



Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

April 15, 2013



Spring is here and we all want to wish you a beautiful spring season. This is a time of year when kittens are born and our dogs get to play in the warm sunshine again.

Thank you to all of you who participated in our (semi) annual Dental month—it was another huge success and such an important part of the health of our dogs and cats! Next dental month—October.

Did you know that each of our doctors does extensive training each year to stay current in our field? This year, Drs. Hartwell and Kautz attended Western Vet Conference along with 6,000 other vets. Dr. Kautz studied dentistry, orthopedics and ophthalmology while I focused on surgery, radiology, and infectious diseases. Dr. Davies attended SWVS and tracked oncology and ophthalmology while Dr. Dulaney is in California at an ophthalmology conference and also attended a major conference on nutrition. Two of our surgery technicians: Stormy and Carole will head to A&M this month for advanced training in dental radiography. We continue our commitment to your pets through education!

Staff News:

The big staff news is that Dr. Hobbs became **Dr. Sturges** last November when she married Navy pilot Joe Sturges. He will be stationed near Seattle and Dr. Sturges will leave our practice next month to join him. We are very happy for her!! **Dr. Kat Kennedy** will join our staff in June. She is a 2010 A&M graduate who has worked for the last 2 years at a 24 hour urgent and routine care hospital. We are delighted to welcome her at Arbor!

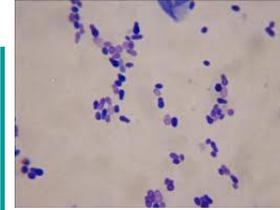
ZOONOSIS PREVENTION:

Zoonoses are diseases that animals can give to people. As vets it is necessary that we are always vigilant about known zoonoses or potentially zoonotic diseases in our patients. This helps protect our clients as well as our staff. There are many potentially zoonotic diseases and many are not dangerous (think ringworm) and some are deadly (think rabies). Our clients depend on us to look out for illnesses in their pets that could be harmful to other family members. As of this writing—we have changed the protocol for our parasite testing in dogs at their annual visit. When we draw blood for the heartworm test we will also test for Ehrlichia, Lyme's Disease, and Anaplasma. Dogs get these diseases from tick bites and each one of these is **also a human disease!** Humans get them from the bite of an infected tick. Screening our dogs annually will help us understand the risk of exposure to you from ticks that your dog is exposed to as well as allow us to see these exposures in your dog.

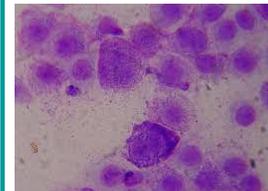
We will also be sending our stool samples from your dog's annual visit to our reference lab for centrifugation technique analysis which has been shown to dramatically reduce the number of missed infections that your dog may have for roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, and coccidian. The first two of these are a health concern to human families as well because children and adults can be exposed to skin and internal infections with these common dog parasites. We will make these changes as of this writing and the cost for your dog's annual parasite screening will not change! Just as with the recommendations for vaccinations for leptospirosis and rabies—we are always working to protect you and your families as well as your pets!

This new protocol will require one bit of help from you, however. Due to a larger volume of stool needed for the new parasite screen—**we are asking all of our dog owners to bring a stool sample for your dogs Annual Visit appointment.** It should be collected the same day and can be put in a ziplock-type baggie. We also have specimen containers available at the front counter to help you with this. Thank you for helping us help "Fido"!

Doctors corner: Cytology



Malassezia pachydermatis—a common yeast infection of skin and ears.



Mast Cell Tumor—a common type of cancer in dogs and cats.

One of the things that I became very excited about during my time as a veterinary student was cytology which was a new technology for veterinary medicine at that time. Cytology is the examination of tissue specimens under a microscope. Unlike a surgical biopsy most of the samples are taken by making an impression of a lesion with a glass slide or by what we call a "fine needle aspiration" technique. It is a very noninvasive procedure and allows our doctors to examine tumors, cysts, determine malignancy, as well as see what organisms are causing infections on the skin or in a patient's ears so we can choose the best treatment plan for that patient.

I have kept up my interest in cytology and all of our doctors are well-trained in this valuable technology. By offering this to our clients we are able to accurately diagnose a huge variety of disorders at a fraction of the cost of a biopsy (lumps, bumps, tumors) or culture (skin and ears). If you find a lump or mass on your cat or dog's body—bring it to the attention of one of our doctors and they will let you know if a cytology of the lesion is needed to make sure we know what the lump is! It's that simple.

