



Regular veterinary check-ups could detect potential problems early!



Get your pet ready for summer fun with a "spa day" with one of our groomers!

Call (336) 288-8550 for an appointment

Be Proactive With Your Pet-Care

In 2006, Americans paid more than \$9 billion for veterinary care. Since we can't claim our pets as dependents on our taxes...Consider this: there are simple ways to cut costs without sacrificing your pet's well-being. In fact, these tips may help your pet live a longer, healthier life.

Prevention:

- Good Hygiene.: Groom your pet and trim their nails regularly. Brush your pet's teeth at least three times weekly to avoid tooth decay and gum disease.
- Ideal Weight: Obesity leads to a host of orthopedic problems as well as diabetes, heart disease and other disorders.
- Current Vaccines and Preventa-

tives: Vaccinating your pet against preventable diseases and insuring a regular heartworm preventative schedule will be much less costly than possibly treating bordetella, heartworms or other illnesses.

-Spay or Neuter Early: You'll save on treating very serious medical conditions such as breast, uterine and testicular cancer.

-Pet-Proof: Store medications and cleaners safely out of your pet's accessibility and make sure fences are secure. Also keep poisonous plants out of reach.

Observation:

Sudden changes to your pet's habits and routines may indicate a problem. Strangely enough,

odors may be very revealing. Bad breath may be a sign of oral disease, diabetes or kidney failure. Pet's ears should be virtually odorless-an odor could mean an infection.

Vet Care:

-Regular check-ups: Even if your pet seems healthy, a thorough exam could detect problems.

-Discounts: Take advantage of 20% discounts offered on wellness packages, which include an exam, vaccinations, heartworm test, fecal analysis, and doctor recommended blood work.

Don't be afraid to ask questions! We are here to provide care for your pet and ensure a long, healthy and happy life.

New Medications Improve Pet's Quality of Life

Arthritis is a common problem in dogs and cats. The pain and inflammation cause our pets to become less active. They may avoid stairs, arise with difficulty and no longer jump and play. Medications that decrease inflammation can make arthritic joints feel better. Pets that feel better can become active again, keep their muscle tone, control their weight and live longer, happier lives. Prednisone, a steroid, is a very strong anti-inflammatory drug and can make painful, arthritic joints feel much better. However, it can have undesirable side effects with

long term use. The most exciting (and most scientifically evaluated) class of newer medications for arthritis is called nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, abbreviated as NSAIDs. NSAIDs were developed to have the strong anti-inflammatory effects of steroids without the long term side effects. NSAIDs work by inhibiting an enzyme that is an important step in the inflammatory process. Inhibition of this enzyme, known as COX2, is the basis for how all veterinary NSAIDs work. By inhibiting COX2, these medications break

the inflammatory pathway resulting in less pain and swelling in your pet's joints. We now have multiple medications to choose from. Some need only be given once daily. They can make a tremendous difference in an arthritic pet's quality of life. Drugs in this category include, **Deramaxx**, **Rimadyl**, **Metacam**, and **Previcox**. Please let us know if you think your pet might be showing signs of arthritis.

Dr. Whitley



Calories in Common Pet Treats

Are any of the following treats common place in your home? These calories may not seem like much to humans, but they can quickly add the pounds to your pet, increasing his/her risks of health problems!

Dog Treat	Calories/Per Treat
Beggin' Strips.....	30
Busy Bone.....	309 (sm) / 618 (lg)
ChewBone.....	309 (sm) / 618 (lg)
Chew-eez Chew Strips.....	60
DentaBone.....	188 (med)
Grillin' Bites.....	30
Milk-Bones.....	40 (med)
Pup-Peroni.....	24
Snausages.....	25
T Bonz.....	42

If you elect to give your pet treats, please choose them wisely, according to calorie count, allergies, and overall nutritional value.

We Celebrate Our Dedicated Staff

The average years of service of veterinary clinic employees is around 1.5 to 2 years. At Cobb Animal Clinic, we are proud to say that our average employee's years of service is **over 6 years!**

We would like to acknowledge our staff with **5 years and over** of service for their hard-work, dedication and overall incredible knowledge applied to the daily care of each of our patients. **Thank you!**

Mary Baynes:	28 years	Cara Allen:	8 years
Dr. Whitley:	23 years	Holly Barker:	7 years
Debbie Helms:	21 years	Tracy Lane:	7 years
Sherry Racz:	18 years	Dr. Meekins:	7 years
Laurie Schultz:	18 years	Sherrie Dennis:	6 years
Kim Douglas:	16 years	Jessica Sizemore:	5 years
Kim Miros:	9 years	Marilyn Williams:	5 years



WARM WEATHER SAFETY

Fleas, Ticks and Mosquitoes:

Warm weather is upon us and at Cobb Animal Clinic; we know how quickly fleas and ticks can become a problem. Fleas can cause skin problems and anemia and carry parasites like tapeworms. Ticks can transmit diseases like Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme Disease. Mosquitoes transmit heartworm disease, so year round heartworm prevention is essential.

We carry a full line of effective and affordable preventative products like Sentinel, Frontline Plus and K9 Advantix.

Allergies:

Along with the warm weather comes allergy season. If you have noticed changes in your pet's behavior such as excessive biting or scratching; flaking; dull hair coat; rashes, recurrent ear infections, or foot chewing; your pet may be suffering from seasonal

allergies. We have new drug treatments such as Atopica and alternatives such as immunotherapy for long-term control.

Heat Stroke:

Just five minutes in a closed car can cause heatstroke, and even with the windows open, temperatures quickly reach dangerous levels. Reduce your pet's risk by exercising them early in the morning or evening when it's cooler, and be sure outside pets

have plenty of shade and fresh water. From all of us at Cobb Animal Clinic, be cool and be safe!



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