

# San Antonio TailMail

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
SAN ANTONIO  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

JUNE 2011

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- How To  
Read A Cat's  
Tail
- Mac's Mews

Ask about our  
Revolution  
Free Dose  
Promotion

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## Have A Wet & Wild Summer

Going to the beach, lake, river or just staying home by the pool is a great way to spend time



this summer, but fun can quickly turn to disaster when you mix dogs with water. Most dogs love retrieving balls from the water, swimming and running in and out of the waves, but you must be vigilant to keep your dogs safe around water.

Here are some water safety tips to keep in mind.

1. Buy your dog a life jacket. Not all dogs are natural

swimmers and older dogs and young puppies can tire easily. The weight of a water logged thick or long coat can drag your dog under the water, your dog can be knocked over by a wave, or the river current may be swift and carry him downstream. By putting a life jacket on your dog whenever he's around water, you're buying some time to come to the rescue if he gets in trouble.

2. Watch what your dog drinks. Water in rivers, lakes and ponds can contain algae and parasites which, if

ingested by your dog, can cause serious illness which may include vomiting and diarrhea. Swimming pool water contains chlorine and other dangerous chemicals which can make your dog sick. Always carry plenty of fresh water with you.

3. Whether you're at the beach or at home, watch for potential hazards like strong undertows, sharp rocks or shells that can cut paws. Check for steep muddy riverbanks that can pose a challenge for dogs climbing  
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## A Message From Dr. Mattox



We were able to reunite two lost pets with their owners this week thanks to microchips! One was a "feral" cat that was brought in through Spay Pasco's TNR (trap/neuter/return) program, As Paige was prepping the cat for surgery she noticed what appeared to be a surgical scar,

so we scanned her to check for a microchip. She had one! We were able to check the information registered to that chip and had her owner on the phone within minutes. She said Meisha had been missing from their home in Wesley Chapel since February! They were overjoyed to hear that she was found and in good condition. Luckily her owners had kept their contact

information in the microchip registry database up to date and had multiple contacts listed. Microchips are only effective if the contact information is correct. Having a microchip as a second line of defense (dogs should also wear a tag) is very important especially with Hurricane season almost here.

## Have A Wet & Wild Summer! Heat Stroke

(continued from page 1)

out of the water. If the water is too cold, your dog could suffer from hypothermia.

4. Rinse and dry after swimming. After your dog is finished swimming, rinse him thoroughly with clean water to remove salt, chlorine and debris from his coat. Don't forget to dry his ears to prevent ear infections.

5. Heat can kill. Remember the heat from the sun is more intense around water.



Watch your dog for signs of sunburn and sunstroke and keep him off of hot sand that can burn his pads.



6. Be sure to take the time to teach your dog how to get out of the pool, swim to the shore or river-bank.



By following simple safety rules, your family's best friend can enjoy the summer too!

Hyperthermia...the elevation of body temperature above normal. It is sometimes indicative of a fever, but it can also be associated with severe conditions such as heat stroke or heat prostration. Normal temperature of a dog is 98.5 to 102.5 degrees.



What to do if your dog suffers from hyperthermia:

- remove the pet from the environment
- move the pet to the shade and / or put a fan on him
- if possible, take a rectal temperature and record the results and time taken
- begin to cool the body by wetting with cool (not cold) water on the trunk and legs

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## How To Read A Cat's Tail

Cats have a way of appearing aloof and non-communicative, but reading their emotions may be a matter of looking at body language. Cats express emotions with their tail. Even when a cat is asleep, her tail reveals her mood and comfort level. Just as humans wrap in a blanket, a cat uses her tail

for warmth and comfort.

You know when a dog wags his tail he's excited and happy. Not so with a cat. A tail swishing rapidly from side to side is a sign the cat is anxious and may become aggressive. It's best to leave the cat alone and wait to interact once she's calmed down.

If the side to side motion is slow and deliberate, see what's catching her attention. A slow swish indicates mild excitement or interest. Is there a bird on the tree outside of the window?

When cats feel threatened, they puff up their tails. (continued on page 4)

# Mac's Mews.....



Mac

I've learned over time that humans aren't as smart as you would think. They get worked up over the smallest little things. I thought this month I would impart some knowledge to help them enjoy life more. Lessons you can learn from your cat:

Make the world your playground.  
Always find a good patch of sun to nap in.  
When in trouble, just purr and look cute.  
Nap often!  
Life is hard and then you nap.  
Curiosity never killed anything except a few hours.  
Variety is the spice of life.  
One day, ignore people,

the next day annoy them.  
When in doubt, cop an attitude.  
Did I mention the importance of napping?  
Climb your way to the top, that's why the curtains are there.  
Make your mark in the world, or at least spray a few corners.  
Always give generously; a bird or rodent left

next to the bed tells them "I care".  
If you can't get your way, lay across the keyboard until you do!  
Live life to it's fullest and nap often!  
Until next month...

*Mac*

## Heat Stroke (continued from page 2)

It is helpful to use rubbing alcohol on the skin of the abdomen and allow the fan to speed evaporation

- Transport to your regular veterinarian or after hours emergency clinic

What not to do:

- Do not use cold water or ice for cooling
- Do not overcool the pet
- Do not attempt to force water orally
- Do not leave pet unattended for any length of time

It's the time of year that the mercury rises high and the humidity makes it tough to be outside. Don't leave dogs outside for any length of time, be sure they have adequate water and avoid strenuous activity. It doesn't take long for your pet to become overheated.

San Antonio Animal Hospital wishes you and your dog a safe and happy summer season!



## Just For Fun

Even Dogs Do IT...



## June Special

Our Feline Revolution Special was so popular, we decided to offer it again!

Buy 6 doses of Feline Revolution and get a dose free!

Ask one of our staff for details.

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PO Box 237  
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## How to Read A Cat's Tail (continued from page 2)

This is called piloerection. A frightened cat resembles a stereotypical



Halloween cat, the back is arched, the tail looks fat and the cat's fur is bristled all over the body. This may be an attempt to look larger and intimidating. Often the ears will lay flat against the head. When a cat holds her tail straight up, it's usually a sign that she's relaxed and happy. A slight curl at the end of the tail may mean she's

excited to see you and feeling friendly. If an un-neutered male cat holds a quivering tail straight up against objects, it may be preparing to mark his territory. Urine spraying is satisfying for the territorial tom cat, but not for the human caretaker. (Another reason to neuter your cat!)

Experienced cat owners can often tell what a cat is "saying" by the tone and volume of the cat's meow.

It's easy to tell when a cat wants to be fed or let out, or when the cat's tail is accidentally stepped on.

For deeper insight into more subtle feline emotions, look to the tail!

