

# San Antonio TailMail

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
SAN ANTONIO  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

FEBRUARY 2011

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pets Need Dental Care Too
- A Dog's Dictionary

**\$20 Off  
Dental  
Cleanings**

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## February Is National Pet Dental Health Month



For most of us, caring for our teeth and gums

has been part of our daily routine for as long as we can remember. Just like you, your pet needs dental care, too—regular, professional care from your veterinarian and effective daily home care from you to keep your pet's mouth healthy.

Plaque is a colorless film that contains large amounts of bacteria. If left unchecked, plaque builds up, creating infections, destroying gums

and resulting in the loss of the tissues and bone that support the teeth.

All pets are at risk for developing dental problems. Once your pet displays any of the warning signs below, serious periodontal disease may be present.

- Bad breath
- Yellow brown crust on teeth
- Bleeding gums
- Change of chewing or eating habits
- Tooth loss
- Change in behavior

- Abnormal drooling

Contributing factors to periodontal disease include: poor oral hygiene, breed and age. Ignoring the condition of your pet's mouth can lead to periodontal disease, tooth loss and other serious health problems, such as heart, liver and kidney failure.



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## A Message From Dr. Mattox



Last month I mentioned New Years is when I start planning for the year.

Our first project is starting this week.

We are repainting the interior of the hospital.

It is hard to believe it has

been four years since we repainted the lobby and our treatment area hasn't been painted since we opened. It has held up surprisingly well for seven years of hard use. So please excuse our mess.

Many of you may have noticed that our couches have been replaced and it would appear

that our canine patients are truly enjoying lounging on them while they wait for their appointments.

In a few weeks we will have a beautiful, new look as we head into 2011.

# February Is National Pet Dental Health Month

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Stage 1  
Red, inflamed gums



Stage 2  
Moderate tartar



Stage 3  
Gum recession



Stage 4  
Severe periodontal disease



Periodontal disease is more common in smaller breed dogs and certain breeds of cats.

Periodontal disease is also more common as pets grow older.

Excellent oral care is maintained by daily oral hygiene, whether by brushing or by chewing.

Feeding a dental food, like Hill's T/D, is a great way to ensure healthy



teeth. Inspect your pet's mouth regularly.

Never brush your pet's teeth with human toothpaste!

Specially formulated pet toothpaste is available from your veterinarian or your local pet supply store.



Steps to better oral care include a visit to your veterinarian. Every regular exam in our hospital includes a thorough dental exam. If we find signs of disease, we will recommend a treatment plan including a dental cleaning. This procedure is very much like the teeth cleaning you receive at your dentist's office. The main difference is the need to use anesthesia to be able to clean your pet's teeth.

Plaque should be removed from your pet's teeth every

day before it mineralizes into tartar.

Brushing your pet's teeth or feeding a dental food each day will control plaque buildup. Be sure the dental food you use offers total balanced nutrition for whole health.

Periodontal disease can be prevented in most pets through professional and daily home care.

Start a preventive program of veterinarian-supervised dental care today!

February is National Pet Dental Health month.

Save \$20 on your pet's dental cleaning.

Offer expires 2/28/11.

## Pet Treat Recall

January 28, 2010 - Merrick Pet Care, Inc. of Amarillo, Texas is recalling the Jr. Texas Taffy pet treat because they have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. Pets with Salmonella infections may be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets will

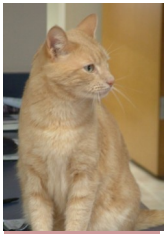
have only decreased appetite, fever and abdominal pain. Infected but otherwise healthy pets can be carriers and infect other animals or humans. If your pet has consumed the recalled product and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian immediately.

## Frontline Clearance

Save 40% on limited quantities of Frontline. Sizes available include: Canine 23-44#, 89-132# and Feline.



# Mac's Mews.....



Mac

Valentine's Day happens this month and it's a day full of flowers and chocolates.

January and February are the waning months of "chocolate season" which starts with Halloween and this is when the ASPCA's Poison

Control Center gets the majority of its 6,000 plus chocolate-related calls.

This year the ASPCA reports two emerging trends. Because Americans are enjoying more dark chocolate, which has a higher level of xanthine compound, pets are sicker than if they ingested milk chocolate.

The other trend

is for calls concerning dogs that get into marijuana brownies or chocolate chip cookies. Evidently, these are popular Christmas gifts.

The side effects of marijuana ingestion include agitation and vomiting. The symptoms can be puzzling because no one wants to admit what the dog got into. Not

knowing what the dog ingested makes treatment a lot more difficult.

This Valentine's Day, be sure to keep your chocolate treats out of reach of the family dog.

Until next month...

*Mac*

## A Dog's Dictionary

**Leash:** A strap that attaches to your collar allowing you to lead your owner wherever you want him / her to go.

**Dog Bed:** Any soft, clean surface, such as a white bed-spread, new couch or dry cleaning that was just picked up.

**Thunder:** A signal the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling, panting, pacing and whining.

**Wastebasket:** A dog toy filled with paper and old

food. To play with it, turn it over and spread the contents from one end of the house to the other.

**Bath:** A process owners use to clean us, drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.



**Love:** The feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. Show it by wagging your tail!

## Just For Fun

### VetToons

by Mark Parisi



## February Special

Dental Cleaning

Save \$20 and receive a free "goody bag"!

Schedule your pet's dental cleaning to be performed between 2/1/11 and 2/28/11 and save \$20.

San Antonio Animal Hospital  
PO Box 237  
San Antonio FL 33576  
(352) 588-2132

*40% Off Frontline  
Call for Details!*

## New Employee Spotlight



Pam McConnell joined our staff in December as a Client Care Specialist.

Pam lives in Dade City with her husband, a horse, a pony and 4 cats. She volunteers with Spay Pasco and enjoys gardening and living in the beautiful rolling hills of East Pasco County.

## Adoptable Pets

Our \$50 adoption fee includes the initial vaccinations, spay / neuter and microchipping.

Adoption applications are available at our reception desk.



This adorable kitten is about 5 months old and is very loving. She gets along

well with other cats and loves to be cuddled!