental cleaning. The owner had not noticed any changes with her dog's appetite or ability to eat. In fact, during the exam, the only thing noticed was gum recession, which is when the gum tissue pulls away from the tooth, exposing a part of the root. The owner consented to radiographs, which revealed that this tooth, along with the same tooth on the other side of the mouth, was abscessed.

When you look at the x-ray, you will see black areas at the points of the root. These black areas are areas where the bone has eroded away due to infection. This is an extremely painful situation and the teeth were extracted. The dog recovered and is doing really well!



Dora is happier now that her teeth don't hurt!

East Valley Animal Clinic

DENTAL SPECIAL \$50 OFF

Anesthetized Dental Exam with Cleaning

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON *Limit one coupon per family. Cannot be combined with any other offers. GOOD THROUGH FEB. 28, 2014*



Don't Forget That Sample!

Intestinal Parasites

The catch-all term we've all heard is "worms," but pets can become infected with a variety of intestinal parasites. Here is a summary of the most common culprits:

Roundworms – Roundworms are the most common parasitic worm. Most pets show no sign of infection, but severe infections can cause vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, dull coat and/or a "pot-bellied" appearance.

Hookworms – Hookworms attach to the intestinal wall and may cause internal bleeding. Symptoms can include diarrhea and weight loss, and puppies and kittens can die from the loss of blood.

Whipworms – Whipworms are rare in cats, and difficult to detect in dogs, as they shed fewer eggs into the feces than other intestinal parasites. Serious infections may cause bloody diarrhea and can be fatal.

Tapeworms – Tapeworms are long, flat worms that can reach 18 inches in length. Unlike most other intestinal parasites, they do not commonly lay eggs that are excreted in feces, so sometimes the first indication of a tapeworm infection is when owners notice small segments of the worms (that look a bit like a piece of rice) around their pet's rear end, in their feces or where they sleep.

Coccidia – Coccidia are single-celled parasites. Infections can cause diarrhea, especially in puppies and kittens.

Giardia – Giardia are single-celled parasites that live in soil and water. Pets and people are commonly infected when they drink contaminated water. Acute diarrhea is the most common symptom.

Have you ever wondered whether it's really that important to bring a stool sample to your pet's veterinary appointments? Stool samples are used to detect parasites that live in pets' intestines. The parasites lay eggs, which are then excreted in the pet's feces. By examining the eggs under a microscope, your veterinarian can determine what type of parasites are present, and get a good idea of how many are present as well.

Intestinal parasites can affect cats, dogs and humans. Mild parasite problems may initially go unnoticed, but severe health issues, including death, can result if left untreated. Puppies, kittens, senior pets and pets with compromised health are at highest risk of suffering serious consequences from parasite infections.

Dogs and cats typically become infected with parasites after ingesting the larvae, which come from the feces of an infected animal. This may be a result of normal grooming of their paws after walking through an infested area. Puppies and kittens can acquire some parasite species in utero, or from drinking their mother's milk. Hookworms may actually penetrate the skin to enter pets' or humans' bodies. Tapeworms are acquired through ingestion of fleas (while self-grooming) or rodents.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), roundworm infections in humans are more widespread and common than previously believed. Children are at highest risk because they tend to play in areas such as sandboxes, and may unknowingly be exposed to parasites there. Although most people who are affected have no apparent symptoms, these infections can cause blindness, along with lung, heart and neurological damage to humans. The CDC states that whipworm and hookworm infections in humans "account for a major burden of disease worldwide." Humans are also at risk for tapeworm, giardia and coccidia infections.

Sanitation can help prevent parasites: clean your cat's litter box daily, pick up your dog's droppings in your yard frequently and always clean up after your dog on walks. Eggs from parasites may remain viable for years, so it's important to remove this health risk from the environment.

Parasite control for dogs and cats helps keep them and their humans safer:

- An annual fecal test for each pet. Twice yearly (or more) is recommended for pets at higher risk, such as those who live on farms, go to dog parks or eat feces.
- Year-round use of a heartworm preventive that also controls other parasites.
- Year-round flea and tick control, even for indoor-only cats.

To help prevent human infection, wash your hands after soil contact, avoid walking barefoot in areas where there may be animal feces, keep sandboxes covered and thoroughly wash produce before eating.

The threat of parasites does not go away in winter. For more information, talk to your veterinarian, or visit www.petsandparasites.org.

"In nine lifetimes, you'll never know as much about your cat as your cat knows about you."

– Michel de Montaigne



Emotions

When you come home from work, does your dog seem happy? When you leave, does she seem sad? Most pet owners believe their dogs experience emotions. For years, scientists warned us not to “anthropomorphize,” or attribute human characteristics to our pets. A recently published study, however, is providing the foundation for solid scientific evidence that dogs, and probably other animals, may experience emotions in a manner very similar to humans. How? By studying brain activity.

We still have a lot to learn about the canine brain, but neuroscientist Gregory Berns, PhD, MD, a professor at Emory University, says that there is a “striking similarity between dogs and humans in both the structure and function of a key brain region: the caudate nucleus.” He goes on to state: “In humans, the caudate plays a key role in the anticipation of things we enjoy, like food, love and money...Caudate activation is so consistent that under the right circumstances, it can predict our preferences for food, music and even beauty.”

Dr. Berns conducted his study on dogs by training them to enter an MRI scanner, completely unrestrained and unsedated. Using only positive training methods, dogs were taught to accept wearing ear protection, enter the scanner, rest their chin on a chin rest, and remain perfectly still while the MRI was performed. Handlers gave hand signals during the scans, indicating “reward” or “no reward,” and the scans were then analyzed for brain activity in response to those signals.

Dr. Berns’ study found that a dog’s caudate will activate under the same circumstances as those that elicit positive emotions in humans, in response to things such as food or the sight of a familiar person. While this doesn’t definitively mean that pets experience emotions, Dr. Berns states that “Neuroscientists call this a functional homology, and it may be an indication of canine emotions.”

This study has laid the groundwork for future investigation of the canine brain, and emotions in animals.

To watch a video of the dogs in Dr. Berns’ study and listen to his explanation, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVw1zs2X3iA>



Walking Dandruff

You can see white flakes in her coat. Is it dry skin that’s been causing your cat to scratch, or something more insidious? Cats are susceptible to a form of dermatitis called cheyletiellosis, caused by Cheyletiella mites. The movement of the mites on the skin sometimes causes the dander to visibly move, giving this condition its common name, Walking Dandruff.

Cheyletiellosis is highly contagious, and cats that are in frequent contact with other cats are at highest risk, including those in shelters and cat shows. Dogs and rabbits are also susceptible to this mite, and while humans are not a natural host, they can become infected.

Symptoms vary from no signs at all to intense itching, excessive grooming, white dandruff and scaly skin, hair loss, redness and sores.

Cheyletiella mites can live for short periods in the environment without a host, so bedding and grooming tools may allow them to spread from one cat to another.

Diagnosis is typically done by taking a skin scraping and examining it microscopically. Your veterinarian will recommend the best treatment for your pets.



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“Your horoscope says it’s a great day to start going potty outdoors.”



MEET ASHLIE *continued from pg. 1*

first house and are busy making it a home. They share their home with Snickers, a 15-year-old Cocker Spaniel/Bichon Frise mix, and Bruno, an 11-year-old Lab. Simba and Nala, their two cats, round out the house.

Ashlie is a Chicago Bears fan, and keeps herself busy with a fantasy football league when she isn't busy planning her wedding. She and her fiancé, Mark, are tying the knot next August.

Please help us welcome Ashlie to the East Valley Animal Clinic family.

Jerky Treat Warning!

The FDA has released the following announcement: "FDA has been actively investigating consumer complaints about jerky pet treats causing illness in dogs and in some cats. As of Sept. 24, 2013, over 3,600 dogs and 10 cats have reportedly become ill from eating jerky pet treats."

"The treats are sold as jerky tenders or strips and are made with chicken, duck, sweet potato, dried fruit, and in combinations of these ingredients."

For more information about this important issue, please read the following release: <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/NewsEvents/Newsroom/FactSheets/UCM371715.pdf>



EAST VALLEY



ANIMAL CLINIC

5049 Upper 141st Street West

Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #375
NASHUA, NH

Antifreeze

Did you know that antifreeze can be fatal to your pets? Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol, which is highly toxic if ingested, even in very small amounts. Animals can be exposed to ethylene glycol if there is a spill from changing the antifreeze in the car, or if your car leaks antifreeze onto the ground. Antifreeze has a sweet smell and taste, which entices animals to try it. In a small animal, it only takes a teaspoon to cause potentially fatal kidney failure.

Symptoms can develop within an hour of ingestion. Your pet may experience difficulty walking, vomiting and confusion. If you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze, immediate treatment is crucial to prevent further absorption.

Antifreeze is now available that contains propylene glycol instead of ethylene glycol. This chemical is less toxic, but not without its own problems. Some companies are now adding a component to the antifreeze that makes it taste bitter, hoping to deter pets from

ingesting it.

The only way to keep your pet safe is to be sure they are kept out of any area that has antifreeze in it, and wipe up any spills if you are working on your car.

Because of the level of toxicity, you should contact us immediately if you suspect your pet has been exposed to even a couple drops of antifreeze, so treatment can be started right away. Every minute counts!