



# Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

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October

Dental Month



We are offering our Dental Month special pricing again for October. Our February (National) Dental Month became so popular that we began years ago to make October our second dental month. Many of our clients who own pets that need a dental cleaning every year have been participating and keeping up with their pet's oral health, preventing tooth loss and dental infections.

All of our doctors do an oral exam as part of your pet's annual visit. At that time they can make a plan and explain what needs to be done to address any problems found and prevent future problems. Advanced dental disease includes periodontal disease, bone loss and infection around teeth and often requires tooth removal (extraction). Some problems below the gumline are only discovered at the time of a cleaning via X-rays and our doctors will discuss what that means to your pet and what can be done about it. In veterinary medicine, oral health is one of the most important preventive measures we can take because tooth root infections cause much more than just pain and bad breath. They can lead to heart valve, kidney, and liver diseases. We are very excited to see our patients with a gleaming smile and know that they will be happier and healthier.

Call our staff if your pet needs a dental procedure and schedule it soon. Our Dental Month special offer (see back side of this newsletter for offer) is limited to a first come offer and always fills up quickly!



Doctors corner:

## Cancer in Dogs and Cats

Just as Americans enjoy longer average life-spans now compared to the past, our pets are also living longer. As veterinarians we see many pets that develop cancer at some time in their lives. Most, but not all of these, are older patients and we are here to help you if this happens to your four-legged friend.

Cancer is the major cause of death in 45% of dogs living over 10 years. Overall it is about 1/2 as common in cats. There are over 100 specific cancer types that we see and deal with. This ranges from tumors inside the body to ones that can be seen or felt. Our doctors are well-trained in the diagnostics and treatment of cancer and utilize a wide range of tools to help determine if a cancer is present, what kind of cancer it is, and what options for treatment are available.

We perform many Fine Needle Aspirate cytologies and biopsies for masses that can be seen or felt such as skin and breast tumors. We use digital radiography and ultrasonography to identify cancers that are in bones, the abdomen, or chest. Depending on the type discovered and stage, we may be able to offer surgery, chemotherapy, or a combination of treatments specific to the problem and your pet. We also refer some patients for radiation treatments or oncology specialty services when it is the best option.

Some things in animal oncology are different than in people. Cancer is **not** contagious, but Feline Leukemia Virus, which causes certain types of cancers in cats, is an exception. The virus can be spread between cats but cannot be spread to dogs or humans. Also, when we spay dogs before their first heat cycle, we are dramatically reducing the risk that this patient will ever develop breast cancer. There are many examples where pets and people are very different or very similar when it comes to cancers.

One thing that is the same in people and pets is—the value of early detection. (cont.)

## Cancer in Dogs and Cats (cont.)

Many patients can be saved if a tumor is identified while it is small and in the early stages. This may allow a surgical removal and cure the cancer before it spreads or cannot be surgically removed.

We encourage all of our clients to point out lumps and bumps that they may find and discuss whether they are something we should be concerned about. Also the Wellness Blood work that we offer at each annual exam (these are screening tests that are not required but are recommended and very discounted to encourage their use) can point to problems that we cannot see or feel.

Regardless of the situation, our doctors are very well-trained and motivated to detect your pet's problems early and discuss what can be done to help you and them if you are ever faced with this very difficult problem.

## Did You Know?

- Microchipping our dogs and cats has become a standard of practice to ensure that if your dog or cat is ever missing—they will be identified and re-united with their families. We are continuing our \$15 off AVID microchips again with the Savings Specials in this newsletter. The microchip is roughly the size of a grain of sand and implanted under the skin by an injection. All shelters and most vets now have readers which will identify the lost pet and allow for their safe return home!



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