



Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

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Doctor's Corner:

Technology

The other night I was having a discussion with my daughter about Edward Jenner who, in 1796, used cowpox to inoculate a young boy against smallpox. Smallpox devastated human populations for many thousands of years and is now considered eradicated due to vaccination. This made me reflect on the many advances in veterinary medicine which I have seen in the last 25 years from vaccines to new medicines. So many things have become available which enhance the lives of our patients and allow us to practice better medicine. Chief among these are: 1) **Newer and safer anesthesia**—this, along with better patient monitoring technologies and patient screening, has allowed vets to do surgery and dental procedures without many of the risks which were common a generation ago. 2) **Pain management**—this has become the standard for our pets who are undergoing surgical procedures or who have painful conditions such as back pain or a toothache. We have dozens of pain management drugs which we can choose from to fit the patient's needs and condition. 3) **Blood Assays**—beginning in the 1980's with fluorescent antibody (FA) and then enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) technologies, researchers began to make tests that would identify a tiny amount of a specific substance in a patient's blood. (Think home pregnancy test) This led to tests for many diseases

and conditions from heartworms to leukemia virus. These tests are very accurate and have become cost effective. It is hard for me to imagine practicing vet medicine without the many diagnostic tests we now take for granted. 4) **Imaging**—veterinarians have been taking Xrays (radiographs) for many decades. We still use them every day, but now we have digital dental radiography and perform ultrasound exams routinely on our patients. This has allowed us to diagnose, treat and monitor many internal diseases and conditions that were previously hidden from us. We also, occasionally, refer patients to specialists for advanced imaging techniques such as MRI and CAT scans. 5) **In house labs**—most vets now have the capability to run blood counts, blood chemistries, and specific blood tests for diseases in their clinics. This means we no longer have to wait until the next day to find out if our patient has a serious problem that requires treatment right away. This alone saves lives in our practice all the time. All of these advances and many more make it a very exciting time to be a vet!

Other News:

T-Shirts: Arbor Animal Clinic now has some very cool T-shirt designs and we will have more soon as well as some shirts for dogs. Ask the front staff and look for the display in our lobby.

Senior Wellness: In addition to the annual wellness blood tests which we offer at each of your dog or cat's Annual Visit, we have put together a couple of much more in-depth screenings to benefit our more senior patients. Ask our vets!

Pet Identification

.....saves lives!

We hear too many sad stories about lost pets and see animals found with no identification of their owners too often. The importance of microchipping our pets and having them wear collars with tags when they go outside cannot be overstated. The City of Austin no longer has a license and registration program. This makes it very important that if your pet is stray and ends up at the shelter that it can be easily identified. The use of microchips to permanently identify your cat or dog has become the universal standard. Without this safeguard it is much more likely that a lost cat or dog will not be re-connected with their owners. Almost all shelters and vets have readers to identify animals that are brought in as owned. Be sure your pet is secure! If your pet has already been microchipped—make sure to update your information if you relocate. We offer and recommend microchips for all of our patients. Ask our staff about scheduling your loved one for a microchip.

Thank you to all of you who continue to refer new clients to our practice! We want to show you how much we appreciate it—Please cut out and use the two referral cards on the back and receive a \$10 coupon for your next visit! Thanks!