

San Antonio Tail Mail

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
SAN ANTONIO
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Beware of Skunks
- Mac's Mews
- Do's & Don'ts Pet Care

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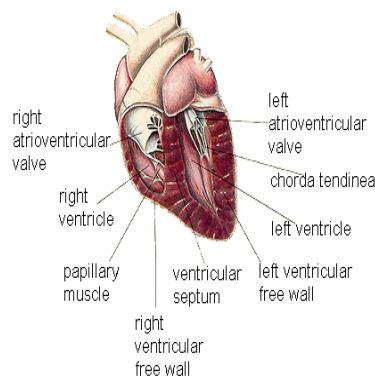
The Heart Of The Matter

Did you know that the heart is the most vital muscle in the body?

The key function of the heart is to pump de-oxygenated blood to the lungs where it is re-oxygenated and pump re-oxygenated blood back to the tissues of the body—delivering oxygen and nutrients for life. While most of us take all of this process for granted, heart disease is surprisingly common in about 10% of older pets.

Any loss of normal heart function is called heart disease. This can be gradual

or sudden in onset. There are many causes of heart disease, but the two most common are problems



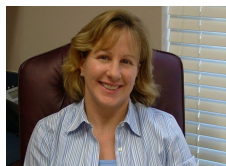
with the heart valve or with the heart muscle itself.

Heart disease is usually

associated with a range of symptoms including:
Reluctance to exercise
Tiring more easily
Coughing
Labored breathing
Pale or bluish gums
Fainting or collapse

If you are concerned that your pet is showing any of these signs, please come and see us for a full examination. As with many disease, early detection is the "golden rule". The good news is that new methods of diagnosis and novel forms of treatment are transforming the lives of pets with heart disease!

A Message From Dr. Mattox



In this difficult economy, we're all looking for a bargain. Hill's Pet Nutrition is encouraging owners to help their pet shape up and

get fit. At your next visit, ask myself or Dr. Hooks if your pet should be in better shape. We'll be happy to make some lifestyle change recommendations and perhaps suggest an alternative diet to help you help your pet. Visit Hill's Pet Nutrition at the link below and receive an \$8.00

off coupon good towards your next purchase of Hill's pet food.
www.petfit.com/Petfit/member/preRegistration.



Do's & Don'ts In A Down Economy



The slumping economy has impacted pet owners everywhere. Here are some do's and don'ts to help you provide the best possible care during this financially troubling time.

- 1) Do go online and look for rebates or coupons from the companies you buy food and medicine products.
- 2) Do consider purchasing larger quantities to save money
- 3) Do schedule your pet's visit to be as comprehensive as possible rather than many short visits.
- 4) Do seek healthcare in a timely manner. What may not be affordable now could be much more costly later if care is put off.
- 5) Do feed your pet quality pet

long term. Companies offer buy "6 get one free" deals on products such as Frontline Plus.

food. Feeding table scraps as a way to save money can cause a multitude of health problems including vomiting, diarrhea and weight issues.

- 6) Do keep you pet indoors to minimize the potential for injury, attack, illness, poisoning or accidents. This may not only save you money but your pet's life as well.

(continued on page 3)

When Your Pet Has Trouble With A Skunk

The return of warm weather invites skunks and their terrible-smelling spray to roam cities and small towns alike.

The furry, black and white animals can be a curiosity magnet for a dog or cat. Their appearance alone can present an irresistible opportunity for close-up inspection.

Keep a close watch on your pets to avoid an encounter that could require your veterinarian's attention. A skunk's spray is irritating—check your pet's eyes and ears for inflammation or signs of irritation, use cool clean water to immediately rinse as necessary.

Call your veterinarian to determine whether professional care is

needed and to be sure your pet's rabies vaccination is up to date. Ask your veterinarian for a home remedy to remove the odor from your pet.

Information provided by Hill's Pet Nutrition.



Dangerous Substances — Begonia



Begonia's are a hardy, easy to care for plant that thrive in our gardens each summer. Pet owners

need to be aware that Begonia's can be toxic to pets.

Symptoms include: oral irritation, intense burning of lips, mouth & tongue, excessive drooling, vomiting and difficulty swallowing.

The tubers are the most toxic.

Keep your pets safe by limiting access to your garden areas and the entire family can enjoy the summer months.

(information provided by the ASPCA)

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

Mac's Mews.....



Mac

One of the first tricks I hear that puppies learn is to play fetch. Some humans don't

realize how much cats like me like to play as well. It's also a great way for me to keep my weight down and stay fit. Some simple ways to entertain

the cats in your household include:

Bathtub ping pong—place your cat in a clean, dry bathtub and bounce a ping pong ball. Your cat will have loads of fun chasing the ever moving, bouncing ball.



Bottles of bubbles—buy bottles of bubble solution in the toy department

and watch your cat try to chase, catch and pop the bubbles.

Simple toys you can make at home will entertain your cat for hours. Crumple up a piece of paper and watch Fluffy bat it around the house. Put an



open paper (not plastic bag) on the floor and give your kitty a great hiding spot to pounce on

unsuspecting people passing by.

Watching your cat play with his/her toys can be as relaxing and enjoyable for you as it is for him!

Until next month...

Mac

Do's & Don'ts (continued from page 2)

- 1) Don't cut costs on medications or let doses lapse. This includes splitting pills or dosages. Active ingredients are not necessarily evenly distributed throughout a pill.
- 2) Be wary of purchasing medications online or in feed stores. There have been reports of copycat medications that are not FDA labeled.
- 3) Don't store and give vaccines at home unless instructed by your veterinarian. Improper storage and refrigeration can cause greater harm if not administered properly.
- 4) Don't skip basic medical and diagnostic care including vaccines and pest control. Keeping your pet current on vaccinations care prevent serious and costly illnesses.



Remember, preventative care is always more cost effective than treatment.



Just For Fun

MCHUMOR.com by T. McCracken



There are two kinds of fur:
dark fur that sheds on light clothes,
and light fur that sheds on dark clothes.

Adoptable Pets



Although we don't have any pets available for adoption at this time, there's never a shortage of animals needing forever homes at our local, county shelter.

Visit Pasco County Animal Services at 19640 Dogpatch Lane, Land O'Lakes FL .
(813) 929-1212.

These are pets that were recently available for adoption.



ACCREDITED PRACTICE



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Visit our website:
www.sanantoniiovets.com