



Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

January 15, 2016

February Dental Month Is right around the corner

February is National Dental Month for veterinary clinics across the country. It is used to promote dental awareness and highlight the needs for dental care present in so many of our cat and dog patients. We offer a 20% discount on dental cleanings in February (details in this newsletter) on a first come, first serve basis.

Our goal as vets is to identify and address the significant needs of our patients. Puppies and kittens receive oral exams and monitoring of their dentition as they mature. Home dental care (Yes, brushing your pet's teeth!) should be started when they are young to familiarize them with the process and allow you time to train them gently to cooperate with the oral care that you can provide at home.

Each Annual Exam also includes an evaluation of dentition and oral health. Routine cleaning of the teeth is recommended when tartar build up occurs or any signs of periodontal disease is identified. We are able to give a general idea of the needs to be addressed with each cleaning and may include recommendations for specific treatment for damaged or broken teeth or advancing periodontal disease and tooth decay.

An appointment for an oral exam on a patient with oral pain, decreased appetite, halitosis, excessive salivation, or swelling of the gums or face may lead to recommendations for specific treatments. Gumline infection or periodontal disease can easily advance to bone infection of the jaw and can also spread to other organs in the body. It can be life-threatening and must be addressed. Many of our patients will need dental care involving more than cleaning of the teeth. Following an examination, radiographs (Xrays) of teeth may reveal infection in tooth roots or fractures below the gums. Our doctors and staff are well-trained for a wide variety of dentistry cases from simple cleaning to oral surgery. Please take some time to lift your pet's lip and look. If you have any concerns or questions—let us help! It's what we do.

Doctor's Corner: Canine Influenza Virus H3N2

A strain of the flu virus able to infect dogs emerged in the U.S. in 2004 and was labelled H3N8 virus and has been found in most states.

This April, a new strain of dog influenza was found called the H3N2 virus and was recently reported in the Austin area (Round Rock) shutting down a boarding facility temporarily. Like all influenza viruses it is spread by infected dogs through direct contact, coughing, sneezing, and contaminated objects. It is not contagious to humans. After exposure most dogs will show symptoms within 2-4 days and it can take 2-3 weeks for their recovery. An infected dog may shed the virus (expose other dogs) for up to three weeks making it difficult to control in animal shelters, boarding facilities, and veterinary clinics.

Although as many as 80% of exposed dogs will show symptoms of the illness, most will recover without life-threatening illness. Less than 10% may develop complications, however, including pneumonia, and require intensive treatment to survive. Infected dogs will have a persistent cough, sneezing, and nasal and/or eye discharge, fever and decreased appetite.

We have tests for both strains of the virus and we have vaccines for both strains. The vaccine is expected to lessen the illness in vaccinated dogs but does not mean that they will not get the flu and show symptoms. Vaccinated dogs are also still contagious, so the vaccines are available but they are not the answer for this flu virus that we would like to see. We carry the vaccines for our clients who would like to vaccinate their dogs and for those boarding in facilities that require the vaccination. We do not require it presently but are watching the situation closely. Our canine patients should avoid dogs showing respiratory illness as much as is possible. If your dog shows signs of illness, isolate them from other dogs and seek veterinary care. Our doctors and staff welcome any questions or concerns about the canine influ-



As we welcome the new year at Arbor Animal Clinic, we reflect on this past year. It brought many changes and was a great year for our practice.

Some of the highlights:

- ◆ Arbor Animal Clinic celebrated it's 25th Anniversary on July 16th last year. A quarter of a century serving Austin's cats, dogs, and those who love them!
- ◆ We completed a major facelift and remodel of our clinic with new floors, new walls and ceilings and facility improvements!
- ◆ We added a sixth doctor to our practice. This expands our ability to see more appointments and facilitate the care of so many new patients. While Dr. Hartwell continues to serve as a Medical Director, assisting the other doctors, our clinic now has five full-time vets seeing patients and providing surgical and dental services.
- ◆ We have added several members to our team of veterinary technicians to support the additional doctor and we named a new Head Surgery Technician, Stormy Shipman.
- ◆ We upgraded so much of our surgical and other equipment with new monitors, oxygen generators, surgical lighting, office furniture and even a new bath tub!

We look forward to a great 2016 and are proud to serve so many wonderful pets and clients!

