



Animal Hospital of Mt Pocono

570-839-8116

Winter 2010

www.animalhospitalofmtpocono.com



Dear Pet Lovers,

Welcome to the winter issue of our pet health newsletter series. Winter can be a very challenging season with its cycles of brief thaws followed by subfreezing conditions. I felt it was appropriate to remind everyone about some helpful cold weather pet care tips. For most of our dogs and cats, even these colder temperatures should not present a problem if they are in good general health and are exposed for only limited times during the day. When temperatures dip much below freezing our pets should spend a good portion of the day and night indoors, or have access to a protective shelter and even an external heat source, such as a heating mat made for that purpose. If their water is kept outdoors, make certain it is not frozen. After coming in from outdoors, check between their toes for ice balls and packed snow which tends to cling to their fur. The same holds true for road salt. With a little extra effort, we can keep our pets safer and more comfortable over this colder time of year.

Wishing you a safe and healthy winter season,

Dr. Joe Valese



Doggy or Kitty Breath - No Laughing Matter



If you've ever noticed bad breath (halitosis) from your pet, you are not alone. This odor is an indication of infection in the mouth (periodontal disease). Studies have shown that around 85% of all cats and dogs over the age of 3 years have some degree of mouth infection. If you have noticed pet bad breath, consider this a red flag or warning sign to you that your pet's mouth needs proper attention and treatment. If left untreated, these mouth infections can progress, leading to pain and discomfort, loss of teeth, and possible organ damage (especially to the heart, liver, and kidneys). This last consequence is due to the nature of long standing infections and the damage they cause to the body.



"How can this happen?" you might ask yourself. "My pet eats well, gets plenty of exercise and stays mostly indoors!" Although these are pluses toward your pet's overall health, dental health requires additional efforts. Consider your own dental health. What condition might your teeth and mouth be in (including odor) if you never brushed your own teeth? Over time, you can imagine how this neglect would effect your oral health. Well if you never or very infrequently brush your pet's teeth, you will see the same results.

Daily teeth brushing is the gold standard for care of teeth in people and in pets. Teeth brushing is the most effective method of removing plaque from the teeth. Plaque is the sticky buildup of millions of bacteria on the teeth. If plaque is left undisturbed (by not brushing), it will mineralize and become hard dental tartar. Once dental tartar hardens, it can no longer be brushed off. Since it consists of encrusted bacteria, remaining in the mouth it causes infection. The only way to properly remove dental tartar is by professional scaling and polishing. This is referred to as an oral hygiene treatment. If your pet is in need of an oral hygiene, Dr. Valese will determine this at the time of their health checkup. As this mouth infection progresses, additional treatments beyond the basic oral hygiene may be needed. These would also be discussed with you by Dr. Valese at the time of your pet's checkup.



Our goal is to avoid advanced mouth infections and tooth loss in our dog and cat patients. Teeth brushing is the cornerstone to this preventative program, but there are also other products, chews, foods, and even vaccines for dogs which can help control the development of mouth infection. If you've never brushed your pet's teeth before, please don't dive into it blindly. Let us teach you an easy approach to teeth brush training for your dog or cat.

With a little patience, effort, and love, we can help your pet stay free of bad breath and mouth infection. Call us today to get your pet started on it's own dental health program.

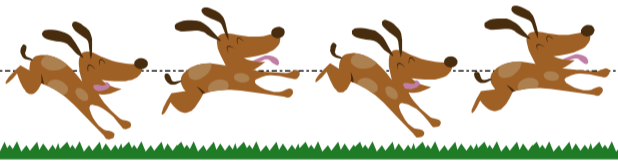
Food for Cleaner Teeth

Hill's Prescription Diet t/d is specially formulated to clean your pet's teeth as they eat. Although this will not replace the need for teeth brushing, it is a very helpful addition to your pet's home dental care program. The kibbles of t/d are designed as larger pieces to squeegee plaque from your pet's teeth as they chew. You should notice a difference in your pet's oral health in just a few weeks of use. It also provides superior nutrition for your pet's overall health. Use the coupon provided to try a bag of t/d oral health diet for your cat or dog today.



Training Corner

Has your dog ever snapped or nipped at your hands and/or feet as you've passed by or interacted with it? This behavior is common in pups and if not corrected can become dangerous as they age. It's key to use the correct training method at an early age for effective handling of this problem. When young dogs nip or bite, they are trying to communicate or to get attention. Training involves changing their communication behavior for a better, more appropriate one. There are a number of methods to accomplish this. Not every technique works for every dog. If you are having a problem with a biting or nipping dog, call us for a consultation regarding behavior training. We will customize a program that is convenient for you and fits into your busy schedule. Remember, what seems like cute behavior as a puppy can become a major problem as an adult. These problems do not go away on their own, so call us today at 839-8116.



Our Community Support - 2009 Donations




As we look back on 2009, we are thankful for all the support of our wonderful pet owner community. Because of you, we were able to provide excellent health care to so many pets. We also give back to the community. This past year we were able to provide donations and sponsorship to: The American Red Cross – Monroe County Chapter and the "Run for the Red" Pocono Marathon, Pocono Mountain Knights of Columbus, Pets Meals on Wheels, and other local service organizations. We provided service donations of over \$1,300 to the Pennsylvania SPCA, Monroe County Animal League, and needy pet owners in our community. We also provided a \$250 scholarship for a Pocono Mountain High School senior in 2009 who should now be in college pursuing a future career in veterinary medicine. We feel that if we all work together we can help make our community a better place to live.



Remember too that we collect funds year round to help provide urgent medical care to the pets of needy owners. Your generosity is appreciated. Thank you to all.





Free Dental Treat with exam
Offer expires 3-31-10
No other discounts apply

Free small bag of Hill's Dental diet t/d
For dogs and cats
Offer expires 3-31-10
After mail-in rebate

Free teeth sealant at time of oral hygiene
(\$25 value)
Expires 3-31-10
No other discounts apply



Animal Hospital of Mt. Pocono
P.O. Box 235, Pocono Summit, PA 18346
Change Service requested

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