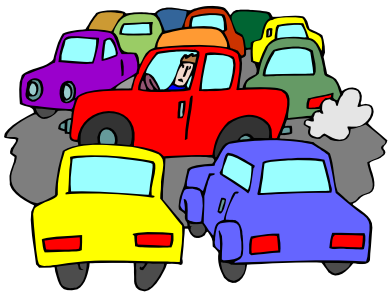


# Hartwood Animal Hospital Newsletter

☺ Summer 2009 has arrived ☺

When summer arrives so does: traffic, vacations, fireworks, thunderstorms, picnics, bugs, and the heat.

This newsletter will cover all of these issues



## Do you know the back roads to HAH ???

There are many ways to get to the hospital without having to sit in traffic. If you need the "secret" ways to the hospital, feel free to call and we will share them with you. No need to sit in traffic!

# Picnics & Barbeques

Many pets love the time spent with family and friends at picnics and barbeques.

It is very important to resist their soulful begging. Ingestion of "people" food can cause mild to severe gastrointestinal upset (vomiting & diarrhea).

Mayonnaise and other dairy based items are particularly bad because pets do not have the necessary enzymes to digest dairy products. Spoilage can also cause food poisoning.

Fatty foods such as fried chicken and hamburgers cause the pancreas to become inflamed leading to painful pancreatitis which can be fatal in severe cases.

Some animals will try to steal food from cooking equipment and can suffer second and third degree burns from putting their paws on the hot surfaces. Dogs can also swallow very hot food in an attempt to eat the "stolen" food quickly.

## Car / Motion Sickness & Anxiety While Traveling



If your pet has difficulties traveling due to motion sickness such as excessive drooling and vomiting, we can prescribe a medication to settle their stomach. If your pet has anxiety issues while traveling, we can also prescribe a medication to ease their anxiety while traveling.

## Traveling & Vacation Tips

All pets should travel in a safe manner (carriers, seat belts).

Reptiles should travel with proper warming devices (rice bags).

Remember to bring plenty of water, extra bedding, and medications.

If your pet gets car sick, let us know so that we can dispense **Cerenia**.

Always bring a copy of your pet's medical / vaccine records.

It is **required by law** to provide a health certificate if you are traveling across state lines (Air, Train, Car).

If you need to stop for a break, **DO NOT** take your cat or bird out of the carrier, take them outside in their carrier to get fresh air.

When taking your dog out for a walk, make sure the collar and leash are on snugly so they do not accidentally slip away.

Always remember not all dogs are friendly, healthy, or vaccinated.

**DO NOT** let your dog interact with others at rest areas.

If you are going to a park make sure your dog is on a leash for the protection of your dog and others. Take caution while around children. Studies show more children are bitten during the summer months.

In some states it is **illegal** to drive with a pet in the back of a pick up truck. Flying debris can cause serious injury, or a pet could be thrown into traffic if a driver has to stop quickly or swerve.

## Pets Should Not Be Left In A Vehicle (Heat Exhaustion / Stroke) !!!

One of the most common causes of heat stroke in pets is leaving them in a car. Here are a few statistics to help you understand how dangerous it can become and how quick.

- ... On a beautiful sunny 72° F day, the temperature in your car can increase by 40°F within 1 hour
- ... Most of the rise in temperature happens in the first 30 minutes
- ... A cracked window has NO significant cooling effect
- ... On an 85° day with your windows open slightly,  
the interior temperature can reach 102°F in 10 minutes and 120°F after 30 minutes

### Pets are in danger of heatstroke at 110°F



Due to their naturally higher body temperatures and their inability to sweat, pets are at a higher risk to succumb to heat exhaustion. Dogs and cats lack an efficient way of ridding their body of built up heat. The tongue and the pads of the feet are the only areas where heat exchange occurs.

A car is not the only place that can be dangerous for your pets to be during these hot summer months. There are places that seem safe for them until you add heat. For example, a doghouse is a comfy place for your friend to reside, but without proper air circulation, the temperature can quickly rise. Some other places to keep in mind are sheds, garages, houses or rooms without air conditioning, and even the outside on poor air quality days.

Please make sure that any pets that are outside have access to plenty of water and shade.

### Monitor your pet closely for the following signs of heat distress:

Loud or rapid panting	Rapid pulse	Vomiting
Glazed eyes	White or Blue Gums	
Staggering or an unsteady gait	Excessive salivation, whining, or agitation	



If your pet is exhibiting one or more of those signs, please take these following steps to ensure a positive outcome:

- Decrease body temperature immediately but gradually
- Seek shade and apply cool (not cold) water all over the body
- Apply ice packs/cold towels to head, neck, and chest
- Allow your pet to drink small amounts of water or lick ice cubes
- Apply isopropyl alcohol to the pads of the feet
- CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY

Remember – if you see an animal that is in heat related distress, please call your local animal control or the non-emergency police number.

If you have an emergency when we are not in the office to assist you, please contact:  
Fredericksburg Regional Veterinary Emergency Center at (540) 372-3470

## Safety Tips for Dogs that are Fearful of Thunderstorms and Fireworks



1. Be sure your pet has a safe place to hide that is escape proof and weather proof.
2. Provide a relaxing environment as far away from the noise as possible.
3. Allow them to hide or cuddle with you if they choose to.
4. Don't try to soothe or console them; this can make the problem worse by giving positive reinforcement for fear related behaviors and/or by falsely telling them you are scared too.
5. Try to remain upbeat and happy so they don't think you are worried too.
6. Provide favorite toys or yummy treats to distract them from the scary stimuli.
7. You can try homeopathic remedies like *Dog Appeasing Pheromones*, DAP; available here at Hartwood to help calm them.
8. Some dogs like to be swaddled, or wear a *calming cap* (available on-line) during storms.
9. If all else fails, and your dog seems abnormally stressed or you are concerned for their health/safety contact us for other possible medicinal remedies.

### ~~~~~ Remember ~~~~~

~ When playing "Fetch", choose an appropriate size ball ~ no bouncy balls ~

~ If your pet gets bitten by a spider or snake, contact us immediately ~  
( If possible bring the spider or snake to the vet )

~ Dispose of all meat bones properly ~

~ Do not pour grease from the grill into the yard as pets like the taste ~

~ Take caution with open windows, pets can jump out of them ~

~ Use pet safe products on your lawn ~

~ Dispose of Antifreeze properly ~

~ If your pet has a wound, contact us - keep it clean to prevent flies from laying eggs (maggots) ~

~ Always have your pets updated identification (tags) on them at all times while outside ~

~ Check fencing for holes or damaged sections ~

~Check invisible fencing for damage where lines may be exposed ~





## Microchip Identification ~ HomeAgain

A lost pet is a horrible feeling, a feeling of hopelessness.  
A feeling of hopelessness can be eased by knowing that your pet is microchipped.

- ✚ **The #1 cause of Pet Death, is a lost pet**
- ✚ **10 Million Pets Get Lost Every Year**
- ✚ **Without ID, 90% Don't Return Home**

### HomeAgain Features:

Advanced Anti-Migration Microchip  
 Proactive Pet Recovery Network  
 Lost Pet Alerts  
 Personalized "Lost Pet" Posters  
 24/7 Emergency Medical Care  
 Pet ID Cards  
 International Coverage  
**NEW ~~~** Lost Pet Medical Insurance



We can administer a microchip during a nurse appointment.

All Dogs, Cats, Ferrets, and Birds should be microchipped for their protection!!!

You can inquire more about the HomeAgain Microchip on their website  
[www.HomeAgain.com](http://www.HomeAgain.com) or call 1-888-homeagain

### Benefits of grooming your pet

- \* Grooming is a very important part of health care for your pet.
- \* Pets should be groomed on a regular basis depending on their breed.
- \* The skin is the largest organ, and needs to be addressed and not neglected.
- \* Some skin issues can be resolved with a medicated bath.
- \* Dogs and Cats hair can get matted very quickly which can be very painful and irritate the skin causing an infection.
- \* With proper bathing, brushing, and grooming; your pet's skin will stay healthy.



Grooming includes: Bath - Brush - Clip / Shave - Nail Trim  
Ear cleaning / Plucking - Anal gland expression

If your pet is in need of a good bath with grooming,  
contact the office to schedule an appointment with Mel  
With 11 years of grooming, Mel has perfected her "pet make overs"  
You should see her work 😊



## Senior & Geriatric Exams

**\*\* Did you know that larger dogs age quicker? \*\***

**\*\* In human years, 1 year = 5-8 years in animal years. \*\***

Having Senior or Geriatric wellness exams are very important for your pets' health. Underlying issues, or concerns can be treated before further damage is done. Just like you, we want all of our furry children here at HAH to be as healthy and comfortable as possible. We all want them around for as long as we can.

By doing a few diagnostic work ups we can get that picture window inside your pet and really see what is going on with them as they age. All of these tests & work ups are non invasive and are painless to your loved ones.

**What types of diagnostic work is done to evaluate my pet's health???**

Full Medical Examination ~ Intestinal Parasite Check  
Urinalysis ~ Blood Work (Liver, Kidney, Sugars, Thyroid)  
Chest X-rays ~ Abdominal X-rays ~ Hip and Knee X-rays  
Heart (EKG) ~ Blood Pressure

**All of this can be done in 1 day!  
Drop off in the morning and pick up that afternoon with a  
discharge appointment to review the results 😊**

**\*\*\* Please Visit our Booths at the Following Upcoming Events \*\*\***

**Hartwood Days: Sat. Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 9:30 - 4:00pm [www.hartwooddays.org](http://www.hartwooddays.org)  
10<sup>TH</sup> Annual youth & community fair held on Hartwood Festival Grounds  
(Rt 17 and Hartwood Rd)**

**Fredericksburg Dog Festival: Sun. Oct 4<sup>th</sup> Noon - 3pm Hurkamp Park  
(Parade, owner/pet contest, obedience/trick contest)**



## Chinchilla Pet Fun Facts

- ❖ Chinchillas are native to the Andes Mountains in South America.
- ❖ Chinchillas are nocturnal and require an extensive amount of exercise.
- ❖ Chinchillas can not sweat and therefore are at risk for overheating at temperatures over 80°F. Red ears are a signal that they are overheating.
- ❖ Chinchillas clean their fur by taking dust baths. Rolling in the fine dust helps remove the oil and dirt from their fur.



We are now **FaceBook !!!**

Feel free to check us out to view upcoming alerts and events.



If you can not make your scheduled appointment, please call the office at least 24 hours prior to avoid a **No Show Fee** per canceled or missed appointment.  
**540-286-2855**

Clients can now go online to fill out the boarding form and new pet form. This service will allow quicker check-in for boarding and appointments. Feel free to call if you have any questions ~ 540-286-2855  
[www.hartwoodanimalhospital.com](http://www.hartwoodanimalhospital.com)

