AAHA Accreditation Awarded Again!

Suburban Animal Clinic is proud to be a member of the American Animal Hospital Association. Since our accreditation in 1975, we regularly have our hospital evaluated by trained consultants to make sure we comply with the Association's high veterinary hospital standards. Again we passed our November 8th evaluation with flying colors. Only 15% of veterinary hospitals in the U.S. and Canada are AAHA accredited.

Choosing an AAHA accredited Veterinary Hospital for your pet's medical care means that the hospital has the facilities, equipment, staff, and medical protocols that the AAHA believes are essential to the

highest quality pet care.

This is a vital way of demonstrating our commitment to you and your pet.

- Dr. Michael Seimer, Medical Director





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Suburban Animal Clinic

Winter 2013



Pet Pause

Suburban **Animal Clinic**

Your Pet's Health

- Dogs and Cats need Dental Care Too!
- Feline Vaccine Protocols
- Prescription Diet t/d for Oral Care

News For You

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Pet Owner Tips

- Top Breeds at Risk of Periodontal Disease
- Ways to Save
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Dogs and Cats need Dental Care Too!

February is Pet Dental Health Month

Gingivitis, dental calculus (mineralized plaque) and oral disease rank highest in prevalence when compared to all other health problems in dogs and cats. Over 70% of all dogs and cats have some form of dental disease, making it more prevalent than skin disease, ear disease and arthritis.

Research has shown that dental disease can have local as well as systemic effects on tissues and organs, including the heart, liver and kidneys. Loose, infected and fractured teeth can cause your pet pain and the inability to eat properly. (Does your pet have bad breath?)

The veterinarians at Suburban Animal Clinic examine and record the condition of teeth and gums during routine physical examinations. The overall health status of dogs and cats can be improved by periodic prophylactic veterinary dental cleanings and some form of home oral care. Please follow our recommendations and reminders to treat and maintain your pet's oral health.

SUBURBAN SPECIAL \$15.00 OFF PET DENTAL CARE

Suburban Animal Clinic is offering \$15 off your pet's dental cleaning scheduled now through March 31, 2013.

Call 614-276-5479 to book this offer, limited times are available.

Can't Brush Your Pet's Teeth?

Maintaining oral health for your pet requires regular professional dental care from your veterinarian, as well as care at home from you. Brushing your pet's teeth with a paste designed for pets can help control plaque buildup. If you can't brush your pet's teeth consider feeding Hill's Prescription Diet t/d, a therapeutic food designed to provide effective oral care.

Prescription Diet Canine t/d and Feline t/d are specifically formulated as a nutritional aid for pets prone to dental disease. The larger kibbles help scrub your pet's teeth like a toothbrush by wiping plaque deposits from the surface of the teeth, aiding prevention of problems like bad breath and tooth loss. For maximum benefit, feed Prescription Diet t/d as the sole food. However, some benefit can be derived if used as a treat. This product is available at Suburban Animal Clinic. You may be eligible for a rebate on purchase of your first bag.

What's News at Suburban Animal Clinic

• As many of you know Dr. Beth Stafford gave birth to son, Tucker Michael Stafford, on November 20, 2012. The family is doing fine and Dr. Stafford is accepting appointments beginning Monday February 25th.

• After a busy summer and fall, especially in preparation for our AAHA evaluation, the doctors and staff were rewarded with an afternoon of food, games and prizes at the new Hollywood Casino on November 30th. The Epic Buffett was quite enjoyable and everyone went home happy.

• Thank you to all who helped us with our holiday fund raiser for Pets with out Parents. Together we donated pet beds, leashes and collars, pet toys, litter boxes and <u>lots</u> of cat litter. With your gifts and the help of Hill's Pet Nutrition we provided the non profit organization with over 500 pounds of pet food. The group was very appreciative. For more information or to find your next pet visit www.petswithoutparents.net

Chew Toys We Recommend

The size of the chew toy needs to fit the size of the dog and should be at least the length of the dog's head. **CET oral hygiene chews** are impregnated with an enzyme system that provides a natural abrading action to help remove plaque and food debris and freshen breath. **Kongs** and **Busy Buddies** are great. Stuff them with peanut butter, Kong paste, cream cheese, and pieces of **Hill's Prescription Diet** (tartar control) **t/d**. These keep your dog chewing, busy, and happy.

AVOID! Hard nylabones and ice, they break teeth! No bones of animal origin, including pig ears, cow hooves, antlers, processed animal bones or chicken/steak bones. They may fracture teeth, cause diarrhea (from bacterial contamination) or cause a deadly intestinal blockage or perforation.



Top breeds for the greatest risk of periodontal disease:

Toy Poodle Standard Poodle

Maltese Yorkie Pomeranian Sheltie

Dachshund Cavalier King Charles

All cats are at risk for dental disease - especially feline resorptive lesions (cat cavities).



Feline Vaccine Protocols

We follow the vaccine recommendations of the American Association of Feline Practitioners and the American Animal Hospital Association. We recommend the new Recombinant Feline Leukemia vaccine for all kittens and newly adopted cats (after a negative feline leukemia test), and a safe non-adjuvented vaccine for feline distemper (panleukopenia), calicivirus and rhinotracheitis (you may know this vaccine as the FVRCP). Frequency of these vaccines depends on lifestyle and exposure.

A new Recombinant 1 year Feline Rabies vaccine is recommended to provide protection to all cats with minimal chance of adverse reaction.

Safety and protection is what we provide for your feline friend!

Ways to Save

We accept <u>Care Credit</u>. If your pet needs dental care, surgical care or an extensive workup and treatment you may qualify for <u>Care Credit</u>. Care Credit is accepted by many health care providers, including veterinary, dental and vision care. No interest and low monthly payment plans are available. Go to suburbananimalclinic.com and click on Care Credit for more information.

Pet health insurance can help protect your budget in case of a large, sudden expense when your pet gets hurt or sick. A covered claim will reimburse your expenses for veterinary bills. Insurance can also help you stay up to date with wellness and maintenance for your pet. Our clients have had good success with the following two companies.

www.aspcapetinsurance.com/info and www.petinsurance.com (VPI)



Staff Feature Laura Hendricks

Laura began working at Suburban Animal Clinic as a veterinary assistant in July 2006. She has son Grayden who is almost 3 years old and her pet family consists of 2 cats Charlie and Gabby, plus a dog, Tucker. Laura enjoys educating clients and helping them keep their pets happy and healthy.