

TenderCare

Pet Tails

Tender Care Animal Clinic  
450 Connector Road  
Georgetown, KY 40324  
Phone: (502) 867-0740  
Fax: (502) 867-1273

WINTER 2010

www.TenderCareAnimalClinic.com

## Upcoming Specials

January is the perfect time to have your older pet checked for many of the underlying illnesses common in geriatric pets. Our Senior Wellness Package includes bloodwork and x-rays to detect problems that can go unnoticed by even the most observant owner. Heart problems and kidney disease can be successfully managed when detected early but are devastating if untreated. If your best buddy is seven years of age or older and hasn't had geriatric testing done in the past six months, call Amanda at 867-0740 to schedule an appointment!

## A Courageous Girl

Ripley first entered our lives this past July. A week after a near-deadly attack by coyotes, she was getting weaker in spite of the antibiotics prescribed by another vet. Her neck was swollen and oozing pus, bite wounds covered her ears, neck and chest and she walked with obvious pain. In spite of her terrible injuries, she had a wag of the tail for everyone she met.

During my examination, she never whimpered or tried to bite, although every touch must have been excruciating. Ripley was quickly started on IV fluids and antibiotics and admitted for hospitalization.

Over the next few days, her kind and gentle spirit continued to make her a



Ripley, about two months into treatment

favorite. But in spite of aggressive antibiotic therapy, her white count skyrocketed, indicating that the infection was out of control. On a hunch, we shaved the dense fur off her sides and found that the attack had caused most of the skin on her right side to lose its blood supply. Ripley's right side was literally dying and sloughing off! In a desperate effort to save her life,

we immediately took

her to surgery. For several hours, the dead tissue was painstakingly removed from her body. There was so little skin left, the huge wound had to be left open, exposing muscle from her shoulder to her flank. She was carefully bandaged and monitored during the night.

Many times, we were afraid Ripley would not survive her ordeal. To everyone's surprise, Ripley rebounded and quickly began to eat and play again. She went home covered in bandages to owners who were more than willing to provide the intense nursing care she required. Over the months, Ripley frequently returned for additional procedures and exams. Her latest surgery to close the remaining open area on her side was performed in November.

Though we subjected her to so much pain, Ripley continues to bound into the office with a smile on her face. If she spends a few days with us, she roams the office nudging our hands so we'll pet her. Like her namesake in the *Alien* movies, she is a survivor!

**Tender Care  
Animal Clinic**

**January Special**

**\$20 OFF**

The Senior Wellness Package  
for Dogs and Cats.

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON  
Limit one coupon per family. Cannot  
be combined with any other offers.

VALID UNTIL JAN. 31, 2010



# February is Dental Health Month

One of the most prevalent health care problems in dogs and cats is preventable: periodontal disease. According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have signs of periodontal disease by age three.

Many people are unaware of the potential consequences of this insidious problem—not only can periodontal disease (and other dental diseases) cause pain, tooth and bone loss, the resulting bacterial infections can enter the bloodstream, then spread throughout the body and cause permanent damage to the heart, lungs, kidneys and liver.

Some of the symptoms of dental problems in dogs and cats include:

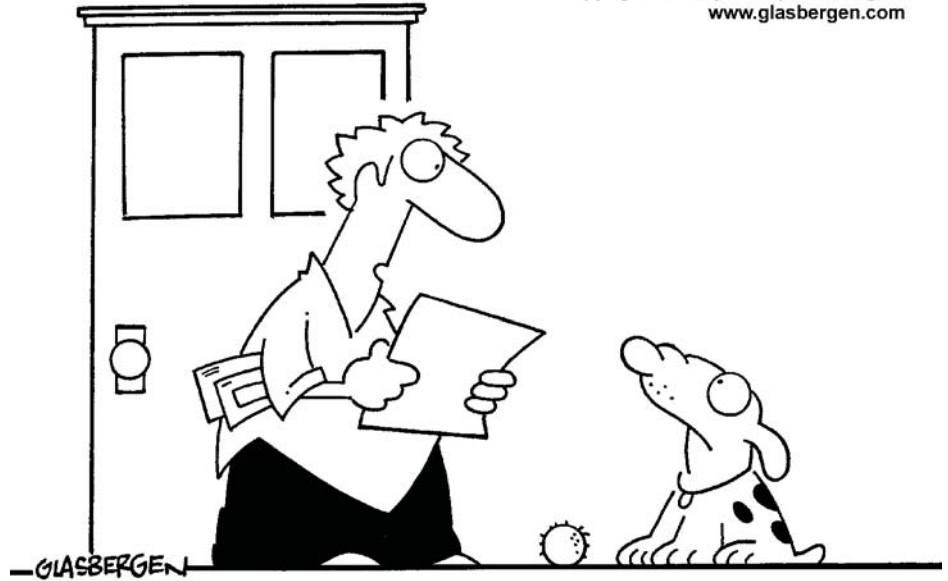
- bad breath
- yellow teeth and/or a yellowish crust along the gum line
- red, swollen or bleeding gums
- decreased appetite or difficulty eating, resulting in weight loss
- nasal discharge or tearing from an eye

Don't wait until symptoms occur! Prevention is safer, and in the long run, far less costly than treating the disease. Proper care of those pearly whites will help your pet live a longer, healthier life!

**“We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.”**

– Immanuel Kant

Copyright 2003 by Randy Glasbergen.  
www.glasbergen.com



**“The government says your breath is destroying the ozone.”**

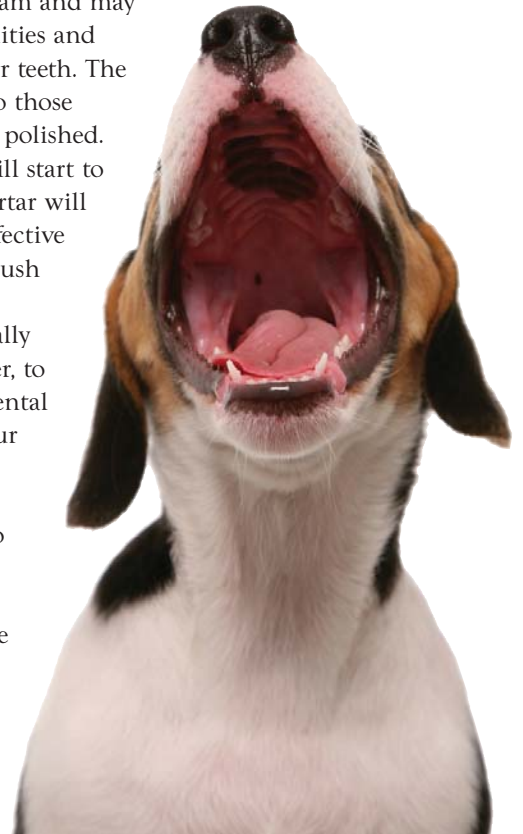
## Open Wide!

An annual cleaning by your veterinarian, along with regular home care, is the best way to prevent periodontal disease in your pet. What's entailed in these procedures?

The phrase "Open wide!" doesn't work as well on pets as it does on humans. To obtain their cooperation for a thorough dental prophylaxis (examination and cleaning), pets need to be under anesthesia. Then your veterinarian can perform a complete oral exam and may take x-rays, which can help detect abnormalities and reveal the extent of damage to any particular teeth. The teeth are scaled using instruments similar to those used by human dental hygienists, and then polished.

Within 24 hours of a cleaning, plaque will start to build on your pet's teeth once again, and tartar will form over time. So between checkups, an effective way to help prevent plaque buildup is to brush your pet's teeth. There are many products available to help with brushing, from specially shaped toothbrushes that fit over your finger, to special (chicken flavored!) toothpaste and dental rinses. Do not use human toothpaste on your pet! It is not meant to be ingested and can cause stomach upset in dogs and cats. Ask your veterinarian for instructions on how to properly brush your pet's teeth.

A firm, premium kibble can help slow plaque buildup due to abrasive action while chewing, but will not prevent it entirely. Appropriate chew toys can also provide a measure of tartar protection.





# Rabies

One of the most deadly zoonotic diseases that threatens pets and humans is rabies. Rabies is caused by a virus; it attacks the nervous system and is almost always fatal once clinical symptoms appear. The virus is secreted into the saliva of an infected animal and is usually transmitted by bites, although it is possible to transmit the disease when infected saliva comes in contact with an open wound, the eyes, nose or mouth.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, one to two people still die from rabies every year in the U.S., and more than 55,000 people die from it worldwide. It is estimated that 40,000 people in the U.S. are treated for potential rabies exposure each year, using a series of vaccines called post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

Only mammals are at risk for rabies. In the U.S., it is most often found in wildlife such as skunks, raccoons, bats and foxes. Rabies has also been found in livestock, including horses. Symptoms may include aggression, fearfulness, difficulty swallowing, drooling, staggering and behavior changes. Wild animals that are normally nocturnal may wander around during the day.



Talk to your veterinarian about whether to vaccinate livestock, and be sure to keep pets current on rabies vaccinations for their safety and yours. In some states, vaccination is even recommended for indoor cats, because it is possible for bats to find their way inside your home and infect your pet, or for your cat to escape outdoors and become infected. In fact, the number of rabies cases in cats exceeds that of any other domestic animal in the United States and continues to rise. Your veterinarian can help you determine the risk for your pet.

If your pet has been bitten or otherwise exposed, consult your veterinarian immediately. A booster vaccine may be recommended to help with protection. If you are exposed, wash the wound thoroughly and contact your physician right away.



Felines have 26 deciduous teeth (also known as temporary or “baby” teeth) that begin to erupt at two to three weeks of age. They have 30 permanent teeth, 16 on top, 14 on the bottom, that erupt at about three to four months.

Canines have 28 deciduous teeth that erupt at three to four weeks of age, and 42 permanent teeth, 20 on top, 22 on the bottom, that begin to emerge at about four months.

# Saving Lives

Tuesday, February 23, 2010, is Spay Day—an annual, international event aimed at promoting spaying and neutering to help decrease the euthanasia of homeless animals. More than four million animals are euthanized in shelters every year simply because there aren't enough homes.

The medical term for spay is “ovariohysterectomy.” This operation removes the ovaries and uterus from females. “Gonadectomy” is the medical term for neuter (or castration) in males, and means removal of the testes.

Female kittens and puppies can experience their first heat cycle, or estrus, as early as six to eight months of age. They can become pregnant during that early estrus cycle, although it is roughly the equivalent of a ten-year-old girl getting pregnant. An adult female cat can produce three litters per year, with an average of four to six kittens per litter. In theory, that one female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years.

There are no physical or behavioral benefits to having their own litters; in fact, female cats and dogs spayed before their first heat cycle are less likely to develop mammary tumors later in life. There are other behavioral and physical benefits as well:

- Neutered pets are less likely to roam.
- Spayed females will not experience heat cycles, so they will not attract feral males and won't have blood “spotting.”
- Unspayed females are susceptible to potentially deadly uterine infections, known as pyometra.
- Neutering reduces the tendency of urine spraying or marking.
- Neutering decreases aggressive behavior.

You can be part of the solution. Spread the word and we can all help to end the suffering of unwanted cats and dogs.

## STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT:



Zach Morris

**Zach Morris** is the latest addition to our team at Tender Care. A lifelong resident of Scott County, he is currently a freshman at Georgetown College. He has an interest in reptiles and owns bearded dragons. Zach can often be seen at the clinic cleaning up messes, a never-ending job! Be sure to say hello to Zach when you see him as he is terribly outnumbered by women at the office and may need moral support.

## Heartworms In Cats

Though most pet owners are well-educated on the need for heartworm prevention in dogs, many are surprised that heartworms can also infect cats. Once thought to be a rare problem caused by a carrier mosquito "accidentally" biting a cat instead of a dog, recent studies have found that feline heartworm is as common in cats as feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). Even more surprising, 25% of affected cats are "indoor only!"

Why are veterinarians so concerned about feline heartworms? The drug used to kill heartworms in dogs cannot be used to treat cats, and the most common sign of infection in cats is sudden death. Some affected cats may exhibit signs of coughing, wheezing and breathing problems similar to asthma. In fact, some cats diagnosed with asthma were actually found to have heartworms when tested. Chronic vomiting or lethargy are also symptoms.

The good news is that cats can be given a preventive once a month just like dogs. If they are diagnosed with the disease, medication can help control the illness. Be sure to ask about heartworm prevention for your cat—in this disease, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

## Tender Care Animal Clinic

### February Special

# \$20 OFF

During the month of February, bring in this coupon for \$20 off any dental procedure.

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON  
*Limit one coupon per family. Cannot be combined with any other offers.*

VALID UNTIL FEB. 28, 2010

## Tender Care Animal Clinic

### March Special

# 10% OFF

A 6-Month Supply of Interceptor Heartworm Preventive for Dogs and Cats



PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON  
*Limit one coupon per family. Cannot be combined with any other offers.*

VALID UNTIL MAR. 31, 2010



Tender Care Animal Clinic  
450 Connector Road  
Georgetown, KY 40324

# TenderCare

PRSRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #375  
NASHUA NH