

# San Antonio TailMail

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
SAN ANTONIO  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

JANUARY 2011

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- January Special
- Doggie DNA Testing

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## Is Your Pet At Risk For Rabies?

Did you ever think that your pet's rabies vaccination wasn't all that important? Do you think that an indoor only cat has no possible exposure to rabies?

Rabies is a deadly form of viral encephalitis that affects the brain and nerves of mammals. It is most often spread through saliva but it



can also be in aerosol droplets that can

be inhaled. Rabies is transmitted primarily through bite wounds. Cats,

skunks, bats, raccoons and foxes are the primary carriers. Cats, dogs and cattle account for most of the rabies cases in domestic animals.

Rabies is fatal to humans! Puppies and kittens are vaccinated between three and four months of age and then again one year later. Rabies vaccines come in either a one year or three year formulation.

Florida law requires that pets are kept current on their rabies vaccinations. We recommend rabies vaccinations

even for those cats that live only indoors, not just to be compliant with the law, but to protect your cat from unwanted visitors. There have been cases where people

have found bats inside their house



that tested positive for rabies.

We've had several clients tell us that they are seeing coyotes coming very close to their homes. Many have reported that they have cats that are missing.

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## A Message From Dr. Mattox

I look at each New Year as a fresh start. It's a time to plan for the coming year, a time to recover from the holidays and a time to try and start the new year off on the right foot. Again!

Part of our hospital mission is to provide preventative healthcare which is very similar to what our human

doctors recommend for us to maintain our health as we grow and age. Our practice was the first in this area (over 7 years ago) to use and recommend three year vaccines and to tailor recommended vaccinations to each animal's risk or potential exposure level. For most animals, vaccinations are very safe and protect against deadly diseases, however animals can

sometimes have reactions.

Regardless of which vaccines are recommended for your pet, it is vitally important that they receive a wellness examination at least once a year. A wellness exam is different than when your pet comes in to address a specific issue,

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## Is Your Pet At Risk For Rabies? (continued from page 1)



Bring your outdoor kitties in at night to keep them safe. Some other tips to keep wildlife away from your home and your pets protected from rabies include: feed your pets indoors.

Leaving food outside often attracts stray dogs, cats and wildlife to your yard. Animal-proof your trash. Make sure your trash lids are locked and don't leave bags of garbage outside the cans.

Prevent wild animals from getting into the house. Prune tree branches that overhang the roof, keep screens in good repair and cover small openings such as chimneys, furnace ducts and eaves. Remember the most important way to protect your pet is to vaccinate against rabies!

## A Message From Dr. Mattox (continued from page 1)

ie: ear infection, itchy skin, coughing, limping, etc. Wellness exams allow us to **focus** on wellness issues to keep your pet healthy so that they have fewer "sick" visits. An examination once a year for an animal is equivalent to humans having an examination **once every seven years!** Obviously, many things about our health can change in seven years. As pets become seniors, we recommend at least twice yearly examinations and more often for our patients that have serious age related health issues.

As most of you know, we recommend that all pets be on monthly parasite control products and the Center for Disease Control recommends that all pets be checked **at least yearly** for internal parasites. The product our hospital

recommends for dogs is Sentinel or Interceptor. Why? Because they are very broad spectrum products and the manufacturer, Novartis, guarantees their products. If you're pet tests positive for hookworms, roundworms, whipworms or heartworms while on their monthly preventative, Novartis will pay for the treatment to eliminate the worms and any necessary follow up tests (heartworm treatment is quite expensive!) The only requirement is that we show them that your pet has been on their preventative year round (purchase records from our hospital) and was negative when the preventative was started (another reason why yearly testing supports your pet's health).

We take our job seriously. When you bring your pet in for an examination, you are hiring our doctors and staff to educate you and make "standard of care" recommendations to keep your pet healthy or to treat an illness or injury. We don't make random or unnecessary recommendations. We know that at times not everyone can afford every recommendation. It is still our job to inform you and then we can work together to develop a plan that does work for you and your pet.

Please don't hesitate to call and speak with a staff member if you have any questions. We are here to serve you and keep your pet happy and healthy!

Happy New Year!

# Mac's Mews.....



Mac

For some reason they never give me any milk around here. I thought milk was good for

cats! Cows milk is not recommended for cats because it can be too rich for their digestive systems. This is because most cats can't digest milk properly because it contains lactose and most cats are lactose

intolerant.

The proteins in cow milk are too large for cats to properly

digest which can cause intestinal upset, diarrhea and vomiting.

Kittens especially can have difficulty digesting milk. A special lactose free milk has been developed and



is now sold at pet food stores which contains the same vitamins as the mother's milk and is gentle on kitten's digestive systems. These specially formulated kitty "milks" do not have cow's milk in them. They are treated with enzyme lactase to break down the milk sugar and make it digestible. Not all cats react badly to milk, but it is better to be on the safe side.

Essential to a cat's health is plenty

of clean water. Change your cat's water dish regularly and keep it within easy reach. Be sure to use a "kitten milk replacement" if you want to treat your cat with milk. Until next month...



*Mac*

## Doggie DNA Testing

Have you ever looked at your adopted dog with its short legs, shaggy hair and brown spot encircling one eye and wondered what dog breeds are in there?

Now that science has decoded the DNA of dogs, science can tell us many things. Harvard and MIT programs unraveled the canine DNA sequence in 2006, which unleashed the potential for useful information.

Two main types of information are gleaned from testing: identifying



what breeds are in a mixed-breed dog and looking for the presence of genetic mutations causing disease.

Now that we know what genes are normally present and in what order, we can compare any dog's genes to that normal. We know the normal order of genes for most of the dog breeds. Scientists have also found that many diseases have a

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## Just For Fun



## January Special

### FELINE REVOLUTION

Purchase a (6) month supply and receive (1) dose free.

(a \$14.85 value)

*Limitations apply.*

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# Doggie DNA Testing

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genetic basis and have found genetic markers for them. Some people want to know what dog breeds are represented in their cross-breed dog. Most want to know just for the fun of it, but there is an advantage to knowing, so you can predict some behaviors or diseases that are prevalent in certain breeds. If your dog has any

Border Collie or Australian Shepherd in it, it will likely need a lot of exercise and not be a good dog for apartment living. If your dog has Boxer in it, you would know to watch for heart disease, lymphoma, and tumors in general. The reports identify which are the major breeds in your dog, and also find the breeds that are represented to a minor

degree. There are 3 major companies performing dog breed identification. We use The Wisdom Panel that can detect the most number of breeds, 157, and is done on a blood sample, so a visit to our office is needed. Whether you test your dog just for fun or to give yourself a heads up on potential disease, DNA testing is an amazing medical breakthrough.

