

# San Antonio TailMail

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SAN ANTONIO  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

JULY 2011

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Doggie Etiquette
- Mac's Mews

Save \$5  
on a  
microchip

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## Hazards of Hairballs

Dirty litterboxes and hairballs probably top most cat owner's lists as the only "yuck" factor of being a cat guardian. Most cat owners know to watch their step when they hear the hacking of their feline friend.

Cats spend hours each day grooming and although this constant grooming makes the coat look good, it can lead to stomach problems. This is particularly true of longhaired cats that respond by leaving little "presents" on the floor.



Cat's tongues are designed to

brush hair out of their coats. The hair is swallowed, but once in the stomach, it's not digested. The only natural way for the cat to get rid of the hairball is by vomiting. Hairballs that don't pass out of a cat's system can block the intestines. There is also the possibility that a hairball being coughed up can block airways.

There are ways to help your cat pass the hairball

through their digestive system.

Most cats with hairball problems respond well to a daily dose of commercially available hairball remedies. Preventive measures can also include feeding a brand of cat food that offers a special formula to prevent hairball accumulation. Regular brushing of your cat will also reduce the amount of hair he ingests while grooming.



## A Message From Dr. Mattox



We are test driving two therapy lasers for the month of July. Lasers can be used to help manage conditions such as arthritis, chronic ear infections, periodontal disease, lick granulomas, intervertebral

disc disease, hip dysplasia and wounds. Most conditions require several treatments over a period of weeks and then pets are transitioned to maintenance treatments once or twice a month. It requires no sedation; the pet will only feel a little warmth in the area where inflammation exists.

If you are interested in receiving FREE laser treatments for your pet (month of July ONLY), please give us a call and we will set up an appointment. During our initial testing phase we are interested in your feedback on any improvements in pain score or healing.

## Doggie Etiquette



We've all heard stories about dogs behaving badly. Those cheeky, hairy rascals just love to lick, jump, bark, fight and sniff at any opportunity. Many owners have differing opinions on what's acceptable when it comes to pooch etiquette, but there are basic rules (and laws) that should be followed.

By law, dogs are not allowed to roam when and where they choose. Pet owners should always keep their dogs on a leash in public places. Even at dog parks, once off leash, dogs tend to

follow its instinct to explore, dig and chase. This can get out of hand especially in an area where children and other dogs are playing. Be sure to exercise caution before allowing Rover to roam freely.

Never take an intact female dog in season into public areas and be sure that your dog's vaccinations are up to date.

It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do

it.....pooper scooping.



Not only is someone likely to step in the mess, the fecal matter harbors diseases

that can endanger other animals. Keep a plastic bag tied to your leash and dispose of it properly.

If you suspect your dog is a tad uncivilized, don't despair! Even if your dog hasn't been taught proper etiquette from an early age, a suitable level of behavior can be achieved with training by a professional.

Call us for a referral to a local trainer to help you tame your wild beast!



## Happy Endings Are Possible

It's always sad to see a flyer stapled to a signpost with a picture of a lost pet.

According to the American Humane Association, only 17% of pets find their way back to their owners from shelters. The way to beat these odds is to use collars, tags and microchips. Although tags are important, they can

fade, rust, scratch and become unreadable. With microchipping, a veterinarian injects a tiny computer chip - about the size of a grain of rice, just under your pet's skin, between the shoulder blades. A number on the microchip is entered into a national database along with your contact

information. The chip can't be lost or damaged and it lasts for the pet's lifetime. The microchip is convenient, safe and reliable. The procedure to implant the chip is simple, routine and it doesn't require anesthesia. Your pet simply gets an

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# Mac's Mews.....



Mac

Dogs accompany you on walks, they guard your house and can even pull a sled. Here's some things that cats do for you that are underappreciated.

They warm your laps.

Help reduce high blood pressure.

Bring the winter air inside, nestled in their fur.

Turn common household items like bottle caps into toys.

Make you more aware of birds.

Donate their services as alarm clocks.

Make a windowsill more beautiful.

Keep mice on the run.

Make your house warmer.

Inspire poets and playwrights.

Let you indulge your desire to really spoil someone.

Remind you that life is mysterious.

Instruct you in the luxurious art of stretching.

Show you how to lick your wounds and

move on.

Make even an old worn couch look beautiful.

Contribute to living a longer life.

Display daring acrobatic feats right in front of your eyes.

And most importantly, they make you smile!

Until next month...

*Mac*

## Fireworks & Fido don't mix!

While many pets are afraid of fireworks, pet owners also need to know that fireworks are poisonous when ingested.

Fireworks contain dangerous chemicals. The range of toxicity varies with what type of firework is ingested, how much is ingested and what type of coloring agents are used.

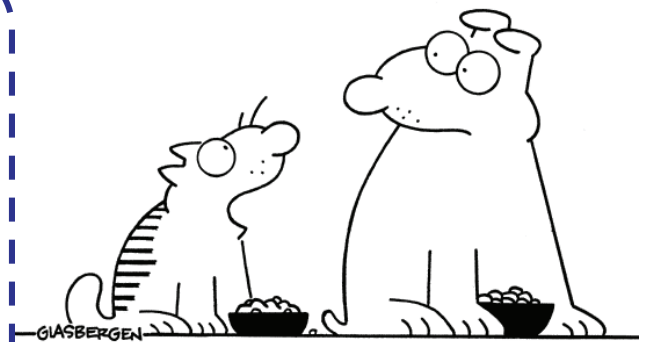
Fireworks can also be dangerous to pets physically - when exposed to the spark or smoke, a thermal burn injury can result.

If ingested, fireworks can cause gastrointestinal signs like vomiting, a painful abdomen and even bloody diarrhea. In severe cases, tremors or seizures can occur. Eye irritation or conjunctivitis can also occur from the smoke.

Enjoy the fireworks this 4th of July, but keep your pets safely indoors.



## Just For Fun



**"The vet says i need a hobby. I thought eating and sleeping were my hobbies!"**

## July Special

Help your pet get home safely if lost.

Microchip your pet this month and save \$5.00.

Ask one of our staff for details.

San Antonio Animal Hospital  
PO Box 237  
San Antonio FL 33576  
(352) 588-2132  
www.sanantoniiovets.com



*Find Us On  
Facebook!*

## Happy Endings Are Possible

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injection just under the loose skin between the shoulder blades; it's a lot like getting vaccinated. Most animals don't react at all.



The happy reunion pictured above was made possible through a microchip.

Take advantage of our July special and save \$5.00 when you have your pet microchipped this month.

## Adoptable Pet



Hi, my name is Romeo. I am a 2 year old neutered and declawed handsome boy who needs a loving home!

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