

# Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

April 15, 2012

## In The News:

## Smiles of Success

Our semi-annual Dental Month was a huge success and many of our clients are participating every year for their pets who need an annual cleaning. We really love doing this as dental disease is simply the most common problem we see in pet dogs and cats. Preventing the pain, infection, and internal diseases associated with advanced dental disease is a giant step toward having your pet have a long and happy life. Thank you to all of our clients who scheduled their pets' dental appointments! Now, please consider home dental care to maintain the best oral health. Our staff is very motivated to go over how you can get started and do this. Please ask any of our technicians to show you how!

### Did You Know?

⇒ That you can see our vets on the Pet Stop segment on KEYE's 4-5 pm live news show called WeAreAustinLive every third Friday of each month. If you miss it they are available on the KEYE website *under the lifestyle tab* and many are linked on our website.

⇒ Domestic cats like many of their wild carnivore cousins have lost the ability to taste "sweet" through gene mutations over time.

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## *Arbor Animal Clinic is Growing!*

All of us at Arbor feel so blessed that we have seen our practice grow as it has. We owe all of our success to our wonderful clients who continue to recommend us to neighbors and friends and to our remarkable staff that continuously works so hard to provide our patients with superior care and our clients with the right information and best options. This year we are expanding our staff in many ways and want you to meet all of our new team members and get to know them. We have two new animal caretakers: Oso Wallman and Deena Rawleigh. Oso comes to us from Virginia and has lots of experience with animals as well as a background in the culinary world from executive chef to director of culinary arts for an annual art festival. Deena started as a dog walker in New York and worked with military dogs in San Antonio and a dog training group in Austin. Our newest technician is Justin Giffen. Justin has 2 daughters and 2 Akitas and is an avid golfer. Carol Aragon joined our wonderful reception staff last month to replace Deborah after her many years here at Arbor (She and her husband have moved to Dripping Springs and we will all miss her). Carol has worked in the animal field since 1989 including as an adoption counselor for the Humane Society.

Our newest vet is Dr. Meredith Hobbs! She received her DVM from the University of Tennessee in 2010, attending Auburn University for her undergraduate studies. She moved to Austin for an internship at Central Texas Veterinary Specialty Hospital and loved Austin so much that she made it her new home. During her free time she enjoys playing soccer and sand volleyball, running, live music, and the lake.

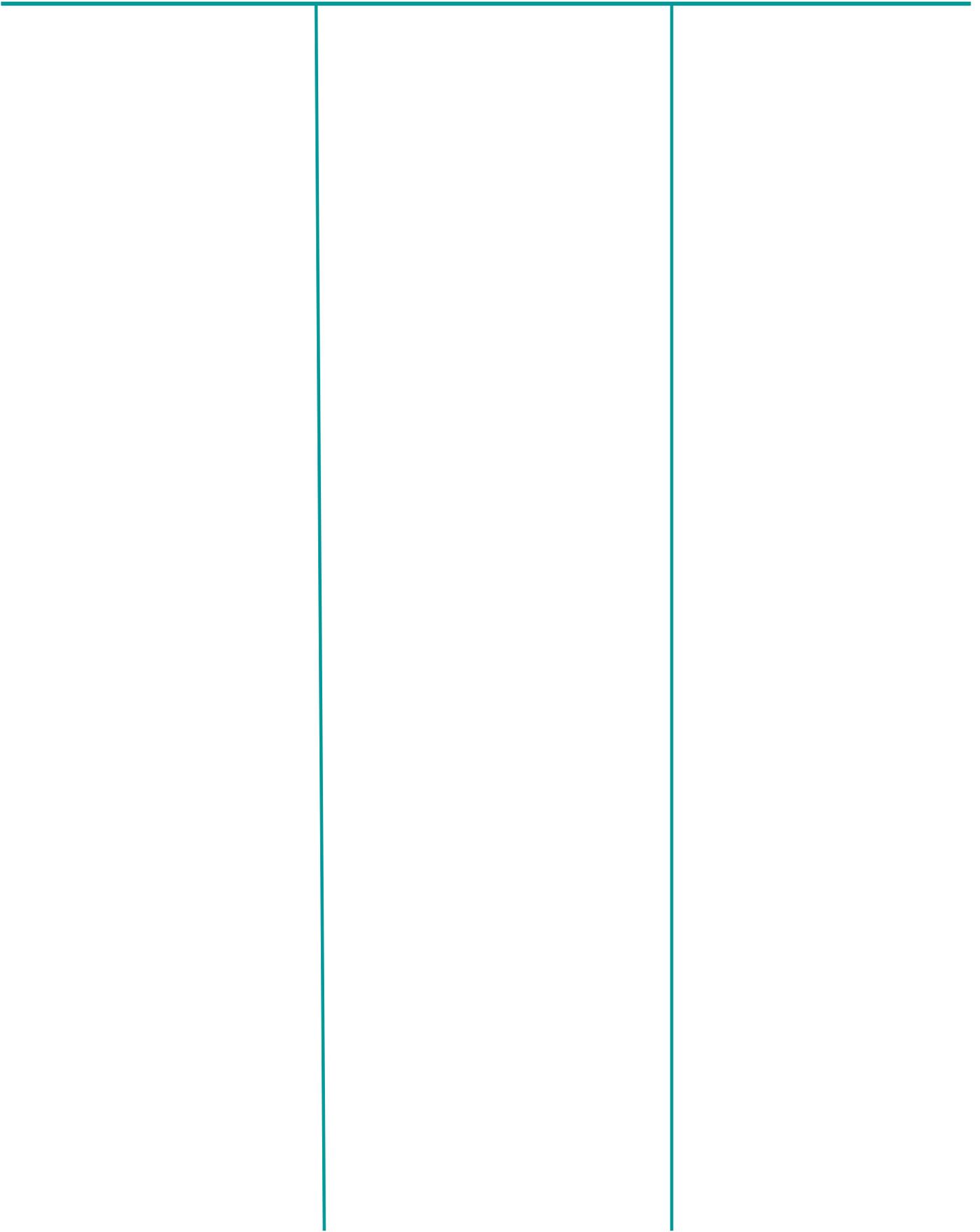
We are adding a fifth veterinarian to our staff this year as well and are pleased to introduce Dr. Jordan Kautz who joins us in May. Dr. Kautz was born and raised in Austin. He graduated Texas A&M University with a degree in Biomedical Science and veterinary school at Texas A&M class of 2011. He has a three year old yellow Labrador named Gracie.

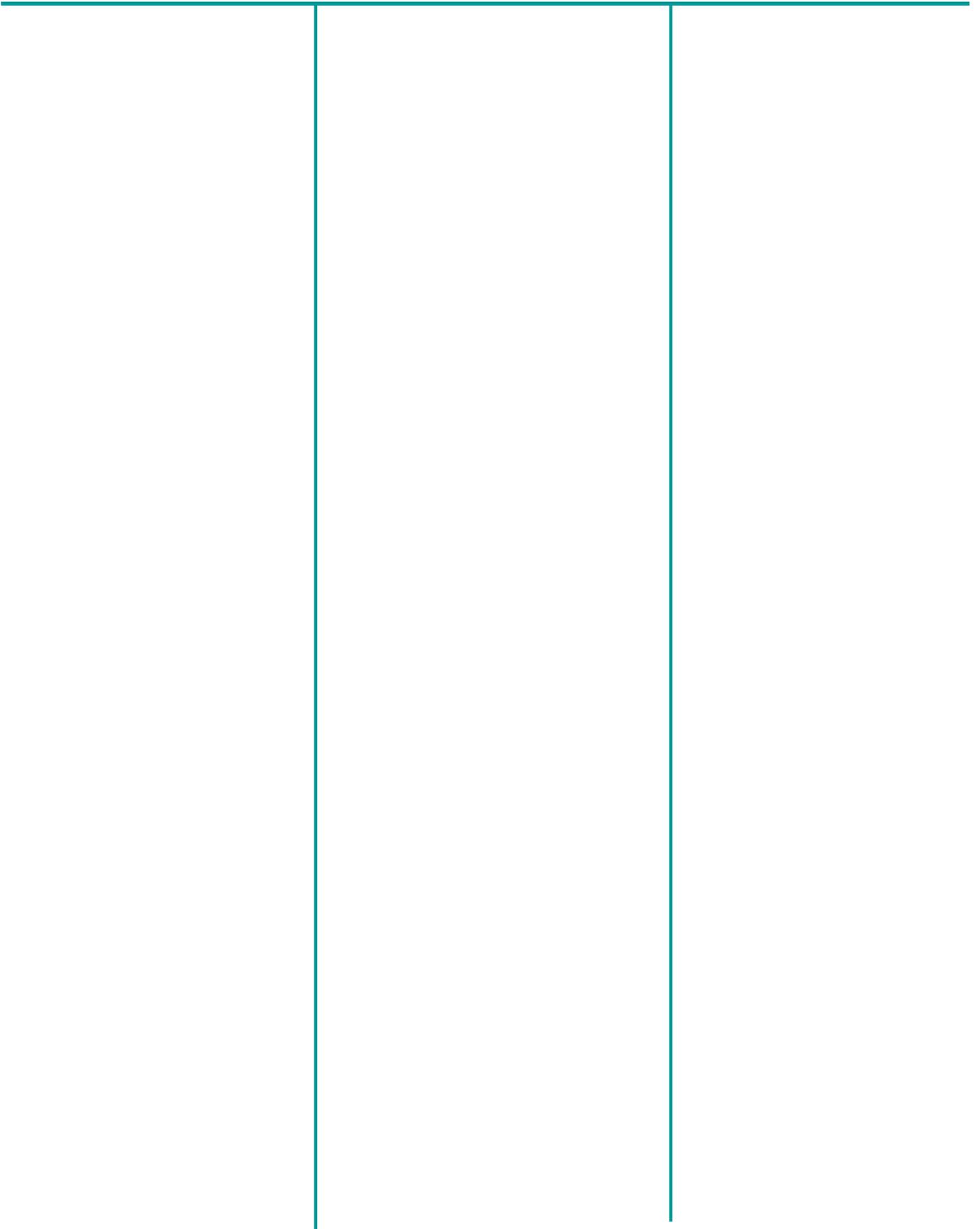
Our former associate, Dr. Margo Hunt, has been helping us during this growth phase and Dr. Faught, our associate of almost 8 years, has left to open a new practice and will be missed by all. Finally we all welcome back Dr. Rebecca Davies who is returning after maternity leave and the birth of her son Jackson. We are very happy to have her back! Please help us welcome all of our newest team members!

As veterinarians, we have much to keep up with to provide our patients with the best and most up-to-date care. We attend many continuing education venues throughout the year and have access to a vast network of resources and experts to help our patients. From time to time, I run across news which is very interesting even though it might not relate to our patient's care—at least not yet. These recent news snippets caught my attention:

- 1) A newly discovered virus in cats is being researched as a possible cause of kidney disease. It is in the Morbillivirus family and related to viruses which cause measles and mumps in people and distemper in dogs. There are many causes of kidney diseases in cats but this new finding may add to our understanding of at least one of many factors.
- 2) Flame retardant chemicals are commonly used in household products such as furniture and electronics. The chemicals called, PDBEs, were found in higher levels in some indoor cats and may increase the risk of development of Hyperthyroidism in these cats. Further research is expected.
- 3) In vitro fertilization is being used to help save a rare species known as the African Black-footed Cat. Embryo transfer into an ordinary domestic cat produced a healthy kitten who is being well cared for by its surrogate mother. Meow!!!
- 4) New research has identified an Epstein Barr-like virus in dogs which may be one factor in dogs developing a type of cancer known as Lymphoma. Further research is planned to investigate this new and important finding.

[www.arboranimalclinic.com](http://www.arboranimalclinic.com)







**Arbor Animal Clinic**

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