

Governor's Avenue Animal Hospital Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

www.gaahde.com

Winter 2010

Welcome to our newsletter!

Welcome to our inaugural quarterly Governor's Avenue Animal Hospital Newsletter! We hope to keep you up to date on new and exciting changes at our hospital as well as provide you with relevant educational material.

If you have not met all of us yet, allow us to introduce all of our doctors and staff! Our four doctors are Dr. Jan Sosnowski, Dr. James Foor, Dr. Walt Orth and Dr. Meryl Kern. Our technician team includes Amanda, Becky, Chrissy, Jen, Karen, Nicole, Pam, Tom and Toseef. Our receptionists include Marianne, Stephanie, Ashley, and Alicia. Terri is our office manager and Annette our practice manager.

We also provide grooming services. Sharon is our groomer as well as our business manager. Michelle is our assistant groomer.

If you haven't already, please take a look at our website: <http://www.gaahde.com/>

Also, if there is anything you would like to see in our future newsletters please send an email to Annette at: annettevonstetten@gaahde.com

Please note all future issues will be emailed so give us a call to update your email!!

Puppy Primer

Compliments of Merial Rewards "The Protector"

Socializing

Although it's tempting to let your young puppy play with other dogs right away, resist until she's had her first few rounds of vaccines. Her immune system is still developing, and those vaccines don't have super powers. It actually takes a few weeks to build immunity following vaccination. Exposing her to other dogs could make her sick.

Check-ups

Just like a baby, puppies need regular health maintenance their first year of life. Your pup will be dewormed and get vaccines starting at 6 weeks of age. She can be spayed (and male puppies neutered) around 6 months. A heartworm preventive can be given once a month. And don't forget the flea and tick prevention!

Feeding

It's tempting to give your puppy lots of treats (especially when you're training her), but try not to overdo it, especially if she's a large breed. Dogs can get overweight very quickly, and large breeds can develop joint problems if they're too heavy, especially at a young age.

Puppy-proofing

Little puppies are as curious as babies—but they've got needle-sharp teeth. It's easy for them to chew electrical cords, swallow objects, and eat toxic

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Pet Portal

We have teamed up with Vet Street to offer you **Pet Portal**. Once you create an account you have an easy way to keep track of what your pet is due for!

Pet Portal allows you to:

- Check your pet's vaccination and exam status
- Request prescription refills and home delivery
- Request appointments
- Send your updated contact information
- Receive email reminders, pet birthday emails
- Link to private and personal pet health websites
- Link to high-quality pet health articles

Here is a link of our website or you can go directly to: <https://www.vetsecure.com/gaahde.com/login/>
Click on "Create New Account" to begin!

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Dental Health For Your Pet

*Becky Borntreger, LVT
Karen Green, LVT*

February is Dental Health month. Dental care is important in the overall health of your pet. Healthy teeth and gums can produce longevity and a healthier quality of life.

Did you know dental disease affects 70-80% of our pets? Maybe your pet doesn't eat as well as he or she used to, or has bad breath, or you just noticed their teeth are not as white as they used to be because of tartar buildup.

To help prevent dental disease we recommend brushing your pet's teeth several times a week. Use a soft toothbrush and pet toothpaste.

It is best to begin brushing teeth when your pet is young; but it is never too late to start! Brushing is beneficial!!

Give us a call today to set up an appointment, so we can evaluate those pearly (or not so white) whites!

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Grooming

*Sharon Wyatt
Michelle Johnson*

Keep your pets looking great, smelling great and shedding less.

We used the hydro surge bathing system. Your dog or cat will enjoy the massage while getting a deep down clean. We wash away the dirt, dead skin, dander and loose hair.

We also use the furminator – a special anti-shedding treatment for dogs and cats that gets rid of unwanted hair and reduces shedding.

Call for a grooming appointment. We require that all pets are current on vaccinations prior to their grooming appointment.

plants so look around the house very carefully and remove any temptations. Be sure to keep an eye on her when she's exploring.

Foods to avoid

You probably know to keep your pup away from chocolate and more obvious toxins like rodenticides. But there are other substances that can hurt her, too, including macadamia nuts, raisins and grapes, sugar-free gum, cocoa mulch, and antifreeze.

The leash

If your pup pulls when she's on a leash, consider a head collar or harness until she's trained. She can damage her trachea by pulling too hard against the collar.

Toys

Pick her chew toys very carefully, especially if she's a large breed. Some of the very thin, rubber chew toys are easily destroyed, and she can choke on the pieces.

School

Even if you've had dogs before, dog-training techniques change and improve over time. Take her to a puppy class; she'll start learning basic training, and you'll pick up tips on how to stop problem behavior before it starts. Puppy class is also great for socialization; your pup will get used to being around other dogs and people.

The crate

Crate training is a great way to potty train, and she'll be safe when you leave the house. Invest in a crate large enough for your pup as an adult. If it's too big for now, make it smaller by placing a divider inside to take up room. She'll be less likely to do her "business" in a smaller space.

Touching

Get her used to having her ears and paws handled by gently holding and touching them often. This will prep her for grooming or veterinary checks in the future. Touch the nail clipper to her nails (without cutting the first couple of times) to let her know it's okay.

Exposure: Ease her into experiencing different sounds and smells so she'll take everything in stride when she's older.

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City, State 98765-4321

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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