



# Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

January 15, 2012



## February is National Pet Dental Month

Yes, it is already here again! Our clinic has participated in this great effort to keep our pets healthy with proper oral care for many years. We have an annual special for the month of February (see Savings Specials on other side of this newsletter) to help you save.

Dental disease is not just about bad breath in dogs and cats. As one of the most common problems diagnosed by vets, dental disease and periodontal disease often lead to painful infections in the mouth as well as the spread of the infection to bone, kidneys, liver, and heart valves. This makes it a very dangerous condition for many of our patients. We examine the oral cavity with your pet's annual visit and recommend a cleaning if needed. Some pets with more advanced disease will require X-rays of the teeth to see if tooth root infection / abscesses are present as well as treatment for gum recession, and broken teeth. If treated early and with regular care, we can save teeth that would otherwise be lost.

Following a cleaning and treatment of diseased teeth and gums, we recommend a daily teeth brushing for all of our patients who will allow their owners to do this. Talk to our staff and let us help you make sure that your dogs and cats stay healthy with properly cared for teeth!



We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday celebrating Christmas or Hanukkah and making great memories with your furry family members. This has been a great year at Arbor Animal Clinic and we look forward to an even better 2012. One of the things that make our lives here so blessed is the relationship we share with each of you. We pride ourselves in encouraging excellent communication with our clients and establishing genuine caring and trusting relationships. We thank all of you for being our clients and our friends.

One thing that has really helped in keeping up good communications with our clients is email. We have many clients now receiving their reminders by email. Let us know if you would like this, too. We also encourage our clients to use the free pet portal or email us at [contact@arboranimalclinic.com](mailto:contact@arboranimalclinic.com).

### Clinic News:

#### New Faces:

⇒ We welcome Dr. Meredith Hobbs to our practice! She will be seeing patients full time in February and March as Dr. Rebecca Davies will be out on maternity leave. Dr. Hobbs grew up in Tennessee and studied at Auburn before completing her DVM at the University of Tennessee. Welcome aboard!

⇒ We also hope to add a new doctor to our practice this spring. We have grown and look forward to increasing our ability to serve you and your pets!

**Don't forget our Pet Portal for your pets. Just go to the link on our website. It is free and easy to do and a great resource. You will love it!**



### Doctor's Corner: Technology

It seems as though I am always writing about technology. I am and I guess that is because, as vets, we have become so dependent on the high tech tools that we use everyday to diagnose and treat our patients. This ranges from simple machines like IV fluid pumps and lab equipment that will give results in minutes to the digital technology for X-rays, laser therapy, and anesthesia monitoring to sophisticated diagnostics. One technology that all of our doctors have come to rely on to properly care for your pets is ultrasonography. Ultrasound is a way to look into the abdominal cavity to image organs and find problems. It often reveals important information which may not be available with radiographs (X-rays) alone. It is accomplished with sound waves and is non-invasive and painless. It is also an invaluable tool for diagnosing and monitoring heart conditions.

One of the most important features of good ultrasonography however is the human operator. We use a very skilled ultrasonographer trained originally in human medicine and now a very accomplished veterinary ultrasonographer. Having a knowledgeable technician who can produce the quality images our doctors need to evaluate and diagnose conditions is what makes this technology invaluable to our doctors and patients.

We have so many case studies of dogs and cats lives being saved by what we are able to see on ultrasound exams. A good example would be Nellie, a very sweet 11 year old mix breed dog that presented for not eating well and vomiting. Her kidneys were not working well and she developed an anemia. We found a very large tumor in her spleen which was bleeding into her abdomen with ultrasonography. With medical care and surgery to remove the spleen and the tumor, she was able to recover to full health and continues to be happy and healthy. By knowing what was causing her problems and being able to plan her surgery, her life was saved. This is such an amazing tool that we have become dependent on to make accurate assessments on our patients. Here's to technology and to you, Nellie!