



# Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

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Eighty nine. That's the number of dogs and cats that took advantage of our annual **February Dental Month** savings. We are so happy to promote the health of our patients through dentistry and oral hygiene. Dental disease takes a great toll on many of our patients and keeping them healthy is our goal. Thank you for helping us by your participation in our dental month promotion.

## Orthopedic Services

For our patients that require orthopedic surgery, we refer many cases to our local specialists. But we also offer a wide variety of ortho procedures here at our clinic. These range from fracture repair to hip surgeries. One of the most common procedures we perform is repair of knee problems in dogs. This includes luxating patellar problems and cruciate repair. TPLO or tibial plateau leveling osteotomy is the surgery of choice for large breed dogs requiring cruciate ligament repair while a procedure known as extra-capsular repair is generally chosen for smaller dogs. We are always looking for ways to improve our patient's lives and return them to an active life and comfort!

### Staff News:

Our newest staff members are technicians Jill Rhoden and Brandon Strax. Both are native Houstonians. Jill has been in veterinary medicine for over 20 years and has three kids (all dogs). Brandon has worked in the veterinary field as a technician for over six years and owns three cats. Both bring a lot of expertise and skill to our technical staff. We are also very excited to have added Katy Medrano to our animal caretaker staff. Katy has 14 years of caring for animals. She is very compassionate and will take excellent care of your babies while they are here. Welcome aboard!

### Toxicity Alerts:

Our clinic sees many cases of poisoning just like all small animal practices. Many are very tragic and some are quite avoidable. We try to keep our clients informed about what dangers may be lurking out there for your cats or dogs. The Animal Poison Control Center publishes data each year on the nearly 180,000 cases that they handle. This is a list with some comments on their data:

- 1) **Prescription Human Medications** - this is the number one cause for pet poisonings almost every year—almost 20% of all cases. Be careful with your prescriptions!
- 2) **Insecticides**—this includes products intended for yards, homes, or pets. Most of the toxicities come from pet owners using products on cats that are labelled only for dogs. Beware!
- 3) **Over-the-Counter Human Medications**—The most common toxicities involve humans giving Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, or Naproxen to their pets with catastrophic and life-threatening results. Bottom line is you should ask your vet before giving any medicine to your pet. Call us if you have a question—it could save a life.
- 4) **Household Products**—there are so many in this category. Best to treat our dogs and cats like kids and prevent any access to household chemical products.
- 5) **People Food**—this one surprises many of our clients but it is common.
- 6) **Veterinary Medications**—It is common for us to dispense flavored medications for pets and some pets (read dogs) are notorious for finding and finishing the whole bottle. Yikes!
- 7) **Chocolate**— this one gets a category all by itself as the most common people food causing toxicity.
- 8) **Rodenticides**— Poison Control received almost 10,000 calls last year for animals exposed to rat and mouse bait.

(Cont.)

- 9) **Plants**— this is the one category where cats lead dogs in being poisoned by eating plants. Lilies are the most common culprit among many.
- 10) **Lawn and Garden Products**— fertilizers may contain bone meal, poultry manure, and even dried blood and are attractive to pets leading to problems.

### *The most common substances toxic to dogs that are close to home:*

Caffeine (found in chocolate, etc.)  
 Xylitol (found in chewing gum/artificial sweetner)  
 Raisins and Grapes,  
 Sago Palm  
 Medications  
 Household cleaners  
 Antifreeze  
 Rat and mouse baits.

### *The most common substances toxic to cats that are close to home:*

Lilies—common in our homes and yards. Even a very small amount can cause kidney failure. **Careful with your Easter Lilies!**  
 Caffeine  
 Medications  
 Yeast Dough  
 Household Cleaners.

