



Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

October 15, 2011

CLINIC NEWS:

October will, once again, be one of our bi-annual Dental Months during which we offer a great discount on dental cleanings in cats and dogs (See the special savings advertisement on the reverse side of this newsletter).

Dentistry is so important to the health of many of our patients and our doctors always make an assessment of your pet's teeth during his or her annual wellness exam. Dental disease and the associated pain that accompanies advanced dental disease can be prevented to a great extent with routine teeth cleanings and home dental care. Some breeds and individuals have a tendency to develop this problem or to have more advanced disease, but your vet can guide you if there is any question whether your pet needs this service. Although bad breath is a common sign, we look for evidence of gum and periodontal disease that leads to infection and tooth loss. Radiographs tell us if a tooth can be restored to health or must be removed. We want to help you help your pet's have a healthy life and a happy smile!



Pet Portal

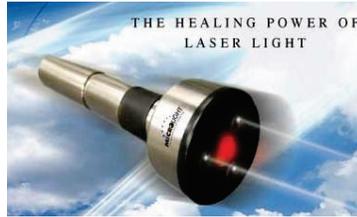
LOG IN

Manage your pets health online

Don't forget **Pet Portal** for your pets. Just go to the link on our website. It is **free and easy to do!**

Doctor's Corner

Arthritis Treatments



We have many patients who have arthritis in one or many joints. This can be due to previous injury, disease, or degenerative joint disease due to age. Certain diseases such as hip or elbow dysplasia may predispose a patient to arthritis. Some breeds are more prone such as Shelties or large breed dogs but any patient may develop this painful condition. It is usually suspected by the symptoms and the history, but radiographs (X-rays) may have to be taken to confirm a suspicion and rule out other causes in some cases. They will also reveal how advanced the condition is. We have many strategies in our treatment plans and often include weight management and exercise routines. Many medications are available to vets now from different anti-inflammatory drugs to pain modulating drugs. Often we gear our approach to the severity of the condition and change strategies if the condition worsens or changes.

Cats pose a special challenge. Many cats hide their symptoms well and all we see sometimes is that they simply "slow down". They may show lameness or may not jump up onto their favorite spot, not groom themselves as well, or become irritable. Unlike in dogs, there is not a wide variety of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs which are safe for long term administration in cats so we often use other options.

Recently Dr. Davies was presented with an arthritic cat named "Joy". She is a 12 1/2 year old cat with arthritis in multiple joints. Her original "complaint" was appearing painful, not jumping up on things and front legs trembling. Dr. Davies chose to start two therapies to help her discomfort. She received injections of **Adequan**, which is classified as a chondroprotective drug. It helps the fluid within the joint become more normal and protects the cartilage lining within the joints. She also received a series of **Laser Therapy** treatments directly on her hips, elbows and shoulders. Unlike the lasers that are used in surgery to cut tissue like a scalpel with high energy heat, our therapy laser is a "cold" laser or LLLT (cont.)

(cont.) that uses specific wavelength energy to penetrate into the affected area without heat and reduces inflammation, provides pain relief, and accelerates healing. It is painless and has no side effects so it is a good choice for many patients. We also use Laser Therapy for injuries, surgical wounds, and some inflammatory conditions such as lick granulomas in dogs. My cat "Amy" responded well recently after injuring her left elbow jumping. Her X-Rays were normal but the joint was swollen and painful. She received Adequan injections and laser therapy sessions and we saw improvement in a very short period of time.

We are also happy to report that Dr. Davies' patient "Joy" has improved with treatment and is feeling better.

Laser Therapy is a treatment modality that we have been using for almost a year. It can be a part of almost any treatment plan for arthritis pain, back problems, injuries and other disorders where tissue swelling or inflammation are present. Feel free to ask one of our vets about this unique therapy or pick up a handout on Laser Therapy at the reception desk.

LASER THERAPY FACTOIDS:

⇨What is LASER Light?

LASER is an acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.

⇨What is LLLT?

Low Level Laser Therapy is the new internationally accepted term for - biostimulation with low energy lasers in order to achieve therapeutic desired effects.

⇨What are the biological effects of laser light emitted from LLLT devices?

- Increased cell metabolism
- Increased tissue activity
- Anti-inflammatory
- Edema reduction
- Reduced fibrous tissue formation
- Stimulated nerve function