

ANIMAL HOSPITAL NEWS



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Feeling Deflated that Summer is Over?

Everyone gets the Back-to-School blues as summer vacation ends, no more lazy days, no more staying up late on family trips to the beach. But I for one am glad that the summer is over and we can see a new season begin. Fall is for football season, and for jumping in piles of leaves. Fall is for baseball playoffs and wearing sweatshirts with long sleeves. Hey if I didn't know it, I'd swear I sound like a poet.

Another good thing about summer's end this year is maybe we won't have to hear about the lousy deflated ball story much more. Especially now, since a federal judge neutered the league commissioner after his decision to suspend Brady, last season's Super Bowl MVP. Some of the jokes and fan rivalry back-and-forth are very amusing, though most are just crude adolescent bathroom humor. I do however enjoy play on word jokes

though, almost as much as chewing on a good football.

The first two weeks of the new football season have seen some unexpected teams starting well and the heavy favorites, like our own Lake Norman Labs, well, not. I think they are unable to get over that blown play call on the goal line in the Super Bowl. Armchair quarterbacks and sports talk show hosts across the nation are calling it the "Worst Play Call in History!" Brady, his bunch and their fans were probably the only ones *not* disappointed that the Labs didn't run "Beast Mode" on them, opting instead for the slant route pass.

But the Labs aren't alone in their early season woes, as another preseason pick to get to the Super Bowl has also come out of the gate flat. The Colts have looked like someone took away their giddyap and are simply just disappointing since the De-

flated Football Conference title game last year. They are miles away from making a real horse team like the Budweiser Clydesdales.



The Manchester United Bulldogs who gave the Lake Norman Labs such fits last year did not rejoin the league this year, though their captain Mack Berry had this to say, "It's a bloody foul that we won't be playing in the NFL this year, but after all the controversy last season, we made the decision as a team to join a league where there is integrity and not a hint of corruption, FIFA. Plus we'll be playing with a *real*

ball, an inflated ball, I mean criminey, your lame ball isn't even round!"

True, footballs are not round, but FIFA is embroiled in a massive corruption scandal involving several countries and cities vying to host the World Cup. So, don't get all "soccer fan" crazy talking smack about our 21st century gladiator sport there Mr. Berry. A little controversy makes for more interesting zest in the game, and gives some a reason to hate arguably the best quarterback in the league (as if having perfect fur and a beautiful French Poodle model wife, Gisele, just isn't enough already).



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Deflated? Not Anymore !!!

One of the teams that has started the season the right way is the Panthers. Often made fun of because of the fact that they are dogs led by a monstrous mastiff linebacker, Kuechly, yet have a cat



like the flea flicker of course on offense and the Green Dog on defense. The flea flicker is a trick play that attempts to deceive the defense by appearing as a run play, the running back then tosses the ball back to the quarterback who throws downfield to a receiver as the safety is held in place by the run threat.

A *Green Dog* can also be known as a blitz-and-engage depending on the particular defen-

sive terminology. The point of a *Green Dog* is to add an extra man, late into the play, when a man-to-man coverage blitz is called by the defense. A simple example of a *Green Dog* occurs when a linebacker like Kuechly is supposed to cover the running back man-to-man when a blitz is called. If the running back stays in to help pick up the blitz, the man in coverage then becomes an additional blitz - that is a *Green Dog*. On a *Green Dog*, the responsibility of the linebacker who was originally in coverage changes, and he is asked to become another blitz in the pressure scheme.

The effectiveness of the *Green Dog* is that while the offense may have accounted for all of the original blitzers in its protection scheme, it did not necessarily account for the additional pressure that was brought by the defender who was originally in coverage.

A fan in the stands may think the offense simply doesn't know how to pick up a blitz, but it may be the case that the offense actually picked up the initial blitz perfectly, and the defense's ability to adapt (*Green Dog*) on

the fly simply added more men than could be blocked.

Some quarterbacks also bark out cadence that includes "RED DOG 88!! RED DOG 88!!" or "MAD DOG! MAD DOG!!" during their snap counts but rarely does that actually mean the play itself, but more to add defensive confusion or to call out blocking assignments based on the defensive formation.

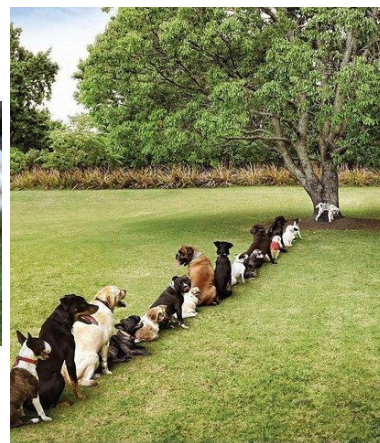


A type of tackling that has been outlawed used to be called "bulldogging". It is where a player grasps a ball carrier from behind and like a cowboy in a competition wrestles a steer to the ground by twisting its neck and grabbing its horns, similarly the football player drags the opponent down from the neck. An associated tackle is called the "horse collar tackle" which is also deemed illegal. A style of gang tackle is also called the dog pile, where a player is tackled by multiple players. A group of defenders jump on the ball carrier and take him down to the ground, then more jump on top of the pile.



There is so much to love about this game at all levels. The rivalries, The tailgating, the food, the crisp autumn air, the beer commercials, the stunning hits, the one paw catches, the going for two, goal line stands, the Hail Mary! It is the ultimate in Americanism.

Our teams come running out into the stadiums through fanfare and cheerleaders like gladiators into the Coliseum! The only thing that isn't so great at the games is the long line for the restroom. And it doesn't matter if it's the women's or men's room, the lines to each equally stink.



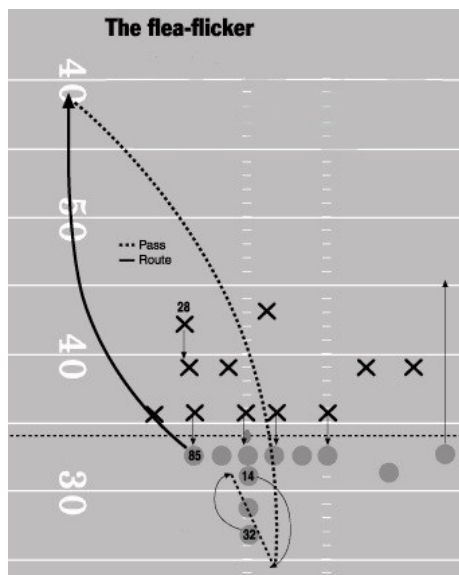
So put on your jersey, get your game face on, and let's see



who earns the right to be called CHAMPIONS!

Get Ready FOR SOME FOOTBALL!!

.....meanwhile, two former equipment managers seen here below show prospective employers their abilities.....



PROTECTING YOUR PETS



Summer's end is not just the beginning of school for our kids, or of football season, as much as those things thrill us. It also marks the time of year when mice will often seek the shelter of homes, (commonly in early fall or winter.) With mice being a threat, homeowners resort to placement of traps and poisons. Anticoagulant rodenticides and other forms of rodent bait are becoming more popular. These types of baits contain neurologic type poisons. The most common neurologic poison is Bromethalin. Bromethalin ingestion

causes severe brain swelling, seizures and death in all mammals. Rodents, cats, and dogs are at very high risk for death if ingestion occurs. Treatment is only successful if applied within 1-2 hours. The only treatment known to be successful is induction of vomiting to reduce the amount of poison in the body below toxic levels. After a couple of hours the likelihood of successful treatment reduces with every passing moment.

There are several general classifications of rodent poison (rodenticide) available over the counter. The most common is one that prevents blood clotting called an anticoagulant; with the product D-Con being the most easily recognized. Anticoagulant rodenticides can come in many forms from liquid, to pellets, to blocks. They are made to be palatable, thusly increasing the risk to pets. When they are ingested the active ingredient is absorbed and begins blocking

Vitamin K. Vitamin K is not a vitamin in the traditional sense, instead it is a molecule used by the blood during the clotting process. Unfortunately, signs of sickness can begin days after ingestion. Symptoms start with weakness, tiredness and then progress to coughing. Nearly 100% of cases of anticoagulant poisonings involve bleeding into the lungs.

Treatment of these anticoagulant poisonings often lags behind the initial poisoning resulting in dramatically reduced survival rates. This is often because pets do not act sick after ingesting the poison and therefore owners either are unaware it happened or believe the pet will be fine.

If an owner is aware that their pet ate the poison, vomiting can be induced to remove as much of the poison as possible and the pet can be started other treatments until the poison is filtered from the body. If a pet is already suspected to be suffering from the

signs of poisoning and is bleeding into its lungs or other tissues the treatment is very different. Diagnosis is usually through a blood test that determines how long it takes for the pet's blood to clot – these times are longer in poisoned pets. X-rays can also show how severe the bleeding is into the lungs, providing more information for prognosis. The pet will often need a plasma or whole blood transfusion. The transfusion is important not only to replenish blood volume but also provides the pet with the blood clotting factors the poison is blocking. As with most poisons, owner awareness is critical to saving the life of the pet. Knowing what poisons are on the property and ensuring that pets do not have access is the first step in prevention of poisonings.

With every chemical or poison used in the home, be aware of risks to animals and humans. Speak to your veterinarian to learn tips for reducing risks in your home.

Employees of the Month

Congratulations go out to Misty Roberts as she has earned recognition as our July 2015 Employee of the Month! Misty just passed her 20th year anniversary of working for the Animal Hospital of Cornelius! Wow! Misty is a great worker and trusted technician and her longevity speaks to her love of animals, her reliability and her competence. And crazy, let's not forget that, because it really does take a special willingness to hold sick animals and to get peed on or pooped on, vomited on, inundated with the odor of anal glands for 20 years and to continue to come back each day for more. Whew! That kind of fortitude is not found in everyone. There

are of course the 20 years worth of puppies, dogs, cats and kittens to be held, nurtured and loved on too, but we usually give those cases to our other technicians, like our Employee of the Month for August 2015, Kat Wilkinson, seen here holding a trio of newcomers to the Animal Hospital. Kat is also a technician at the hospital and has been employed here since May of 2006.

These two young women really have great talent and we appreciate the level at which they perform their jobs.

Thanks Misty and Kat for being simply awesome! Terrific job!



Bite-sized flea and tick control

Find out about NexGard
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NexGard™ (afoxolaner) Chewables:

The First Oral Flea and Tick Treatment for Dogs

Fleas can cause considerable discomfort and health problems for pets, and infestations can be difficult to eliminate and frustrating for owners. At the same time, ticks are expanding in number and geographic range, putting dogs at greater risk for vector-borne diseases. Now, with NexGard, dog owners can effectively kill adult fleas, treat and prevent flea infestations, and treat and control ticks with the convenience of a palatable, soft, beef-flavored chew. This monthly flea and tick treatment contains afoxolaner, a molecule developed for veterinary medicine.

For the entire month, NexGard kills *Ctenocephalides felis* fleas before they can lay eggs, preventing subsequent flea infestations. This oral medication also provides sustained, month-long killing of black-legged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*), American dog ticks (*Dermacentor variabilis*), and Lone star ticks (*Amblyomma americanum*).¹

NexGard is an FDA-approved product that has demonstrated safety and excellent efficacy in pivotal laboratory studies and in client-owned dogs.



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