

ANIMAL HEALTH CLINIC NEWS

EXPERIENCE • CARING • KNOWLEDGE • TECHNOLOGY

AHC EXTERIOR GETS A MAKEOVER

We want to thank all of our clients that have been in recently for putting up with construction! Our landlord decided to redo our roof and façade. The replacement of the 30 year old roof and façade was much needed and we are happy with the fresh new look. This project is close to completion and we hope to soon have a nice, quiet and clutter free parking lot and entry way.

DENTAL PREVENTATIVE FOR OUR PETS

Preventative dental care for our pets' teeth is as important as yearly wellness visits and vaccines. As the tartar builds-up on Fido's teeth, bacteria collects on the surface and will cause inflammation of the gumline, gingival recession and eventually loose and infected teeth. The bacteria in that tartar will also get into the bloodstream and affect the health of your pet's heart, liver and kidneys.

Some very basic preventative dental care steps are to feed your pet a dry food daily to help scrape off any tartar build-up. Also, you can supply chew toys for both enjoyment and again to aid the health of the teeth. Veterinary dentists recommend training your pet as a puppy or kitty to get use to having their teeth brushed. You will need to use a specially formulated pet tooth-paste and clean the teeth daily for optimal outcome. Of course, you CAN teach an older pet to accept brushing of the teeth so it is never too late to start!

Eventually, due to advanced age and the individual genetics of each pet, enough tartar and plaque will build up no matter what preventative steps are taken. At that time your veterinarian will recommend a dental cleaning while under anesthesia. This allows the veterinarian to remove all the plaque, assess the health of the teeth, and remove any loose or infected teeth.

February is Pet Dental Health month. Call now for an appointment to assess your pet's dental health or schedule that dental cleaning your veterinarian has recommended.

Dr. Kelly Hause

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HAPPY TRAILS DR. MAHLEN

To those whom I have met and those who I have not had the privilege of meeting, I want to thank you all for allowing me to have a small window into your family and be a part of your pets' care. Over the last 2 years, I have been blessed to have met some awesome individuals who have the same love and compassion for animals as myself. With many of you, I have both celebrated life and health as well as shed a tear when those we love pass on.

Through the years, my heart has been touched by each individual which is why deciding to resign from my full time position at Animal Health Clinic was very difficult. What my future holds is not known, but the one thing that is for sure is that you will all continue to be taken great care of by the associates and staff at Animal Health Clinic. You all hold a special place in my heart and I will cherish the memories and friends I have made.

~Until we meet again, Heather Mahlen D.V.M.



PET CANER PRIMER

Why are more of our pets getting cancer?

As the canine and feline population ages and health care is improved, improvements in diagnosis and treatment give the impression of increased cancer incidence in dogs and cats, but there is not a lot of data to support this perceived observation.

What tests or procedures do you use to screen for cancer?

True cancer screening programs have not been consistently evaluated in canine or feline patients. Routine blood work and possibly radiographs [X-rays] can be used to screen for early cancers before patients become clinical [show symptoms]. These tests can also be used to monitor for heart, kidney and liver disease. Routine dental exams and cleanings have facilitated prompt diagnosis and referral of patients with oral cancer.

When is the right time to have those lumps and bumps checked out?

Any lump should be evaluated. Although the vast majority of these lesions are benign sebaceous cysts, papillomas or lipomas, there is little way for an owner to distinguish these from more sinister malignant tumors without an aspiration or biopsy.

If the tumor is benign, why should I worry about it?

Even some of the benign tumors may need to be removed if they become infected or ulcerated or if they are causing problems for the patient. Careful observation can be considered for many benign tumors, but this is not a good approach for malignancies.

What You Can Do to Protect Your Pet

Identifying cancer early and treating it immediately greatly increase the chance of a full recovery. Here are a few tips for keeping your pet in good health and detecting subtle signs of illness.

- Don't smoke around your pet
- Spay or neuter your pet early
- Feed high-quality, nutritious food
- Keep your pet at a healthy weight
- Go green — use nontoxic cleaners when possible
- Make a map of lumps and growths and note any changes in size or appearance
- When brushing your pet's teeth, check for oral tumors
- Watch for changes in eating and bowel habits
- Schedule regular veterinary exams

DID YOU KNOW? FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR PETS

- Dogs have about 100 different facial expressions, most of them made with the ears.
- Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.
- To survive, every bird must eat at least half its own weight in food each day.
- Many hamsters only blink one eye at a time.
- Iguanas are able to hold their breath for up to 30 minutes.
- Ferrets are currently the third most popular pet in the US. There are an estimated eight to ten million ferrets kept as pets in the United States.
- A goldfish can live up to 40 years.
- A pack of kittens is called a kindle, while a pack of adult cats is called a clowder.
- Contrary to popular belief, dogs aren't color blind; they can see shades of blue, yellow, green and gray. The color red registers on a grayscale in a dog's vision.
- A cat can jump as much as seven times its height.
- Dalmatians are born spotless: at first pure white, their spots develop as they age.





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Appointment Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30am-5:30pm

Saturday 9am-12pm

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CONGRATULATIONS BECKY!

Congrats go out to our very own Becky, LVT and her husband on the birth of their son, Owen. Owen was born December 21st. This is baby boy number two for the couple. Big brother Eli is so happy to have a playmate!



AHC SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE- JEN, LVT

Jen is our Employee Spotlight for this edition of AHC News. She is a Licensed Veterinary Technician, graduating with a BS from the NDSU Veterinary Technology Program in 1997. In April of 1997, AHC was lucky enough to add Jen to our hard working, animal loving staff. Jen and her husband live in Fargo with their three dogs. Jen enjoys spending time with her family and friends, pets, craft fairs and last but not least the Green Bay Packers. Fellow technician Lisa says, "Jen is a great LVT and a hard worker. She brings a ton of knowledge to her job. She is great with pets and their owners. She is passionate about veterinary medicine and is a definite asset to our team." We salute you Jen!

