

San Antonio Tail Mail

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
SAN ANTONIO
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Parvo Virus Kills!
- Mac's Mews
- Beware Of Identity Theft

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Parvo Virus Kills! Is Your Pet Protected?

One of the most deadly viral diseases in dogs, especially puppies, is canine parvovirus, or parvo.

Parvo is highly contagious and is passed to other dogs through feces. It is resistant to temperature and weather changes (freezing actually protects the virus), so it can survive in the environment and on objects — shoes (or paws), grass, dog bedding and kennels, leashes, and even people — for a long time.

Dogs are often exposed to parvo at dog parks or other places where dogs congregate. Unnoticeable, trace amounts of

feces carrying the virus can be brought into your home by your dog, other pets, and people, as well as on your dog's tennis ball or Frisbee. Your pup can become infected by chewing on, licking, or eating a contaminated object.

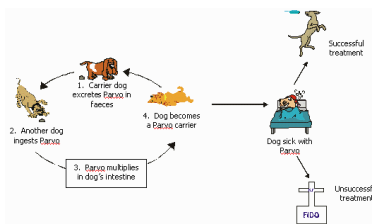
Only 20% of infected dogs develop the disease, but the consequences can be swift and dire. If your pet has any of the following symptoms, contact your veterinarian right away:

vomiting, severe bloody diarrhea, depression or lethargy, or loss of appetite.

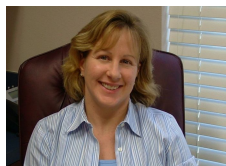
Vomiting and diarrhea can quickly lead to dehydration, and puppies especially have a hard time surviving. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, parvovirus deaths usually occur 48 to 72 hours after symptoms first appear.

Because parvo is so contagious and can be fatal, if your dog is infected, she will probably be hospitalized and will need to be isolated from other animals.

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A Message From Dr. Mattox



Quite often I'm asked a question by new pet owners. "How do I know when I need to bring my pet to the vet if he/she's sick?" I've compiled a list to help people know when

it's important to make the trip to see myself or Dr. Hooks. Those signs include: vomiting, diarrhea, unintended weight loss, change in appetite, limping, crying in pain when touched, disoriented behavior, seizures, difficult or labored breathing, excessive drooling, straining in the litter box without producing

urine (cats), crying when urinating, bloated abdomen, sneezing excessively, nose-bleed, unusual odors, hair loss, runny eyes or nose, squinting, change in urination (location, frequency, amount, color, smell), any blue, purple or pale hue to the tongue and gums.

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Parvo Virus Kills! (continued from page 1)



Canine Parvo Virus

Treatment focuses on controlling vomiting and diarrhea and administering

intravenous fluids to keep the pet hydrated. Some dogs also need plasma or blood transfusions. The treatment can be very hard on the dog and there is no guarantee of success.

Don't Panic, Vaccinate

If your pet is properly vaccinated, there is usually no need for worry. San Antonio Animal Hospital recommends that puppies receive vaccinations starting at about 6 weeks and they should be "boosted" every 3 weeks until they're 4 months old. Your dog will need a booster one year later and then once every three years after that. Unvaccinated dogs older than 16 weeks should receive two doses of the vaccine three or four weeks apart.



Protect your dog against Parvo!

A Message From Dr. Mattox (cont'd from page 1)

Some of these symptoms may be the result of minor, easily diagnosed and treated illnesses. However, some major illnesses can present in ways that may not appear serious to the untrained eye.

Always take changes in your pet's appearance and behavior seriously. When in doubt, call us and we'll help you determine what the next step should be.



Beware Of Snakes!!

It's that time of year when snakes become more active and that puts your pets at risk.

Most snake bites occur on the face and fore limbs of pets. Use caution while enjoying our great weather!



Poisonous Substances — Avocado



The avocado is a tasty treat grown right here in Florida.

While we enjoy them in salads and guacamole, sharing them with our cats and dogs can be dangerous.

Clinical symptoms of avocado ingestion include vomiting and diarrhea which can lead to dehydration if left untreated.

Contact your veterinarian if you suspect your pet has ingested avocado.

(information provided by the ASPCA)



If you suspect your pet has ingested a dangerous substance, contact your veterinarian immediately!

Mac's Mews.....



Mac

It's been pointed out by my human friends, that lately I've put on a few pounds. I've noticed that humans

tend to gain a little weight over the winter months and I guess I'm no different. I've learned that by being just 2 pounds overweight, I'm at risk for developing some

serious medical conditions. When a cat is overweight or obese, it's not a question of if it will develop a related illness, but rather how many and how soon. Some of the common disorders associated with excess weight include: Type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis, heart disease, high blood pressure and many forms of cancer, including intra-abdominal cancers.



The good news is that the veterinarians here at San Antonio Animal Hospital are helping me to get my body ready for summer!

If you think your cat is getting a little pudgy around the middle, ask one of our veterinarians for help. They can recommend a feeding program by calculating the calories your cat needs. After your veterinarian determines how much your cat should eat,



the next step is deciding what it should eat and how often.

By taking an active role in your cat's health, you can extend the number of years you'll have your furry friend.

Until next month...

Mac

BEWARE OF IDENTITY THEFT

You never know when someone might be trying to assume your identity,



or weasel their way into your family.



Use caution at all times to protect yourself from someone, or something, trying to impersonate you!



Take the time to warn your family and friends.



Just For Fun



HAPPY EASTER!

WHAT MATTERS MOST IS HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF.



Adoptable Pets



This 3 month old neutered male domestic shorthair cat is very loving.

\$50 adoption fee includes initial vaccinations, spay/neuter and micro-chipping.

Applications available at our reception desk.

ACCREDITED PRACTICE



San Antonio
Animal Hospital
PO Box 237
San Antonio FL 33576

Visit our website:
www.sanantoniovets.com