



Governor's Avenue Animal Hospital Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

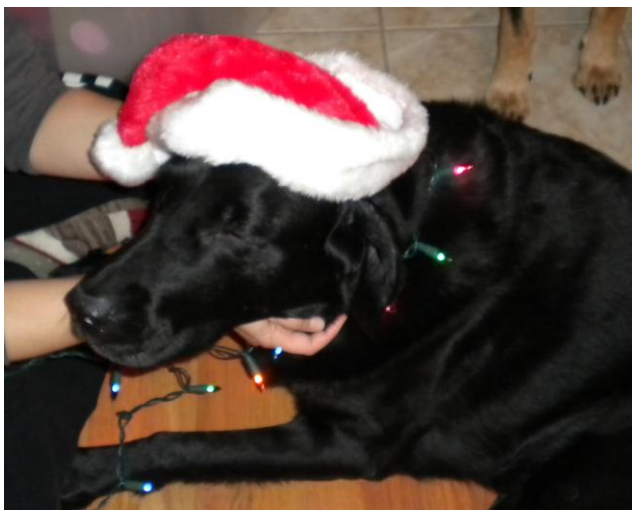
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Fall 2011

Raffle Winners!

Our monthly raffle winners are:

- June 2011 winner is Sherry Taylor and she selected a cat plaque.
- July 2011 winner is Kim Gillen and she selected Chihuahua taco figurine.
- August 2011 winner is Grace Murphy and she selected mug/tee shirt combo.



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Holiday Hazards

Walt Orth, VMD

As we come to the holiday season, the staff at Governors Avenue Animal Hospital would like to remind everyone of the dangers to your furry friends that may be associated with the season. We all enjoy the foods of the holidays, but these may pose specific dangers to your pets. For example, some foods like chocolate, raw onions, garlic, grapes and raisins can be toxic to your pet. There is also the danger of poultry bones, which tend to be brittle and splinter, running the risk of perforating the intestines. The richness of our foods can also be hazardous to our pets; table foods have been linked directly to pancreatitis which can be a fatal disease in some of our patients. Please be careful to place food where your pet cannot reach it. Also, inform all of your guests that it is inappropriate to "sneak" food to your pet no matter how much they beg.

Another source of risk to your pet is from the decorations of the season. Ingestion of plants like poinsettias can be toxic. Tinsel from the Christmas tree is also a problem when ingested; many cats will have intestinal blockages from eating this lovely Christmas decoration this year. Other hazards from the Christmas tree include the glass ornaments and strings of popcorn.

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We at GAAH wish you and your pet a Happy Holiday Season!

Canine Influenza

Amanda Halley

Flu season is here! We all think about the “people” flu this time of year and making sure we go get our flu vaccines, but have you ever thought about Canine Flu?

Symptoms of canine influenza are very similar to those of kennel cough and can be mistaken as that. They are treated very similar. However, with canine “flu” one of the main concerns is the development of pneumonia. So, we closely monitor flu cases.

Dogs that are at a higher risk for canine “flu” are those who come in contact with large groups of dogs. For example, dogs at boarding, doggy day care, grooming, training class facilities, and show dogs.

The good news is we have a vaccine to help prevent severe infection! The vaccine is a two part initial series and then done yearly thereafter. Call for more information and to schedule your dogs’ flu vaccine.

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A client’s puppy came to our hospital because it ate the popcorn that the owner was stringing. The needle fortunately passed all the way to the rectum before it became embedded, but you can see how easily this needle could have perforated the intestines.

Please remember your pets as you enjoy the holiday season. Consider them as you plan your holiday meals and decorate for the holidays. If you suspect that your pet has eaten something inappropriate, call us immediately. It is always better to start treatment as early as



Charles Pepper passed away on Thursday, August 18, 2011 at the age of 73. Charles was a valued veterinary assistant for us for 50 years. When Dr. Jan Sosnowski bought the clinic in 1986 one of the conditions of the sale was that Charles was kept as an employee for one year. Of course he ended up being with us for more than 20 years after that! Many of our long term clients will remember his genuine smile and his gentle handling of their pets. Charles was an avid square dancer and would often show up to work in his western shirts. Every year all of the doctors and fellow employees would receive Christmas ornaments that he hand crafted. We have an empty space in our hearts with his passing.