

# San Antonio Tail Mail

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SAN ANTONIO  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

NOVEMBER 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- A Message From Dr. Mattox
- Costume Contest Winner



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## Autumn Leaves But Fleas Don't!

Fleas are found in every region of the United States. There are over 2,200 flea species worldwide, but by far the most prevalent species infesting dogs and cats in the United States is the cat flea, *Ctenocephalides felis*.

Today, Americans spend nearly \$1 billion on flea products for their dogs, yet, an estimated 46 percent of all dogs in this country suffer from some level of flea infestation. Given this startling fact, it's easy to see why your pet can be exposed to these blood-sucking parasites

when you least expect it. Depending on where you live and the time of year, your pet can encounter fleas in a variety of locations, including:



- Your yard
- Public parks
- Beaches
- Playgrounds
- Wooded areas
- Even your own living room

Flea infestations are acquired from a contaminated environment and areas can become contaminated very quickly! A flea may begin feeding within seconds after emerging from its cocoon.

Within 24 hours of taking its first blood meal, a flea can begin laying eggs at a rate of 40 to 50 per day, infesting your entire home. Contrary to popular belief, most flea infestations are not acquired from other pets. When fleas have found a host (such as a dog or a cat), they stay on that host until the environment becomes inhospitable or they are groomed off, die naturally or are killed by treatment with an effective flea product.



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## A Message From Dr. Mattox



It's hard to believe that the holidays are almost upon us (especially since it feels like August outside). Unfortunately, one of the things that comes to mind at this time of year

is not the big family gathering at my house on Christmas Eve, but how busy everyone is. Instead of a time of thanksgiving and togetherness, it's a time of stress.

While we can't bake your pumpkin pie for you, we can simplify your life in other

ways. We have early morning drop off appointments for routine wellness and sick visits. So, no worries if you have a day's worth of work or errands, just drop your pet off with us, we will do the necessary tests and (continued on page 2)

# A Message From Dr. Mattox

(continued from page 1)

and evaluations and call you with the results. You can then pick up at your convenience. If you're here for an office appointment with your pet and your pet needs x-rays, we will make every attempt to fit you into our schedule right then. Often we will be discussing and viewing the results within minutes. It is not unusual for a work up to involve x-rays and bloodwork. It's always a pleasure when I let a client know we can immediately obtain samples, take radiographs and have blood tests and have some answers for them in less than 20 minutes. We know your time is important and we do our best to provide friendly, comprehensive and quality care in a timely manner.

One commitment I have made to myself and my staff on behalf of our clients is that we will NEVER have an automated phone answering system. Nothing frustrates me more than wanting to ask a simple question and having to go through numerous prompts before (if ever) I can reach a real person.

Drug manufacturers also realize how busy pet owners are and they are responding with new technologies to improve owner compliance with medications. Many new pet medications that enter the market are formulated to be given

once a day instead of the traditional twice a day dosage.

We even have one antibiotic injection that lasts for a full two weeks. If you have ever tried medicating a cat for more than a couple of days, you will appreciate this one.

I can't guarantee that we will always have you in and out within minutes or that we will always have good news for you. However, I can guarantee that we will always care and do our best to help you care for your pet!

November /  
December  
Special

\$20 off dental  
cleanings

(offer good through  
12/31/10)



## Dangerous Substances — Thanksgiving Threats

Turkey bones are dangerous to your pet because they're hollow and break and splinter easily. Sharp pieces of bone can choke your pet or block or tear the intestines.

A pet with a bone lodged in his intestine may not even show symptoms for several days. When symptoms do appear, they may include loss of appetite, depression, vomiting or diarrhea.



Bread dough whether homemade or from a can, may be toxic to pets. When ingested, an animal's body heat causes the dough to rise in the stomach. Alcohol is produced during the rising process as the dough expands.

Surgical removal of bones is sometimes required.

Pets who've eaten bread dough may experience abdominal pain, bloat, vomiting, disorientation and depression. When making bread, prevent access to the dough and definitely don't feed any to him.



We wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

(information provided by the ASPCA Poison Control Center)

# Mac's Mews.....



Mac

I see how hard our veterinary assistants and technicians work

everyday. Next time you come to our hospital, remember how important our techs and assistants are.

They're the only people who will express your dog's anal glands and then say

"thank you for coming in".

Who else can give your cat a bath and a pill?

They actually enjoy "doggy breath."

They just laugh when your dog pees on their new tennis shoes.

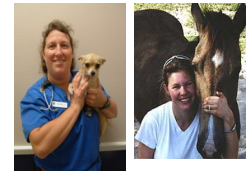
When you call and explain that your dog is "tied up", they know that it has

nothing to do with a rope.

They do not think you're crazy when you claim your cat is a paranoid schizophrenic.

They can recite the list of known parasites of a dog and cat's intestinal tract by memory.

They love your pet as much as you do!



Until next month...  
*Mac*

## 3 Dogs Walk Into A Bar.....

A Great Dane, a Scottie and a Chihuahua were sitting in a bar knocking back a few, when a beautiful French Poodle walked in .



"Hi boys," she said seductively. "I'll make a very happy dog out of whichever of you comes up with the best proposition using the words *cheese* and *liver*."

The Great Dane thought for a



moment and then declared, "I don't like cheese, but I sure like liver, and I like you too!" The poodle just look away obviously unimpressed.

The Scottie immediately followed with, "I like cheese, and I like liver, and I like you!" He wagged his tail expectantly, but she ignored him. Then the Chihuahua stepped forward.



"Liver alone!" he growled. "Cheese with me!"



## Halloween Costume Contest Winner

Bandit Redd  
13 years old





San Antonio  
 Animal Hospital  
 PO Box 237  
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Visit our website:  
[www.sanantoniovets.com](http://www.sanantoniovets.com)

## Adoptable Pets



Two 9 month old kittens that need forever homes available for adoption. Both are very loving, sociable and have beautiful markings.



Snickles has an adorable bob tail and he loves to play.

Cuddles is as charming as her name implies.

The \$50 adoption fee includes the initial vaccinations, spay/neuter and micro-chipping. Adoption applications are available at our reception desk.

## Got Fleas?

(continued from page 1)

Comfortis™ is the first FDA approved, chewable, beef-flavored that kills fleas and prevents infestations on dogs for a full month. Here a few of the features that make Comfortis™ different from other flea products:

- Beef flavored, palatable chewable tablet
- Easy to give with no mess
- Starts to kill fleas in less than 30 minutes
- Lasts a full month
- Starts to kill fleas before they can lay their eggs

- Demonstrated safe for dogs and puppies 14 weeks and older
- Spinosad, the active ingredient, is environmentally friendly
- Comfortis™ won't stain carpet, upholstery or clothing.

Ask our veterinarians if Comfortis™ is right for your dog.

