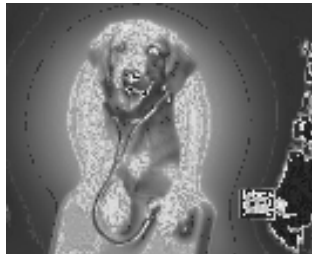


Staff News...

- Congratulations to Dr. Mary Arpaia and husband Joe on the birth of their daughter in August. Dr. Arpaia will be returning in January 2009.
- McKenzie Animal Hospital will be sending 8 team members to the Wild West Veterinary Conference, October 14-19th. Team members will be attending continuing education courses on the latest information in the veterinary field.
- Many thanks to all the individuals and groups that helped make the Pet Family Fair a success. Your support helped makes this event a great success.

National Pet Wellness Month



October is recognized as National Pet Wellness Month. This month we want to stress the importance of having good preventative care for your pets. There are several things you, as a pet owner, can do to help your pet live a long, healthy and happy life.

Nationwide, veterinarians are making the change to twice annual exams and annual blood work for pets. Because pets age so rapidly, major health changes can occur

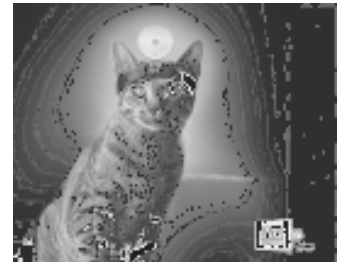
in a short time and may not show signs that an owner would see. Because today's pets are living longer than ever, chances are higher that many will experience a potentially serious illness during their lifetime.

Wellness exams can help your veterinarian diagnose, treat, and/or even prevent problems before they become life-threatening. They're also a great opportunity to ask your veterinarian about nutrition, behavior, and other concerns.

Just as with humans, vaccinations are one of the best ways to protect you pet from infectious diseases. Your pet's risk factors will determine which vaccinations are

needed. With your input, your veterinarian can recommend a vaccination plan for your pet based on its health and risk of exposure.

The bottom line? Taking your dog or cat to the veterinarian once a year is the same as seeing your own doctor just once every seven years! You wouldn't wait seven years to see your doctor or dentist for a check up. So bring your best friend to the veterinarian every 6 months to gain the benefits of wellness exams .



At age 4, your cat's equivalent in human years is already 45!



Salmon Disease or "Poisoning"

In the Willamette Valley, fish of the salmonid species (salmon, trout and steelhead), carry a parasite that infects dogs. This fluke or "flatworm" carries a rickettsial agent that infects the dog. There is a 50% chance of contracting the disease when

a dog eats any portion of one of these fish that have swum in fresh water streams. Signs include loss of appetite, fever, rapid weight loss and if untreated lead to vomiting, diarrhea, profound dehydration and death in 80% of untreated cases.

- Keep all uncooked fish away from dogs
- Early treatment for salmon poisoning is effective and lifesaving.
- Dogs that recover from Salmon Poisoning are 95% protected from future infection.



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Fall Holiday safety tips...

- Repeatedly opening doors for trick-or-treaters can increase the risk of your pets running out. Keep pets in a safe, secure area away from open doors.
- **Chocolate** - can be harmful to your pet, potentially resulting in poisoning or even pancreatic inflammation from the high fat concentration.
- **Bones** - Cooked turkey, chicken, and other small animal bones can splinter easily and can cause serious internal damage if swallowed. Large bones can fracture teeth.
- **Xylitol**— Sugarless candy or gum sweetened with Xylitol is poisonous and should be kept away from pets.



Employee of the Quarter...



Nicky has worked her way up from an entry level assistant position to a valued Certified Veterinary Technician. She has increased her skills and pursue continuing education while working full-time and raising her son, Tristan. Nicky has elevated the level of patient care and is attentive, gentle and caring with all her patients.

Nicky has two cats, Drake and Theodore. Her areas of interest include dentistry, and patient nursing care. Nicky is also a talented artist and has been commissioned for pet portraits using graphite, charcoal, and watercolor mediums. Nicky also uses her amazing artistic talent here in the hospital, painting our windows for dental month and helping with the display in the reception area. We are proud to have Nicky on our team and to represent us as employee of the quarter. Thank you Nicky for all your hard work and the 11 years you have dedicated to McKenzie Animal Hospital!

Importance of Behavioral Wellness by Carly Fryer

Behavioral wellness for cats and dogs is as important as physical wellness and leads to a long lasting and happy relationship with your dog. Behavioral wellness is a term used to describe how pets that live in human company should act and behave. They shouldn't be stressed by the demands we put on them.

How do you know if your pet is behaviorally well?

Dogs and cats will be friendly toward people they meet (including well behaved children), they will get along with other dogs and cats, they can be left alone for a reasonable time without becoming anxious or destructive, they will readily give up food, toys and other objects, and are relaxed during owner handling and grooming. Dogs and cats will also calm down quickly after being startled or getting excited, both will adapt well to

changes, such as travel or confinements in a carrier, and dog will respond when told sit, stay or down. And finally, a behaviorally well dog and cat will be affectionate without being needy, clingy or annoying, and will regularly relieve themselves where we choose (usually a litterbox or outside for dogs).

Pets are asked to live in harmony with humans and this doesn't come naturally to pets. It is our responsibility to help alleviate anxiety by being calm, having reasonable expectations for your pets behavior, and communicating effectively to them. When humans ask pets to act like humans we create more behavior problems. We, as humans, need to communicate as pets do. An example of this is when asking a dog to sit, if the pet doesn't sit immediately we get frustrated and raise the volume of our voice. To the dog we are showing

signs of stress and anxiety therefore the pet will slow down their movements to calm the human down, causing more frustration for the human. As you can see this can create anxiety for both pet and owner.

These miscommunications occur everyday and are easily preventable. For more information on this subject please contact Client Care Coordinator Carly with your questions.



