

# ANIMAL HOSPITAL NEWS

Animal Hospital of Cornelius

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## SHARK BAIT WOO-HA-HA

From this moment on you shall now be known as Shark Bait. Shark Bait Woo-Ha-Ha! My name is Gill. I live off the coast of what you call North Carolina. It's in the "South" but you call it *North* Carolina. You humans sure are ridiculous. As a Mako shark goes, I am probably the fastest. I know I am faster than you or any of your friends. I am untagged, so don't even try to track me. And I am keen to you humans, what with all your "research" boats luring us with bloody tasty meals and then stabbing us with these monitoring devices to track our every movement like we're some kind of common criminals. Then there are your fishing vessels that sweep in with all your fancy nets scooping out food from my water—without even so much as a trade or even minimal compensation for us sharks. And then you have the nerve to act all indignant and surprised when we bite

the hound out of your sorry thieving behinds. And don't even get me started with your shark hunting/murdering for the sake of yourselves taking selfies to share on Facebook or just for a dorsal fin for some crappy soup y'all eat. Top it all off with the trash you people keep dumping in my water. I mean how would you like it if I came up into your house, and just dumped a full bag of garbage in your bath-tub while you were relaxing in soothing bath bubbles?!!!!

So you understand though - I don't hate you, but I may bite you a little. Can you blame me? And if you look like a seal when you're in the water....I may bite you a lot. I am tired of all of shark-kind being the most hated species in the ocean. I mean dolphins are way more annoying with their babyish squeaking and being traitors to fish-kind by playing along

performing tricks to entertain you and your miserable



spoiled offspring. Seals likewise get all sorts of special treatment nowadays and y'all used to make coats and boots out of their skin. You killed them, not to eat them to survive like me, but just for their freaking fur!!! Yet they'll just clap their fins and spin a ball on their nose for your



amusement like nothing ever happened. Ew it just makes me sick. Just give 'em a bucket of fish and all is good. Well not me! Not us sharks! We won't pretend we don't remember what you humans are *really* like. Which is really why we are as cold-blooded as we are, and why I have re-named your species to Shark Bait Woo-Ha-Ha. Because come in my "house" and that's what you are. Wanna swim with my cousin Bruce? And believe me, his motto is not "Fish are our friends, not food." Bruce eats everything; seals, whales, children, surfboards, *surfboarders*, flashlights, cell phones, and even license



CONT'D PG 2



# Sharks!

plates. Any thing that comes into the ocean is food to Bruce.

Bruce and I have been organizing the other sharks, including the tagged sharks. We have the tagged sharks just playing as decoys to our plan to rid the oceans of the human plague. We have stepped up our offensive efforts this year as you may now know with 52 successful bites inflicted and 6 confirmed kills. Those statistics do not include the number of times we have knocked surfers off their boards, bit into boats and kayaks, paddles, or otherwise destroyed oceanographers' and marine biologists' equipment. All part of our plan to degrade your capabilities and ultimately destroy you land lovers.

But just the other day while patrolling my zone of surf off Oak Island and making the shark bait (y'all) scatter for



surf makes it hard to see, but as I broke into the shallow calm - WHOA! I came face to face with this image of shark bait defense's ugly mug with those wild eyes. That look would be enough to make a train take a dirt road. He was so weird too - I mean not running away. I'm like the boogey-man usually. I can't think of anything that doesn't scam when I roll in, except this beast. So I broke off again trying to make sense of this. I can't think of anything I have done to this species before that would cause it to act all wild and crazy. Very perplexing.

Wait a minute.....this is some new genetic creation by those shark baiters, like in that Jurassic World movie I had read about in the newspaper litter left on the beach that rolled into the water during high tide, along with the piles of other crap y'all leave behind on the beaches. Anyways, back to the genetic freak, was it just a hatchling or something? It wasn't big really. Not even as big as me. Yeah, what was I running from anyways? Cats don't run from mice do they?!! I'm asking, I really don't know, *Do They?* No, okay good. Back to the mutant then, but as I sped back to the spot where I had encountered the mini-Jurassic DNA experiment, I was too

late and the beast was dragging one of my smaller cousins, Franklin, up on the beach. I could only watch in horror as it seemed to toy with Franklin, breaking off its attack, barking and yelping at Franklin, looking all giddy with excitement before pouncing and biting on Franklin's fins. Oh the humanity of it all!

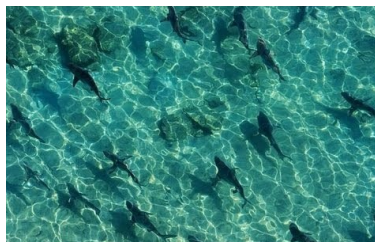


My own carnal instincts were enraged and I wanted revenge! Revenge, either on the beast, or on its shark bait genetic creationists. Those marine biologists always try to sound so noble as say they are searching for a cure for cancer by dissecting captured sharks. Sharks don't have cancer, how can killing us cure something we don't have?!! Blood letting and leeches are no longer mainstream medicine science dorks. You've really just been developing a weapon to take us out! Call me paranoid but y'all kill far more of us than we ever kill of you. But what just happened to Franklin won't go un-requested. That's right a double negative! This means WAR North Carolina! Bruce, I and the others will never give up. We're not that smart. But what we are...what we are is APEX PREDATORS! We have a whole week dedicated to us on the Discovery Channel. That's right, picked that up reading your litter too. Also from the t-shirt Bruce coughed up after chowing down on some thrill seeker who thought he could swim with us. Does your boring Shark Bait Woo-Ha-Ha job have a week of television dedicated to it? Your own t-shirts glorifying you? Didn't

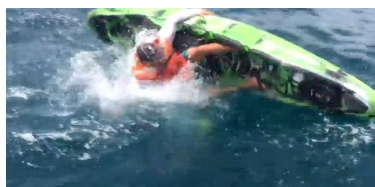
think so Shark Bait. We're like Billy the Kid. We'll make you famous. We're going to make you stick to swimming pools. We are world-wide, we never sleep, we never stop hunting, we're like water dwelling terminators. We can't be reasoned with, we can't be bargained with, we don't have mercy or compassion, and we will not stop! We are LEGION! We could be



right where you are, so close



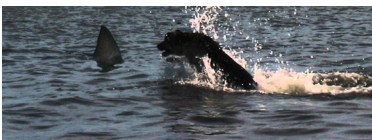
you wouldn't believe unless you had an aerial view. You bring out your boogie boards, your kayaks and this is what happens. You better believe



that if your good ole Jurassic DNA experiment isn't with you, YOU'RE IN DEEP TROUBLE.



your lives to the safety of the beach I was confronted by an unexpected aggressive shark



bait defender! I was way too fast for him though, so he wasn't able to lay a bite on me, but his menacing barks and weird face backed me off temporarily. I came back making my way toward the shore through the rolling surf while allowing my own chilling dorsal fin to send the crowd of shark bait into shrieks of fear (oh how that is such sweet music to my inner ears). The



# TICKED OFF!



Ticks have long been pests of humans and animals in North Carolina. While once more prevalent in rural areas, they're now being found in areas where people and pets didn't previously encounter ticks. The exploding population of ticks is of major concern as these parasites aren't just a nuisance; they can cause serious and sometimes deadly diseases, including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted fever, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, and tick paralysis. From the larval to the adult stages, ticks attach to a living host and feed on the host's blood and in doing so, may transmit germs that cause these diseases.

Ticks are related to mites and

spiders. They have four stages of development - the egg, larval, nymph, and adult stages. After hatching from the egg, the tick must take a blood meal to complete each stage in its life cycle.

Ticks are usually active in the spring, summer, and fall; however, the adults of some species are even active in the winter. When seeking a blood meal, ticks move from leaf litter, from a crack or crevice along a building foundation, or from another secluded place to grass or shrubs where they can attach themselves to an animal as it passes. Once it is on a host, a tick crawls upward in search of a place on the skin where it can attach to take a blood meal. The tick's mouth parts are barbed, making it difficult to remove the tick from the skin. In addition, the tick manufactures a glue to hold the mouthparts in place. The female mates while attached to a host and usually

feeds for 8 to 12 days until it is full. A male tick may attach, but it does not feed as long as the female. The male tick may mate several times before dying. The female, after mating and feeding, drops to the ground where it lays a mass of eggs in a secluded place such as in a crevice or under leaf litter. Shortly after laying the egg mass, which may contain thousands of eggs, the female dies. The eggs hatch in about two weeks, and the life cycle begins again.

North Carolina has one of the highest incidences of Rocky Mountain spotted fever in the country. Our beloved pets can sometimes be the taxi that drives these nasty parasites right into our home. So when ticks fall off your dog or cat, you don't want them alive - you'd also like to be sure they are dead so they can't attach to you. The truth is that your pets are at great risk if they ever go

outside - like fleas, ticks have evolved to do just two things, eat and reproduce. Even indoor-only pets are at risk because ticks can hitch a ride inside on *your* clothing or shoes. But you do want to be sure that if and when your pet picks up a tick, they are on a preventative that will kill the tick.

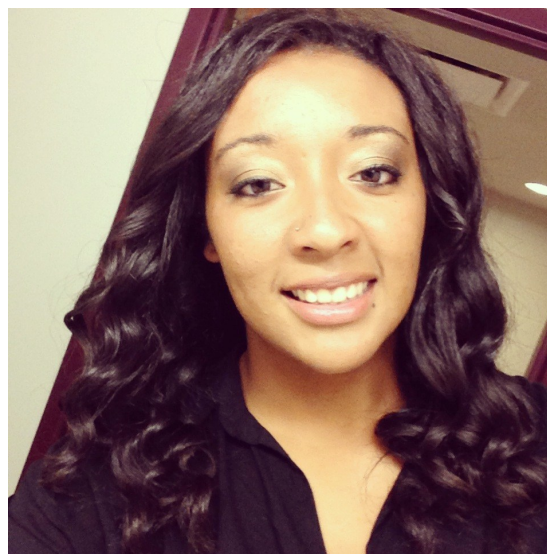
**Contact your veterinarians for their recommended prevention alternatives, from collars and topical preventatives to new oral products that can handle your pets' threat from ticks.**



## Employee of the Month

Congratulations go out to Dominique Wilson as she earns recognition as our June 2015 Employee of the Month! Dominique is employed as one of our Kennel Technicians and has been with the Animal Hospital of Cornelius since June of 2011. Dominique started as a part-time employee while in high school and is now earning her degree at North Carolina Central University. She leads her school's NCAA Division I softball team, the Eagles, and was one of her teams most valuable players leading her team in homeruns and runs batted in, while also pitching the second most innings and leading the pitching staff in strikeouts. You can tell she works hard at her

school and that she knows what teamwork is about. That spirit is also evident in her work here at the Animal Hospital. Dominique is a diligent worker and is willing to assist wherever she is needed in the hospital. She always keeps a positive attitude and treats our boarders and patients like they were her own pets. Thank you Dominique for the great effort!





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