

ANIMAL MEDICAL CLINIC

February 2009 Newsletter

www.fremontanimalmedicalclinic.com



Winter Writings



Specialty Services Now Offered

In the past several months, we have been striving to become even more efficient for our patients and clients. With this brings some new specialty services that we, in the past would have to refer or "send out" elsewhere- usually out of town. We now have the knowledge and equipment to perform ultrasounds, acupuncture, orthopedic manipulations, and diagnostic blood panels right here in the clinic.

It saves both you the client and us time and money. The biggest thing we like is that we get results faster, which especially counts for those patients with higher needs. Acupuncture and orthopedic manipulation is increasing in popularity. There are many interesting things that acupuncture can be used to treat, and it amazingly works wonders for some pets. Dr. Everson recently has been certified, and is very knowledgeable in the procedure. The patients really don't seem to mind it either! It is very rewarding to see patients feeling better than ever, sometimes after just one treatment.

Ultrasounds can provide us more knowledge about what's going on inside the body. In the past, the option was always offered but it meant driving into Omaha or even Lincoln on a different day, with a different doctor. Some cases, surgery was higher on the list because of the fragility of the patient- though sometimes we didn't know exactly what we were looking for and how extreme it was. Now, we can normally find the problem without anesthesia, opening the pet up, and have a pretty good idea what exactly we are looking at and how bad it really is.

Our diagnostic blood panels can now mostly be done in house. We were having to send some panels out, causing a slight delay in diagnosis and treatment. Now that we can do them in house, we can get results within 30 minutes or less rather than a couple hours to a couple of days. We do still have a few that we need to send out, but not nearly as many as we used to!

Questions? Give us a call or stop in, we'll be glad to help!

**FEBRUARY IS PET DENTAL
HEALTH MONTH!!**

**CONTACT US TO SEE HOW
YOU CAN RECEIVE 15% OFF
OF A DENTAL CLEANING AND
ANY OTHER DENTAL
PRODUCTS OR SERVICES**

Fun Facts

- Dogs do not have an appendix.
- The oldest dog ever died at age 29
- Cats have a sense of smell that is 14 times stronger than humans
- "Puss", a cat from England lived to be 36 in human years, the oldest cat on record.
- The only sweat glands a dog has are between the paw pads
- Birds do not have lungs like a mammal, they have tiny air sacs in which many scents and fumes can cause respiratory infections and other major problems

Reminders

- Intestinal parasites can easily be transmitted to humans, we strongly recommend checking a stool sample and deworming at least once a year.
- Flea and Tick season is coming quickly! Be sure to have your Frontline stocked up and ready!
- Have your pet Microchipped for permanent identity, call us for more info and to set up an appointment!
- Puppy classes now forming please call Kelli for more info and to get signed up!



TAKING CARE OF THOSE TEETH



Dogs have 42 adult teeth.

Cats have 30 adult teeth.

But unfortunately by the time most pets become mature the effects of periodontal disease have already “taken root” and tooth loss becomes commonplace. Periodontal disease is a slow developing condition of mouth that involves a bacterial infection of the gingiva (gum tissue), attaching ligaments to the teeth, and the bone surrounding the teeth resulting in loss of not only infected teeth, but the neighboring teeth as well. The effects of periodontal disease can also extend beyond the mouth and result in heart disease, kidney failure, and irritation to the liver.

Fortunately periodontal disease is a preventable and treatable condition.

Signs of Periodontal Disease

- Purulent exudate (pus) around the tooth
- Persistent bad breath
- Gums that are inflamed or bleed easily
- Pain or sensitivity around the mouth
- Pawing at the mouth
- Loose or missing teeth
- Loss of appetite or indigestion
- Drooling
- Difficulty chewing or eating
- Irritability or depression

Treatment

It all starts with consulting with your veterinarian and having your pet’s mouth examined for evidence of periodontal disease. If your pet has periodontal disease then a professional dental cleaning procedure will be scheduled. Because this is an anesthetic procedure, pre-anesthetic blood testing needs to be performed to ensure that your pet is healthy and antibiotics will be started to address the bacterial infection. Once under anesthesia we will perform a complete examination of the mouth and determine an appropriate level of treatment for the periodontal disease. A routine dental cleaning involves removal of tartar, polishing, fluoride application, and a complimentary Oravet application. Treatment of periodontal disease can involve cleaning the tooth root surface, instilling antibiotic gel into infected pockets, and performing dental extractions as needed. We provide the safest anesthesia and pain management protocols, provide intravenous fluid support, and our patients are closely monitored while under anesthesia by our experienced veterinary support staff.

Prevention

Whether your pet is 8 weeks or 8 years old, your role in the prevention of periodontal disease is vital. Prevention requires a combination of regular dental cleanings (once a year is the goal) and home care. Home care is directed at slowing plaque and tartar formation and preventing gingivitis that is the foot-hold that periodontal disease requires.

Basic home dental care tools include:

- **Brushing the teeth** - Cleaning with pet safe toothpaste & toothbrushes ever other day is ideal (this is the best prevention & with patience any pet will learn to enjoy – we can show you how)
- **Oravet** – Easily applied once weekly to the teeth & will significantly slow tartar formation
- **Foods** – Special formulations that slow tartar development, like the Science Diet T/D that we carry
- **Water additives** – Adding this product to your pet’s water can slow tartar formation
- **Chews & Treats** – Greenies & special dental chews formulated with enzymes that fight tartar are easy to use for both dogs & cats

Our goal is to bring your attention to the importance of periodontal disease and the impact it has on our animal family members. It is an established fact that the prevention and treatment of periodontal disease in your pet(s) will keep them healthier and allows them to live longer.