

ANIMAL HOSPITAL NEWS

Animal Hospital of Cornelius, PA

Volume 4, Issue 4

April 7, 2014

NOW EAR THIS! SOUNDING OFF ABOUT EAR INFECTIONS

While April showers can bring May flowers and all, dampness in your dog's ear does not yield a flowery fragrance worthy of inclusion in perfume. Infection of the ear is one of the most common types of infection seen in dogs. If you're lucky, your furry friend will never be bothered by ear infections, but many pets are frequently up to their ears in trouble. Dogs and cats have long ear canals, and they are warm, dark, and moist — a perfect environment for yeast and bacteria to thrive. For this reason, you should peek into your pet's ears each time you bathe or groom them; if something seems (or smells) off, you'll want to get to the vet as soon as possible.

Some pets are just naturally prone to ear infections, and there are a number of predisposing factors, including a history of allergies, floppy ears, a history of ear infections, increased ear wax

production and excess ear hair. Ear infections are generally caused by overgrowths of either yeast or bacteria (or both!), and often there are underlying causes, such as allergies or polyps, that contribute to their recurrence.

Ear infections are typically accompanied by thick brown or yellow discharge and a foul odor. Crusts or sores on the pinna (ear flap) or inside the ear are abnormal, and usually indicate an infection. Painful, red, or ulcerated ears and swollen ear flaps are other hallmarks of trouble. Pets sometimes shake their heads excessively due to the itchiness and discomfort of an ear infection, which can contribute to the formation of hematomas in the ear flap. It's important to seek treatment from your vet before an ear infection leads to other problems! Untreated ear infections can lead to narrowed

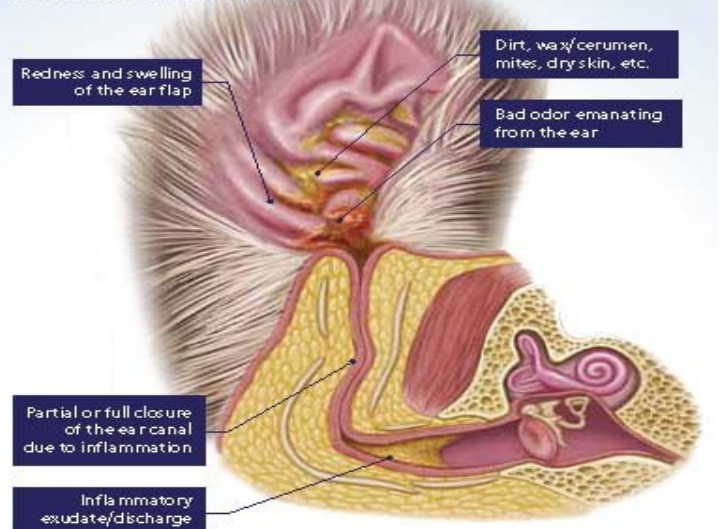
ear canals and even deafness, and can be extremely painful for pets.

Your veterinarian will use an otoscope to examine your pet's ear canal and tympanic membrane (ear drum), and take a swab of the aural discharge to observe under a microscope. Looking at what kind of infection is present (fungal or bacterial) will help him or her prescribe the most

effective treatment.

Once your vet has determined whether yeast or bacteria is present, he or she will likely have a technician thoroughly clean your pet's ear canals. Getting rid of all the discharge provides a clean slate so that treatment can start. Drops placed into the ears once or twice a day can treat typical outer ear infections. More complicated infections, or

OTITIS EXTERNA



CONT'D PG 3

Pet Safety

Article Contributed by Kathryn Christensen



As good pet owners, we try to give our “children” the best possible care. We maintain their vaccinations, administer preventative treatments to keep parasites away, give them lots of exercise, and provide lots and lots of love. Our pets are part of our family, and we love them unconditionally. With our human family, we try to have a “game plan” for any emergency or situation that may arise. What we must remember is that it is also important to have a game plan for our pets. According to the American Red Cross, they respond and assist to fire emergencies more than any other disaster. They

also state that fire emergencies are the “most preventable”. In order to best protect your pets in a fire emergency they recommend a few safety tips. The most important being: to include your pet in your family’s plan.

One step that you can take is to have a “pet disaster supply kit”. According to the American Red Cross website, some items that you may want to include in your supply kit are: a list of emergency phone numbers including those for your pet’s veterinarian, an after-hours emergency veterinary hospital, and the National Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435). Other items include: Topical antibiotic ointment, a nylon leash, Insect sting stop pads, cotton-tipped swabs, an instant cold pack, epsom salts and more. For a full list of the American Red Cross suggestions, please visit their website at: www.redcross.org and follow the links to the First Aid kit for Pets. The Ameri-

can Red Cross also notes that it is important to take steps as a homeowner to keep pets from starting fires. The American Red Cross and American Kennel Club joined together to provide a few tips prevent fires cause by pets.

The tips include the following:

- Extinguish open flames - Pets are generally curious and will investigate cooking appliances, candles, or even a fire in your fireplace. Ensure your pet is not left unattended around an open flame and make sure to thoroughly extinguish any open flame before leaving your home.
- A stove or cook top is the number one piece of equipment involved in your pet starting a fire. If covering the buttons or knobs is not feasible, consider gating or otherwise limiting pet access to the kitchen when you are away.
- Invest in flameless candles. These candles contain a light bulb rather

than an open flame, and take the danger out of your pet knocking over a candle. Cats are notorious for starting fires when their tails turn over lit candles.

Secure young pets; keep them confined away from potential fire-starting hazards when you are away from home, such as in crates or behind baby gates in secured areas.

Another good tip is to get a window cling that notes the location of pets and how many are in your house. Countless pet lives have been saved by that simple measure alone. It truly helps first responders.

We all love our pets, if an emergency does arise, being aware of a few of these tips may be the difference in saving a pet’s life!!



Pet Disaster Preparedness Can Save Lives!

Animal Hospital Renews Commitment to Cornelius Animal Shelter



The Animal Hospital of Cornelius has again been awarded the veterinary care responsibility for orphaned pets at the local Cornelius Animal Shelter off Meridian Street in downtown. The Animal Hospital of Cornelius recognizes this as an oppor-

tunity to serve our community. As animal advocates, we see the critical role our local shelter plays in our town. We are honored to serve in the veterinarian capacity again for 2014, partnering with the Cornelius Animal Control Division of the Police Department. We have an established relationship with the shelter staff working cooperatively to handle the wellness/preventive care, vaccinations, flea and heartworm prevention, behavioral assessments, treat-

ment of minor injuries and sometimes major injuries, as well as performing spays and neuters for all adopted pets. Dog and cat adoption saves lives. Adopt a pet from the Cornelius Animal Shelter and you’ll have a friend for life. Dr. Jones reiterated his praise of our Animal Shelter and the staff there. “I respect and applaud the staff and volunteers who make the Cornelius Animal Shelter the best such operation I have ever seen. My staff are committed to

providing care to the animals who find themselves as temporary shelter residents. The Animal Hospital of Cornelius places a high value on animal life. Call Trey or Kenny at the Shelter and adopt a pet today!” A recent news article was published by the Cornelius News Net website regarding the outstanding state-of-the-art shelter facility and the high level of care and committed service that goes on in our community. See the link below for the full article.

<http://corneliusnews.net/blog/2014/04/09/cornelius-animal-shelter-matches-pets-with-people/>

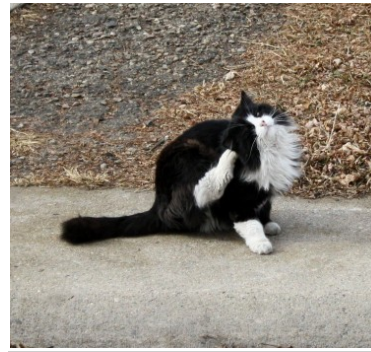
WE'RE ALL EARS

those that involve the middle ear, will need to be treated with oral medications like antibiotics or steroids, as well as topical solutions. Your veterinarian will prescribe what is best for your pet depending on his particular infection. Persistent, severe ear problems sometimes require surgery. While you can't always prevent ear infections, cleaning your pet's ears regularly can help. If your pet has a case of dirty or waxy ears, you can clean them easily at home with solutions sold at your veterinary clinic. Speak



to your veterinarian about what product is recommended for your pet's condition and how it should be applied or administered. Remember that the skin inside your pets' ears is very delicate, so only use extremely gentle materials to wipe and *never* use force!

The diagnosis of an ear infection is never music to any pet parent's ears, but with a little TLC and at-home maintenance, the condition can often easily be managed. Listen to your vet's advice for treating infections and preventing new ones, and your furry friend will be all ears again in no time.



The Scratch on Ear Mites



You may not be able to tell the difference between an ear infection and an ear

mite infestation — but your veterinarian can! A common, contagious parasite in both cats and dogs, ear mites are so tiny that you can't see them with your naked eye, but usually there is evidence of their presence. Infestations are extremely itchy and leave a dry black discharge in your

pet's ear. The majority of cases of ear mites are seen in cats, though dogs can catch them, too. Ear mites are spread through contact with another infected animal, so if one pet has ear mites, you should treat all pets in the household. Thankfully, treatment is relatively simple. First and foremost, the ears must be cleaned (this is best done by a veterinarian or veterinary technician). Your vet will prescribe a topical medication that goes directly in the ear to stop the mites in their tracks, and possibly a topical spot-on treatment as well.

It is important to treat ear mites because (besides being gross) their presence can lead to bacterial or fungal ear infections. So if you spot anything unusual, or notice your pet scratching, it just "mite" be time to visit the vet!

Employee of the Month

Congratulations to **Darra Short** as our Employee of the Month for March 2014. Darra is one of our newest employees in our veterinary technician department, but is not new to veterinary medicine as she has twenty years experience coming to us from Dr. Jones' former practice in Lincolnton, NC. She has worked with our staff of doctors during the time Dr. Jones owned both practices.

Darra is a diligent worker on the job and is always an advocate for animals. When a client recently

brought in an orphaned, injured baby squirrel to the practice, Darra took responsibility for nursing the young tree-dweller back to health. She hand fed the little guy and protected him with extra TLC to ready the squirrel to be released back into the wild of her backyard.

The Animal Hospital of Cornelius thanks Darra for her performance and commitment to excellence all month long!



the usual suspects

Bad Breath. A little extra pudg. They might seem like minor things, but they could signal the beginning of larger problems. Early detection and treatment can save you money and give pets longer, healthier lives.

PUDGY PATSY known couch potato

Domestic Short Hair,
Orange Tabby

F, 4 yrs old

Weight: Too much!

Characteristics: belly
drags on ground, can't
reach to groom herself

Reward: weight
reduction program to
reduce risks of diabetes,
heart disease, and
arthritis



HALLY TOSIS stinky breath offender

Brindle, Mixed Breed

F, 3 yrs old

Weight: 25 lbs

Characteristics:
bad breath

Reward: dental exam
and cleaning to address
tartar and gum disease



LUMPY fugitive

Sandy Brown, Mixed
Breed

M, 10 yrs old

Weight: 40 lbs

Characteristics:
lumps and bumps of
varying sizes on body

Reward: assessment
and early detection/
treatment of potentially
cancerous growths



SNIFFLES persistent sneezer

Domestic Medium-
length Hair,
Gray Tabby

M, 16 wks old

Weight: 4 lbs

Characteristics:
drippy nose and
runny eyes

Reward: exam and
treatment to identify
cause and prevent
complications



Start a conversation with your veterinarian today.

animalhospitalofcornelius.com

