



# Victor's Mews TRURO VET'S NEWSLETTER



## 20 Years ... Already?



“Good Morning. This is the Truro Vet Hospital. You’re speaking with Cecelia.” Whether it’s through a phone call or a visit to our hospital, most of our clients have met our head receptionist Cecelia. In April, we will be celebrating Cecelia’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Cecelia started waayyyy back in 1986 at our original hospital in Onslow. Well known for frequent use of the labelmaker, fanatical cleaning binges and preaching the proper number and placement of paperclips on a file, Cecelia has always earned the love and respect of anyone who has been privileged enough to work with her. We are all looking forward to another wonderful 20 years Ce! Happy Anniversary!



“It is a matter to gain the affection of a cat. He is a philosophical animal, tenacious of his own habits, fond of order and neatness, and disinclined to extravagant sentiment. He will be our friend, if he finds you worthy of friendship, but not your slave.”  
**Theophile Gautier**


## Parasite Season Is Back

Did you know that in rural Nova Scotia alone, 19.5% of children less than 15 years of age tested positive for exposure to intestinal roundworm? For more info, see inside.

Whether its fleas, heartworm or intestinal worms; our pets are at risk.

Heartworm is a parasite transmitted to dogs and wildlife by the mosquito. Your pet can also pick up intestinal worms (round, hook and whipworms) and fleas from a casual walk in the park! This places our pets at risk for life threatening diseases. Fortunately, giving your dog a monthly deworming pill can easily prevent heartworm disease, intestinal worms and even fleas.

A simple blood test can detect heartworm early. If the test is negative, we recommend you give a parasite prevention medication such as INTERCEPTOR or SENTINEL. This monthly treatment prevents heartworm and deworms for common intestinal parasites that can be contagious to you and your family.



**Save 10% on any purchase of Sentinel or Interceptor at Truro Vet Hospital**  
**No cash value. Expires June 30, 2006**

## Continuing Education

Whether it’s learning the latest surgical technique, drug therapy or how to provide better service, Truro Vet Hospital has a commitment to encourage and further our employee’s education. April 7-9, 2006 we will be at the Atlantic Provinces Veterinary Conference learning to better care for your pet.



Spring 2006

# Charity's Chatter TRURO VET'S NEWSLETTER



## Pheewww ... Skunk!



This is the time of year when veterinarians get lots of phone calls because their pet has crossed paths with a skunk. Dogs are the most likely "victim". Their inquisitive nature and predatory instincts get the better of them and they cannot (or will not) resist the opportunity to check out these unreceptive animals.

Skunks are nocturnal animals, meaning they are most active at night. Dogs are not always the victim. Occasionally, a cat overcomes with curiosity will get a dose of skunk spray. Dogs and cats feel that it is perfectly normal to sniff each other's behind while making social introductions. In the skunk's book of etiquette this action is considered very rude and threatening. The result is a direct hit of spray, right in the face.

The fluid sprayed is produced by the anal glands. These glands have little sacs that store the fluid. When a skunk is threatened, a fine mist is sprayed from the glands. The fluid has a yellowish hue that makes it easy to identify the sprayed areas on a white pet. To the uninitiated, fresh skunk spray has an overwhelming smell. The skunk smell we are all familiar with when we pass the unfortunate victim of road-kill is a very diluted.

Some words of advice to the bewildered owner of a sprayed pet. Don't let them in the house and wear gloves and clothes that can be thrown out after bathing your pet. Once the

skunk spray has contacted skin, it seems to linger for a long time, despite how often you wash your hands.

It is not unusual to have the spray get into the eyes. Contrary to popular belief, it will not blind the pet. It will make them very uncomfortable. Flushing the eyes with warm water will help. Do not use soap near the eyes because it can cause serious injury. Before bathing, try to identify where the spray landed. Concentrate your efforts on this area. There are many home remedies. Tomato juice or vinegar helps in an emergency. They work the best, if the area is shampooed first to remove the oil from the coat. Then apply the tomato juice or vinegar and let it dry in the fur. Don't forget to treat the collar. Leather or nylon can hold the smell for a long time. There are commercial products that specifically neutralize the skunk smell very effectively. They are safe to use on pets, furniture, clothing etc. If an odour neutralizer is not used, you may notice that on damp days your pet has a little skunk perfume emanating from him, acting as a subtle reminder of his past adventure.

"Ever consider what dogs must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul -- chicken, pork, half a cow.



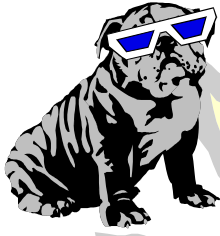
They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!"

- Anne Tyler



**PET FIRST AID**

May 20<sup>th</sup> or June 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>. Call 893-2341 for details.



## Hazardous Hot Days

The fine summer weather is something we look forward to when we are dressed in long johns while up to our knees in snow. This is when we tend to forget about all the unpleasant parts of summer. The heat, humidity, bugs, sunburn and allergy symptoms fade from our short memory but come back to haunt us the following summer.

The most obvious problems are related to the sun. The sun is becoming increasingly powerful as our earth's ozone layer thins. This has an effect on our pet's skin. Fortunately, most pets are covered in a protective coat that shields the sun's rays. White short coated or newly clipped pets are more susceptible to sunburn and damage. The skin on the face, especially the nose and ears are quite exposed. Over the past 20 years, there has been an increase of the number of skin cancer in pets in North America. You can protect your pet by not allowing him or her outside between 11 am and 2 pm or using sun block. A good water repellent sun block for children can be applied to the affected areas.

The heat and humidity of summer can cause heat stroke. Breeds of dogs and cats that have that cute short nose and make lovely snortty sounds are more susceptible to heat stroke as are the older, overweight and dark coated pets. The early signs of heat stroke include panting for a prolonged time with a red swollen tongue. Treatment is aimed at cooling down the animal as quickly as possible. Wetting the pet and placing him in front of a fan will help. Try to encourage him to drink some cold water or give him a cold bath. Take care not to chill the pet too much. Over heating can affect the internal

thermostat in the brain and excessive cooling can lead to hypothermia. If heat stroke is allowed to continue, the panting will stop but the pet will feel very hot to the touch. He may vomit or pass some diarrhea, go into shock, seizure or loose consciousness. This is life threatening and requires attention immediately.

Last year we had wet weather which means a bumper crop of mosquitoes and black flies this year. These bugs are not fussy. They like our pets too. Inside the ears, face, belly and other exposed body parts are the "special of the day" for these blood suckers.

As with people, there is some minor irritation after a bite that will be itchy. This usually subsides in a day or two. A dog or cat, with sensitive skin or allergies, will have an ongoing problem with bug bites that can lead to infection. Some flea products have an insect repellent in them. Human products with DEET or citronella can be used to protect your pet for a few hours. You should make sure they do not lick the treated areas.

Protecting your best friend from these summer hazards will provide you and your pet pleasant memories of the summer weather to warm you spirits during the winter.

## Congratulations Nadine!



Many clients know Nadine either from the front desk or grooming. On Sept 1, 2005 Nadine gave birth to Ryleigh Dean. Nadine has continued with the AHT course at NSAC. She will be back at Truro Vet in

Sept 2006 to complete her externship after a well deserved extended vacation to BC to visit friends and family. Both mum and baby are doing great.

## Test Your Knowledge

- 1) Which species has a better memory – cat or dog?
- 2) What is one of the oldest dog breeds in history?
- 3) What is a group of adult cats called?
- 4) What is a group of kittens called?
- 5) Human association with cats began when and where?
  - a) India in 3000BC
  - b) Russia in 1542
  - c) Egypt about 5000 years ago

Answers at bottom of page.

### Did you know ...



The number one reason for leaving pets at shelters is due to behaviour problems? Behaviour problems can range from puppies chewing things they shouldn't to aggression problems.

Lenore, our clicker trainer, can help you and your dog overcome these barriers to a healthy relationship. Clicker training uses positive reinforcement to teach your dog the basics (sit, stay), tricks (roll over, take a bow) or to stop a specific problem area. Call our office at 893-2341 to speak with Lenore.

## Parasite Control Recommendations

A recent study at the IWK in Halifax found that in Nova Scotia, 19.5% of children less than 15 years of age tested positive for exposure to roundworm. Roundworm is classed as a zoonotic parasite because it can be passed from pets to their people. Young, elderly and immuno-suppressed people are most at risk to contracting roundworm. In cases where our immune systems fail to protect us, the roundworm's visceral

larval migrans can cause blindness and skin lesions

Studies such as the one at the IWK prompted the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) to be formed. This independent council consists of expertise in parasitology, internal medicine, public health, veterinary law, and veterinary private practice. They have worked together to create guidelines for the optimal control of internal and external parasites that threaten the health of pets and their people.

The CAPC recommends:

- ◆ Practicing good personal hygiene
- ◆ Cleaning up pet feces regularly
- ◆ Minimizing exposure of children to potentially contaminated environments
- ◆ Year-round treatment with broad-spectrum dewormers that have activity against parasites with zoonotic potential
- ◆ Thorough physical exam and complete history are important for diagnosis, treatment and control of most parasites and should be performed at least annually by a qualified veterinarian.
- ◆ Pets should be fed cooked or prepared food (they should not be fed raw meat) and provided fresh, potable water.
- ◆ Periodic (annual is ideal) retesting for canine heartworm.

For more information, check out [www.capcvet.org](http://www.capcvet.org).



“If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving

Fido only two of them.”

- **Phil Pastoret**

Answers 1. The Cat, 2. The Dachshund, dating back to ancient Egypt, 3. A Clowder, 4. A Kindle, 5. c.