

San Antonio TailMail

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SAN ANTONIO
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

APRIL 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- National Pet First Aid Awareness Month
- The Complete Physical Exam

**30% off K-9
heartworm
testing**

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'Tis The Season For Sneezing



Spring is here and many of us have to stock up on Zyrtec to make it through this season.

It's a little harder for dogs and cats with environmental allergies to avoid the elements. Here are some tips to help keep hot spots and other problems at bay during allergy season.

Watch for allergy symptoms.

Itchy pets are hard to ignore.

Owners frequently tell us that their pets keep them up all night scratching and

chewing at themselves. Allergy symptoms in dogs can include excessive licking, redness ("hot spots") or hair loss.

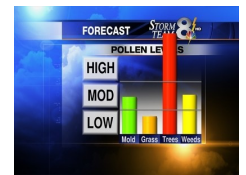
Cats with allergies will typically show signs of hair loss and have scabs or open sores. Discharge in a cat's ears and excessive scratching are also common symptoms.



Monitor the pollen count.

Allergy season for dogs and cats can mirror that of humans, so bookmark the

pollen forecast in your area and monitor



your pets for symptoms.

After tiptoeing through the tulips, wipe your dog's paws with a cool towel to remove pollen residue. Also, help all the animals (and humans) in your house and avoid tracking pollen into the house by removing your shoes at the door.

(continued on page 2)

A Message From Dr. Mattox



Well, we finally did it. San Antonio Animal Hospital is now on Facebook! Check it out and if you "like" us you'll receive weekly updates on discounts, special promotions,

adoptable pets, pet food recalls, new products and other important tidbits. Please share information with us about your special pets and positive experiences you may have had at the hospital. On the other hand, if you ever have any concerns, please feel free to contact myself or our hospital

manager, Becky and we will be happy to assist you.

We exist because of the faith our clients have in our hospital and staff and we're willing to work hard to continue to earn your support.

Why Check My Ears? My Leg Hurts!

Have you ever gone to the doctor and realized after the visit that those healing hands never actually touched your body? C'mon now, that's not OK! Nor is it OK for your vet to skimp when it comes to examining your pet.

In veterinary school, vets are taught to perform a *thorough* physical exam on every patient. It would be a travesty to miss a new heart murmur or enlarged lymph node on a patient that presented for limping. The following is a list of the elements of a complete physical exam.

Remember, it may only take a minute or two for a seasoned vet to complete the following.



- Assessment of overall alertness & appearance
- Evaluation of gait, skin & haircoat
- Measurement of weight, temperature, heart & respiration rate
- Exam of the eyes, ears, nose & oral cavity
- Palpation of lymph nodes
- Palpation of thyroid gland (on cats)
- Listening with a stethoscope to both sides of the chest
- Palpation of the abdomen

- Rectal exam for dogs that are middle aged or older

Vets perform physical exams differently in terms of order of events. As long as everything is included, the order in which it is performed does not matter in the least. Please remember, thorough physical exams are not limited to your annual office visit.

If your kitty is vomiting or your dog has an ear infection, you can still expect the veterinarian to perform a complete physical.

San Antonio Animal Hospital is proud of the fact that we provide complete and thorough care for your pet. Please feel free to ask any of our vets to explain their findings throughout the examination.

'Tis The Season For Sneezing (continued from page 1)

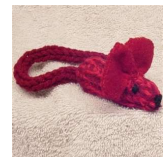
Don't ignore household allergens.

The most common environmental allergen is not a pollen but dust mites and house dust. Do what you can to reduce the amount of dust in your home by vacuuming carpets well.

Focus on your pet's favorite spots in the house such as under beds and near windows.

Don't forget to clean window treatments regularly. Frequently washing your pet's bedding with a gentle detergent that is free of dyes or perfumes. When your pet isn't looking,

freeze their plush toys. Freezing these toys

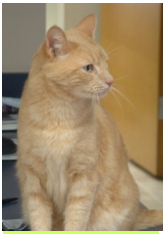


kills dust mites.

Medications are available for seasonal allergies to make your pet more comfortable.

Call your veterinarian to ask questions about your pet's needs.

Mac's Mews.....



Mac

Here are the top 13 signs of an overweight cat.

13. You're retro-fitted with a garage door opener.
12. Confused guests constantly mistake you for a beanbag.
11. You always land on your spleen.
10. There have been fewer calls to the fire department, but there's been an upsurge in broken tree limbs.
9. You've had a 17 month pregnancy and still there are no kittens.
8. You no longer clean yourself unless you're coated in tuna juice.
6. Your cat food dish has been replaced with a trough labeled "lard".
5. Your shiny coat of fur has been replaced by a shiny red polyester pant suit.
4. You wait until the third bowl of food to become finicky.
3. You only catch mice that that get trapped in your gravitational pull.
2. Your bulging gut keeps the hardwood floors nicely buffed.
1. And the number one sign of feline obesity....you have more chins than lives.



Until next month...

Mac

April Is Pet First Aid Awareness Month

Spring is the time when barbeques, picnics and beach trips begin. Although they are lots of fun for the family, including the 4-legged members, be sure to keep these outings safe. Be prepared for possible injuries to your pets and have a first aid kit on hand.

Use a durable, waterproof container large enough to store the following items.

Include bandage material, such as gauze pads, cotton gauze, adhesive tape and masking tape.

Keep a bottle of hydrogen peroxide and anti-bacterial

ointment in the kit.

Be sure to pack a pair of scissors and tweezers.

Store a blanket in the kit to keep your pet warm and to be used as a stretcher to transport your pet if he is unable to walk.

Include the phone number of your local veterinarian, as well as the number of a nearby emergency veterinary hospital.

Pre-packaged pet first aid kits can be ordered online at sites like:

ifirstaidkits.com



Just For Fun



April Special



Save 30% on K-9 heartworm testing with annual examination.

Offer valid 4/1/11 - 4/30/11

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Visit Pasco County's Animal Shelter To Adopt Your Next Pet

Each year, more than 10,000 dogs and cats will end up at the Pasco County Animal Shelter. Some are lost and have no tags to identify them.

Some are strays picked up from the streets. Most are the result of unplanned litters. Eight out of ten of them may never find homes and may have to be put to sleep. These statistics are alarming. The real tragedy is that most of this could be avoided if all pet owners would do two things:

First: Obtain a county license for your pet and put it on your pet. Without tags your pet is just another stray.

Second: Spay or neuter your pet. By doing so, your pet will have a healthier life. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that this simple procedure helped reduce the number of animals that may be euthanized

