

Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

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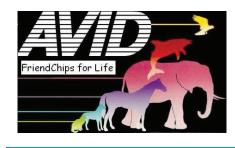
Pet Identification Name Address Telino vs. Is your pet safe?

Having a lost pet can be very frightening. When your dog or cat gets lost for any reason, having identification will help your chances of finding them quickly. For years, the City of Austin had a city licensing program for pets that was used to reunite owners with their pets if they were turned in to the city shelter. The program was discontinued and they rely on pets to have collars and tags or a microchip for permanent identification. Unfortunately some of the lost pets who end up at the shelter have lost their collars and cannot be identified if they are not microchipped.

We offer and recommend placing a permanent pet ID microchip and we use the AVID microchip which was one of the original innovators of this technology. Owners must register their pet with the company and update their data if they relocate. This puts them in PETtrac global computerized tracking system which can reunite them with their worried owners.

Consider having your pets microchipped so they will be permanently identified if ever lost or missing.

You will find a \$15.00 off coupon for microchipping in this newsletter.



<u>Doctor's Corner:</u> "Wheelchair Sweetie"



This month I am writing about a very interesting case—but it happens to be my own dog and taught me a lot about my feelings and what we can learn from our pets.

Sweetie is a 9 1/2 year old West Highland White Terrier that I got for my daughter when she turned ten. Sweetie has been a wonderful pet and been very healthy up til this February when she went outside in the morning and did not come back in when I called. I found her in the yard paralyzed from the waist down. She was not in any pain but was unable to use her rear legs at all. I brought her to the clinic and after examining her and taking X-rays, I found that she probably had developed FCE or Fibrocartilaginous Embolus. This is similar to a stroke to the spinal cord and often causes complete paralysis without causing pain. I took her to Central Texas Veterinary Specialty Hospital and she was evaluated by their specialists and had a CAT scan of her spine and a spinal tap. Her diagnosis of FCE was confirmed and we waited for weeks to see if she would recover any function, although I knew based on her condition she would likely remain paralyzed.

It was a very difficult time for my family trying to decide what would become of our Sweetie. I do not think there is a "right or wrong" decision as caring for a dog who is paralyzed in the rear with no control of her bladder or bowels is not something many people are able to do. Sweetie was in no pain and after a short while I realized that I would care for her exactly as she is. I made the decision with my heart and I am certain it was a good decision as Sweetie is flourishing and as happy as she has ever been. She now goes with me or my daughter at all times and gets around in her wheelchair or "cart" very well.

Sweetie was fitted with her cart and within a week was running around the house (and the clinic). She requires more care than most dogs but she is a blessing to all of us who love her and her attitude proves she is happy. People who see her often feel sad or sorry for her. But the lesson I have learned from her is a valuable one. She doesn't feel disabled or sorry for herself. Her condition may cause her some mobility challenges but does not limit her happiness as she does not attach any emotion or stigma to her condition. Animals show us such beauty in how they face challenges with dignity and spunk!

Sweetie is usually at the office with me Monday to Fridays til 3pm or so. She would love it if you ever just want to say "hi".

- Dr. H



Our clinic is now a collection center for pet food to be delivered by **Mobile Loaves and Fishes** to Austin's homeless population who have pets to care for. They provide basic needs for the homeless like food and clothing and we will be helping them supply food to their pets. If you are interested in donating, you may bring your contributions to the clinic.thank you!

Did you know...that **Dr. Dulaney** just celebrated her **10th** year with Arbor Animal Clinic? Congratulations!

Arbor Animal Clinic's vets have 48 years of experience caring for Austin's furry companions!

Pet Portal is a personal webpage 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!

