

## ~ Hartwood Animal Hospital Quarterly Newsletter ~

2008 was a blessed year for the hospital. We want to thank everyone for your patronage and support. Over the Winter Holiday we enjoyed many wonderful gifts and want to thank those who remembered us during the Holiday Season

Mel will be out on Maternity leave from the end of March to the middle of May. She and her husband have been blessed with another little girl.

If you need to make a grooming reservation, please plan ahead as she will be booking up quickly.

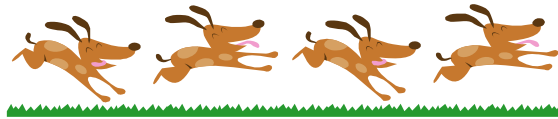
### Reminder \* Boarding \* Reminder \* Boarding

If you are going out of town for the Spring Holiday and need to board your pet, please contact us as soon as you have your dates. Our boarding facility books up quickly!

We have the ability to board all kinds of pets (dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, and pocket pets.)

All pets boarding at HAH must be current on their vaccines, wellness exams and tests for their protection and others.

Please contact us if your pet needs a wellness exam or vaccines.



### Canine Behavioral Classes

Action Distractions class will be held in March - No date set as of now - Call if interested

## Pain ~ Swelling ~ Lethargic

### Painful getting up and down?

Yes, our pets can have the same aches and pains with aging as we do.

We often overlook that working dogs and younger dogs with a history of bone trauma are at a higher risk for developing arthritis at a much younger age.

We now carry Dasuquin ~ an all natural joint supplement.

Dasuquin is a glucosamine with Avocado/ SoyBean/ Unsaponifiables (ASU)

If your dog is currently on Synovi Chews but you think he or she needs something stronger, please call us so that we can discuss this new product with you.

If your cat is currently on Cosequin, we will be transitioning them to Dasuquin.

ASU lowers the expression or production of several compounds involved in the process of cartilage breakdown in joints. The combination of glucosamine / chondroitin sulfate plus ASU works better than glucosamine / chondroitin alone.

Beginning of the year ~ Don't forget to license your dog with your county !

# Allergy Testing

## Smelly or Itchy Skin ???

This could be due to Allergies

The most common signs of an allergic pet include:

Smelly Skin - Itchy Feet - Shaking Head (ears) - Rubbing Face - Hair Loss - GI Problems  
All of these signs result in a very uncomfortable pet, and can lead to secondary infections.

What a dog or cat may be allergic to include:

Outside Inhalants (grasses, weeds, trees)  
Proteins (Chicken, Beef, Pork, Fish)  
Wheat, Corn, Dairy  
Other Pet's (Cat Dander) Yes believe it or not!

Depending on your pet's examination and history, a blood test can be performed to determine what he / she is allergic to. Once the results are in, an individual treatment plan for your pet can be devised encompassing allergy injections, diet change, or both.

## **DNA Testing For Dogs**

Have you ever wondered why your dog wants to herd the children or why your dog can play fetch all day long and not get tired? With a simple blood test, the breed(s) that make up your pet can be determined. With the DNA test you can gain insight into why your dog looks and acts the way he/she does. Also, some breeds are more prone to certain medical problems, therefore knowing your dog's genetic makeup can be helpful in screening, preventing, and managing these diseases.

We can now have your dog's DNA tested !!



## **The Dangers of Xylitol found in gum**

Xylitol is a crystalline sugar alcohol that is used as a sugar substitute sweetener in many products. One of the most common products is chewing gum. Due to its anti-cavity properties it is also found in toothpastes and oral hygiene rinses.

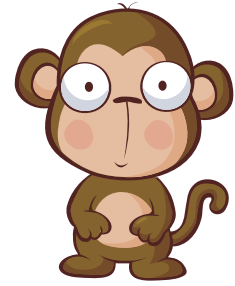
What does this mean for our pets? Severe hypoglycemia (low blood sugars)  
Liver failure, bleeding, or death.

How much is considered toxic? 1-2 pieces of gum to a 20# dog can be toxic

What are the symptoms? Lethargic ~ Weak ~ Seizures ~ Collapse  
Hypoglycemia ~ Vomiting ~ Diarrhea

Do you have a Chunky Monkey living in your home???

If you have a cat or dog with a weight problem, we can help!



## OM Program

Very Easy ~ Dry and Can ~ Pet's Don't Starve ~ Pet's Love the Food ~  
We calculate the amount of Food and Treats



Keeping your pet's weight under control is 1 more way to  
keep them healthy, comfortable, and living longer.

Pet's with a weight problem can develop diseases that can be prevented.

The following are a few diseases that we want to prevent through good weight control  
Arthritis ~ Torn Ligaments ~ Heart Failure ~ Diabetes ~ Thyroid ~ Cancer

Did you know? Lean-Fed dogs will live approx 2-3 years longer than an overweight pet

Did you know? Lean-Fed dogs have healthier blood sugar levels and blood pressure

Did you know? Lean-Fed dogs show fewer visible age signs

(gray muzzles, impaired gait, and reduced activity)

Did you know? Overweight cats are 2 times more likely to face skin diseases

Did you know? Overweight cats have a higher risk of having urinary tract disease

Did you know? Overweight cats are more prone to liver failure & diabetes

If you are unsure whether or not your pet is overweight, please call us and we can  
determine how to steer you in the right direction if he or she is overweight.

45% of overweight pets are not diagnosed as "chunky"

One Busy Bone has 600 calories = 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups dry = 1 Big Mac

One Big Gulp cup actually holds 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups of dry food

Pocket Pets and Birds can also suffer the same diseases caused by being overweight.  
Contact the office if you would like to discuss if your pet is overweight and what we  
can do to change it.

# Your Pets Teeth



Just like you, your pet's teeth are a big part of a healthy body.

Looking inside your pets' mouth can be difficult and frustrating at times, we understand that. If you need any help or want us to take a look at your pet's teeth, let us know and we will be happy to help you. Bad teeth and gum disease can lead to other health problems; heart disease and kidney disease is a couple of medical problems that can arise due to poor oral care. Keeping the mouth healthy, helps to keep the entire pet healthy too. There are several things that can be done at home to reduce the tarter build up & gum disease.

## At Home Preventative Care

Teeth Brushing ~ Oral Hygiene Rinse ~ Dental Chews ~ Dental Foods

### What does a Dental cleaning entail?

Ultrasonic subgingival scaling  
Electronic polishing  
Hand Scaling w/ gum recession measurements  
Fluoride treatment if needed or of age  
Dental Radiographs if needed  
Extractions if needed  
Teeth sealants if wanted (OraVet)

### What is OraVet?

OraVet is a series of sealants that are applied to the teeth 1 x a week to prevent plaque build up.

**\*\* Puppies and Kittens should have their teeth sealed at the time of their spay or neuter \*\***

Feel free to call with any questions and we will be happy to go more in depth and/or show you how to use the above products at home.



## **Pet's Have Teeth Too!!!**

It is cheaper and safer to provide preventative care of a pet's teeth then it is to perform an emergency dental with extractions

Dental = Approx \$375 - \$500 (additional for extractions)

Dental Products = Approx \$100.00 for a 6 month supply

(Dental Rinse, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Finger brush, Dental Chew, OraVet Sealant)

# The Proper Husbandry for Reptiles

Maintaining the proper husbandry for a reptile is a big part of caring for your reptile. Unfortunately many causes of death are due to incorrect living conditions and improper lighting or heating.

Things that your scaly friends need in order to have a healthy, fun, and safe environment:

Proper size aquarium As the reptile grows, so should your aquarium size. Some reptiles like the iguanas might need a room to themselves due to their size

Bedding Newspaper is the cheapest, easiest, & cleanest.

Logs, Twigs, Branches Reptiles like to climb and slither – they need the exercise – Offer different types of branches, twigs, and logs for them to have fun on. Due to mites, outside twigs should not be used – only use artificial.

Water Bowl Some reptiles enjoy the water ~ It keeps them hydrated & helps to increase the habitats humidity to ensure proper shedding

Hiding Place Logs or ceramic caves are good hiding places for reptiles to hide

Temperature Gage There should be a minimum of 2 temperature gauges  
1 on the cool side and 1 on the warm side

Heating Source One side of the aquarium should be warmer  
Using an underside heat mat is recommended along with a Basking Heat Lamp ~ NO HEAT ROCKS

Lighting & Heat There are 3 types of Bulbs that should be on the top of the Aquarium  
UvA / UvB ~ Basking Heat Lamp ~ Red Light

The UvA or UvB Bulb is the long Bulb that lies on top

The Basking light is the round lamp that is on one side ~ This light tends to get very hot!!

(make sure the reptile cannot get in contact with the lamp ~ it can burn them)

The Red light is also a round lamp ~ this is used at night

**\*\* All Bulbs need to be replaced every 6 months \*\***





## Transporting your loved one. Are you traveling with your pet in a safe manner???

- Dogs** All dogs need to be in either a carrier or on a leash at all times.  
While in the car they should be strapped in with a pet safety seat belt.
- Cats** All cats need to be in a carrier at all times.  
While in a car the carrier should be strapped in a safety belt.
- Birds** All Birds need to be in a cage at all times. While in the car they need to stay in their cage and the cage strapped in the seat belt.
- Pocket Pets** All pocket pets need to be in a carrier or safe traveling container.  
In the winter they need to stay warm with a towel over them  
In the warmer months they need to stay cool – glass aquariums can get hot very quickly – do not sit them in the direct sunlight.
- Reptiles** All Reptiles need to be in a cage or carrier at all times.  
Reptiles need to stay warm; therefore they need to travel with warming devices like warm rice bags and heated towels.  
A Cooler works very well for keeping them warm and cool.



**\*\* During the colder months, warm your car up \*\***



For the safety of your pet and others we ask that you follow the guidelines for proper traveling with your pet. **All pets need to be kept either in their carrier or on a leash while in the lobby for their protection.** We want everyone to stay safe and healthy.

If you should have any questions feel free to call us and we Would be happy to help you with any concerns that you might have

# Safety First



AS A REMINDER....  
ANY PRE PAID FECAL MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

## What is Salmonella ?

*Salmonella* is a Gram-negative enterobacteria that can be obtained through exposure to undercooked eggs, rawhides, pig ears, and reptiles/amphibians which can cause fever, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and possible death.

The CDC estimates that 74,000 cases of Salmonellas per year are associated with exposure to reptiles or amphibians (directly or indirectly), which makes this a significant public health concern.

Studies have shown that 85% of all turtles, 77% of lizards, and 92% of snakes carry one of the 500 serotypes of *Salmonella*. Reptiles can harbor the different strains without any symptoms of disease.

Reptiles carry *Salmonella* in their gut and shed them in their feces. The number of *Salmonella* infections each year can be traced to pet reptiles. Yet the bacteria does not usually cause illness in reptiles, it can cause illness in people. Children, elderly, and immuno-compromised are more at risk of developing the illness. People can get *Salmonella* from reptiles by putting things in their mouth that have been in contact with reptile feces.

It is virtually impossible to eliminate *Salmonella* from your pet reptile.

## How to prevent the spread of Salmonella:

1. Never bathe your reptile in the kitchen sink or bathtub
2. Have a separate Tupperware container just for your reptile to swim in
3. Use disposable items for bedding and hiding places in the aquarium (newspaper, paper towel rolls, card board boxes) \* *Change these out often* \*
4. Clean the aquarium with a 5-10% Clorox Solution (stronger is not better)
5. Make new Clorox Solution prior to each cleaning (Solution is only good for 4 hrs)
6. Allow fumes to totally dissipate before putting reptile back in the room
7. Wash your hands well after handling your reptile
8. Children under 5 and immuno-compromised people should avoid contact (direct or indirect) with reptiles or amphibians.

\* Use caution with Rawhides and Pig ears ~ They are also a carrier of Salmonella \*

IF you want to give your dog a rawhide we advise giving a CET Dental Chew.

The manufacturing plant is monitored by the USDA

The cows are raised in the US