



3819 N. 25th St • Tacoma, WA • 98406 • ph (253) 752-2265



Zoonotic Disease PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY & PETS



ZOONOTIC DISEASE – Any disease that can be transmitted from animals to people or, more specifically, a disease that normally exists in animals but that can infect humans.

What should you do to protect your family and pet?

- Have the North End Pet Hospital check your pet's health at least once every six months, including a fecal sample analysis.
• Never handle the stool of any animal without wearing disposable gloves or using a plastic barrier.
• Do daily "tick checks" on yourself, your children and your pets.
• Wash your hands after gardening or working in soil where pets may have relieved themselves.
• Ask your veterinarian to recommend products that would be best to use in and around the home.

The Best Method to PREVENT & CONTROL FLEAS



Today flea control has never been easier! With the new flea prevention and control products that have recently come on the market there is no reason why fleas need bother your home and your pets. As with any disease, PREVENTION is more desirable than a rigorous treatment program. Fleas have been on the earth for over 100 million years and have great reproductive capacity. In fact, one adult female flea can lay 40 eggs per day. In just a matter of weeks you can have a serious flea infestation. Fleas can transmit a number of diseases, including the dreaded tapeworm. Flea saliva has been called one of the most irritating substances known to man. Many dogs and cats are allergic to it and it represents the most common allergic disease among pets. Ticks are also a problem in our area and can carry many diseases including Lyme disease and other rickettsial diseases.

There are many excellent products available to help keep your pet safe from these parasites and we can help you choose what is best for your pet and environment. The many different products can be confusing, so we will try to highlight

the commonly used products. Beware of products that are packaged to mimic the products sold by veterinarians.

Flea Control Products Available at North End Pet Hospital

ADVANTAGE® is an adulticide, which means it kills the adult flea and keeps them off of your pet for a full month. It is applied topically and is not absorbed into your pet's body, making it very safe.

PROGRAM® is a once a month tablet that acts like birth control for fleas. PROGRAM® is not an insecticide that kills the adult flea, but the mode of action actually prevents the flea egg from hatching. PROGRAM® has no warnings or contraindications typically found on traditional insecticide products.

SENTINEL® is a once a month tablet that will control certain intestinal parasites, fleas, and heartworm.

REVOLUTION® is a once a month topical that will control certain intestinal parasites, fleas, ear mites and heartworm.

Featured Article: CHILDREN AND PET LOSS



telling a young child that their pet has "gone to sleep" and won't wake up might lead the child to start fearing that they too will not wake up when they go to bed. Another important thing to keep in mind is to try and include everyone in the family in any decisions. Excluding a child will only add to their sense of powerlessness. If it is your family's shared decision, then you can share your grief as well.

death. They should be reassured that this is not true, or else they may start to believe that anger towards family members or friends would have the same effect. At this age, a few short conversations might be more helpful than a long discussion or two.

Age Ten and Over

By this age children have developed the mental and emotional capacity to understand that death is natural, inevitable and universal. They will often grieve like an adult. Watch out for teenagers, though. Because their lives are awash with excess emotion, you may have to give them the level of assurance and support as you would a young child.

Under Five Years Old

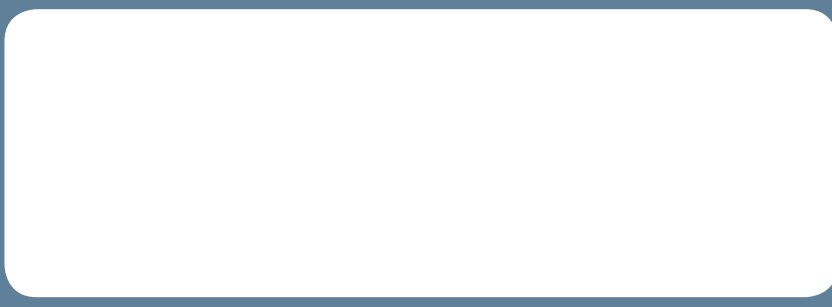
Very young children do not realize that death is permanent. Tell them that their pet has died and will not return. These children will sense stress in the household and will need to be reassured that they didn't do anything to cause their pet's absence. Try to keep normal routines.

Ages Five to Nine

These children understand the concept of death, but not the finality of it. They realize their pet will not return, but may believe that their pet exists somewhere else, for example, underground living and playing. Cartoons might suggest to them that there is a return from death. These children might feel that any anger they may have had toward the pet made them responsible for the pet's

Pet loss is an experience every family goes through; whether it is the sudden traumatic death of a pet due to an accident, or the decision to euthanize a pet after treatment options have been exhausted. Understanding the grief process in our children can help us to help them learn and heal.

In adults, the progression through grief follows the typical path of denial, sadness, depression, guilt, anger, and finally, acceptance. Showing your own grief in front of your child is healthy. Children at various ages deal with grief differently. With all ages, it is very important to be honest. Use the words "death", "dead" and "dying". Telling false stories can diminish the power of this important life lesson, and lead to unintended consequences. For example,



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A Pet Health Newsletter From Your Veterinarian





pictured left to right: Dr. Nancy Vollmar, Dr. Eric Dudley, Dr. Anthony Brown

## Staff News: WELCOME DR. BROWN!

This past March, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Anthony Brown to our practice as a full-time associate veterinarian. He joins Nancy Vollmar (associate since 2003) and Dr. Eric. Dudley (practice owner since 1991).

Dr. Brown is a 2004 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. He has lived and practiced in Olympia (his hometown) since graduation. His family includes his wife Nicole, their two young daughters Gillian and Isobel, and their beagle Nina.

Please help us welcome Dr. Brown and his family to our practice and to Tacoma!



# Veterinary Medicine SPOTLIGHT

A Pet Health Newsletter From Your Veterinarian

## Medical Alert: HEAT STROKE

Heat stroke is a term commonly used for hyperthermia or elevated body temperature.

If a pet's body temperature exceeds 103°F, it is considered abnormal or hyperthermic. **Above 105°F it is a pet medical emergency.** The critical temperature, where multiple organ failure and impending death occurs, is 109°F.

Flat faced dogs who have a restricted airway such as pugs, boxers and bulldogs are at greater risk for heat stroke. **The most common cause of heat stroke is leaving a dog in a car with inadequate ventilation.** Other common causes of heat stroke include being left in a yard without access to shade or water on a hot day, excessive or vigorous exercise during hot temperatures. Excited or excessively exercised dogs are sometimes at risk even if the environmental temperature and humidity does not appear hot. This is particularly true if they are kept in a poorly ventilated environment. In any of these environmental conditions a dog's body temperature can elevate very rapidly. In a car it can happen within minutes. Even on a mild day (75°-80°F), the temperature inside a car can rise up to 130°F quickly! Leaving a window slightly open **WILL NOT** prevent heat build-up. Dogs cannot control their body temperature by sweating as humans do. Their primary way of regulating body heat is by panting. Normal body temperature for a dog is less than 102° F, but once the temperature exceeds 105° F the situation becomes very serious. If the temperature exceeds 108° F, cellular damage starts to occur in the kidneys, liver, gastrointestinal tract, heart and brain.



## News and Notes: FDA APPROVES NEW DOG OBESITY DRUG

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced the approval of Slentrol™ (dirlotapide), a prescription drug for the management of obesity in dogs from Pfizer Animal Health. Slentrol reduces appetite and fat absorption to produce weight loss. Your veterinarian will determine whether the dog should be treated, based on the dog's weight and general health.

Stephen Sundlof, D.V.M., Ph.D., director of FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, said Slentrol is a "welcome addition to animal therapies, because dog obesity appears to be increasing."

Most dog owners don't realize their pet is overweight. Surveys have found that approximately

5% of dogs in the United States are obese, and another 20% to 30% are overweight.

Slentrol is given to the dog in varying amounts over the course of the treatment. The dog is given an initial dose for the first 14 days. After that, veterinarians are advised to assess the dog's progress at monthly intervals, adjusting the dose commensurately.

After the dog has achieved the goal weight, the drug's manufacturer recommends continued use of the drug during a three-month period, while the veterinarian and dog owner establish the optimal level of food intake and physical activity needed to maintain the dog's weight.

**Heat stroke is an immediate medical emergency.** Safe, controlled reduction of body temperature is required. Cool water may be poured over the head, stomach, underarms and feet and then quickly follow up with professional veterinary care.

## Hospital News: ULTRASOUND

Ultrasound, long used in human medicine, is a high-tech diagnostic tool that is increasingly found in advanced care veterinary hospitals like **North End Pet Hospital.** Veterinarians are using ultrasound as a complementary tool to x-rays. It offers tremendous information about soft tissue diagnostics. It enables a veterinarian to actually look inside a pet's internal organs to view more detailed images – **the actual internal architecture of many organs.** Ultrasound takes veterinary diagnostics to a new level. With x-rays a veterinarian could see the size and shape of the heart. With ultrasound a veterinarian can now see inside the heart, see the valves and measure the thickness of the walls of the heart. It's the same with the liver, kidneys and other organs. Abnormalities, which were undetectable with radiography, such as nodules, cancer masses, cysts and abscesses, can now be seen and treated.

Ultrasound is mainly used as a diagnostic tool for organs. It is not used for diseases of the bone or muscle. The typical ultrasound examination is painless, requires no tranquilization or anesthesia and is easily performed on awake animals because there is no entry into the body. Ultrasound works by sending sound waves through tissue and recording the waves as they are reflected back. During an ultrasound exam a computer interprets the pattern of sound reflection and creates a still or a moving image on a monitor.

**The benefits to pets of ultrasound diagnostics are enormous.** Ultrasound is used to diagnose a variety of diseases such as the presence of stones within the urinary bladder, kidneys or gall bladder, infection of the gall bladder, urinary bladder, prostate or kidneys, the presence of enlarged lymph nodes, abnormal blood vessels, or free fluid within the abdomen. It is especially good in diagnosing disease of the pancreas, adrenal abnormalities, urinary bladder wall tumors, uterine infections.

Ultrasound equipment requires an investment of \$30,000 to \$250,000, depending on its complexity. The investment can make performing ultrasound more expensive than doing an X-ray, but the expense can be more than offset by reduced costs for surgery and other forms of care.



## Insect Bites & Stings

Cats and dogs get bitten by bugs all the time. Because of their nose-first exploring, dogs will often get bitten on and around their head. Cats will spot something and want to play with it, more often getting bitten on their paws. Most bites go unnoticed except for maybe a bit of scratching. The worry comes when the bite is either poisonous or your pet has an allergic reaction. Younger animals,

area and keep your pet inactive or restrained. These measures will help slow the spread of the poison, and seek emergency veterinary care immediately.

### Allergic reactions

The most severe allergic reaction an animal can have to an insect bite is to go into anaphylactic shock. This is a body-wide response that can include swelling, hives and breathing problems. Your pet needs urgent veterinary attention. A less severe allergic reaction would be local swelling and irritation at the site of the bite. If the insect bite results in swelling on their face, head or neck, then this could cause serious breathing problems, and you should contact your vet, or you may have to make a trip to the veterinary emergency hospital. If this happens on your pet's body or a leg, it's usually not serious. Remove the stinger with tweezers if you can, and wash the area. You can give your pet some relief from the swelling and itching with Benadryl® (0.5-2mg/lb every 8 hours for both cats and dogs). If your pet still shows signs of swelling and pain 24 hours later, you should contact your veterinarian.



bites. You should pay attention to a bite or a sting if the area around it appears to be very painful and becomes red, swollen and hot to the touch.

### Poisonous bites

In the United States there are two insects bites of concern: the spider and the scorpion. There are only two types of poisonous spiders in the United States – the Black Widow and the Brown Recluse. Scorpions are also a concern, but while not all scorpions are considered deadly venomous, their sting should be taken seriously. Signs of poisoning include drooling, difficulty breathing, muscle tremors, vomiting, loss of bladder or bowel control and paralysis. If you suspect a poisonous bite, apply an ice pack to the bitten

There's all sorts of fun stuff to play with out in the world, but sometimes the fun stuff bites back. Your care and attention will help your pet get over their discomfort. But when it's serious or when in doubt, call our office for professional advise.