



Sign Up for Summer Sessions

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Whispering Waters Animal Care w/ Dr. Maggie Federhart will be offering some informative talks during the summer months. Attending these sessions is a great way to learn more about caring for you pet. It is also an opportunity to network with other animal lovers in the area and have some fun at the same time.

The first session will be Saturday,

June 21--Common Summer Issues -

- Some topics addressed will include: problems arising from outdoor activities, coat and skin care, and travel tips.

Sessions will run from

10am-2pm.

The cost for each individual session is \$45. This includes lunch and informative materials to take home.

Sessions will be held at WWAC
1355 N. Pine Run Rd.
Boone, NC 28607



Floyd

To sign up call WWAC at **(828) 264-8077.**



Protect Your Pet from Heartworms

Heartworms are transferred to your dog by a mosquito that has acquired larvae from an infected dog. The mosquito injects the microscopic larvae into your dog. The larvae then migrate through body tissues and the vascular system for approximately 5-6 months while continuing to develop. After this period they enter the heart as long slender adult parasites that usually reside the pulmonary arteries. Symptoms may range from coughing to heart failure.

Summer is the season for mosquitoes in the High Country and that means it is time to start giving your dog Heartworm Prevention. An annual Heartworm test is also required to make sure you pet is heartworm-free before starting prevention.

Call WWAC to schedule your HW test and pick up HW prevention.

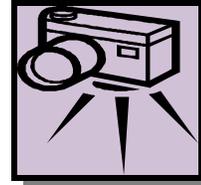
(828)264-8077

Tips for Itchy Skin:

- Rinse with Green Tea (after it has cooled)
- Calendula Spray is a very helpful and can be found at the health food store
- Vitamin E oil
- Aloe Vera Gel

Apply any of above to affected areas.

Purrrfect Pets . . .



Tzura



Zinnia getting acupuncture.



Boscoe and Betty



Yana and Smokey Joe taking a nap



The Stare Down

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." ~ Anatole France



Cappy and Gingersnap

Send us your Pets Purrrfect Picture!



Miss Lulu Bell



Tabitha the Queen

The Purrrfect Picture Section will be included in every Newsletter. If you would like your pet's picture to be included, just send it to:

animals_naturally@yahoo.com

What about those Vaccines?

Vaccination Information and Available Options



With all the recent news attention about vaccinations for humans, many people ask, "What about vaccines for my pet?" The American Animal Hospital Association and American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine no longer recommend annual vaccinations for dogs and cats. Increases in adverse reactions from hives to potentially lethal anaphylaxis are a few of the reasons for the change in protocol. Over vaccination also has been linked to chronic immune-mediated conditions, such as polyarthritis, allergies, and cancer.

When vaccine induced fibrosarcomas in cats began to appear with increasing frequency in the mid 1980's, the veterinary immunologists began to take notice. Even though annual vaccinations had been recommended by the pharmaceutical companies for the last decade, no studies had been done on the duration of immunity. Humans get vaccinated as children and are protected throughout adulthood. Clients have often brought up the question – "Does my pet really need this?" "I don't get shots every year."

Immunologists have shown vaccines last many years in dogs and cats as they do in people. Dogs vaccinated as puppies have been shown to still have circulating antibodies 7-10 years later. Boosting after puppy hood at 1 year of age may protect them for life. Antibody titers show circulating antibodies in the bloodstream. This is a laboratory test that your veterinarian can do to see if vaccination is necessary. A small blood sample is taken and then sent to the laboratory for analysis. Having circulating antibodies is only one way the body protects against disease. For example, we are more than likely protected against smallpox even though we were vaccinated at 6 or 7 years of age and may not have circulating antibodies. After an exposure of smallpox our immune system will "remember" and begin to make antibodies to protect from the disease. The antibody titer test is all we have available and most of the time the dogs and cats tested are shown to be protected.

If your dog or cat has any immune weakness disorder (ie. Allergies, arthritis, seizure disorders), even if the titer is low vaccina-

tion booster is not recommended. As stated above they are probably still protected. On the vaccine bottle it is stated to be given only to "healthy animals". An immune problem does not deem good health. If your pet needs to be boarded or you have a situation where documentation of vaccination is required, your veterinarian may be able to write a letter stating it is not in your pets best interest to be vaccinated. An antibody titer test is an excellent option in lieu of an unnecessary and potentially harmful vaccination.

Rabies is another issue; laws can be different depending on where you live. Because of the potential of a fatal human disease, Rabies vaccinations are mandatory in dogs and cats. Most states require vaccination every three years, after the initial 4-6 month and then 1 year booster vaccine. If your pet has a severe seizure disorder, fatal cancer or other debilitating diseases your veterinarian may be able to write a letter stating they are not healthy enough to be vaccinated. However, if your pet is reported to be exposed to a rabid animal and is not current on its rabies vaccine, by law they would need to be put in quarantine for 6 months or be put to sleep.

There are antibody titer tests available for Rabies but they are not recognized as proof of protection by the government agencies. These tests are required when taking an animal to a some Rabies free countries. They use the antibody titer test to show that the animal is protected from the disease of Rabies. There is a movement to change the protocol to recognize the titer test as proof of protection versus the continuing delivery of the Rabies vaccine.

Veterinarians and animal guardians all want the same thing; for our pets to be healthy and protected from infectious diseases. The best route to take is probably from the policy statement that the American Veterinary Medical Association issued in 2002. They urged veterinarians to "customize" vaccine protocols for individual patients, since there is "inadequate data to scientifically determine a single best protocol" for initial or repeat vaccinations.

Flaim, Denise. (2006). Shots Fired: Veterinary medical associations are calling for fewer Vaccinations. Are local veterinarians hearing the ring. *The Whole Dog Journal*, 9(11), 6-11

Phillips, T.R., & Schultz, R.D. (1992). Canine and Feline Vaccines. In Kirk, R.W., & Bonagura, J. D. *Kirk's Current Veterinary Therapy: XI Small Animal Practice* (202-206). Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Company.

Veterinary Healthcare Communications. (2002). *Titer Testing and Vaccination: A New Look at Traditional Practices*. Lenexa, Kansas.

Wynn, Susan (2003). *Vaccination Decisions*. Retrieved April 30, 2008 from, <http://www.altvetmed.org/pages/articles.html>.

Tibby's Story

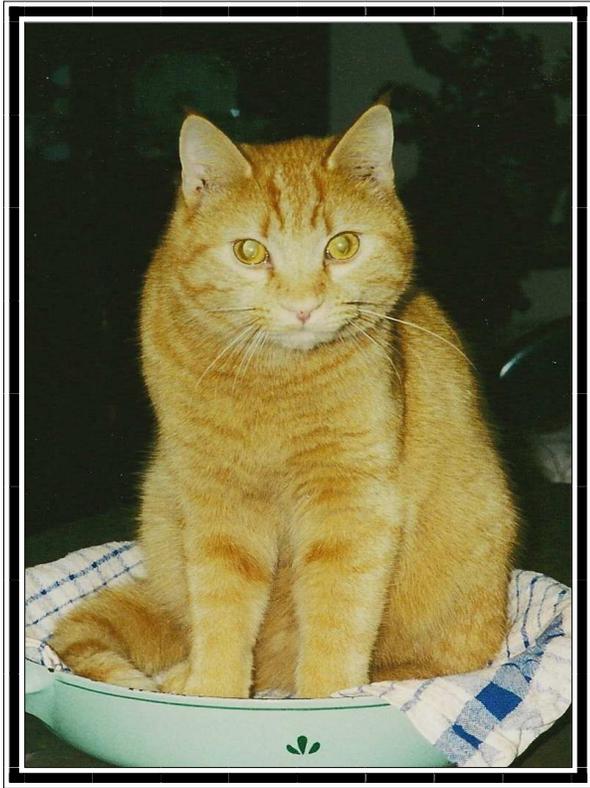


If you have visited Whispering Waters Animal Care, then you've probably met Tibby the Tabby; for whom this newsletter is named. He demands your attention with his loud purr and happy disposition. Here's his story:

One Saturday morning, Dr. Maggie and her husband Bruce were headed to Humane Society to donate an old computer. Maggie was about to leave when a young girl rushed into the office very upset, exclaiming that she had found an injured kitten underneath her car. Maggie went out to the girl's car and discovered a tiny orange kitten curled up in box. The tabby was in poor condition with a swollen head and dangling leg. It appeared to have experienced some sort of trauma; hit be a car maybe?

Maggie couldn't resist and the next thing you know she was climbing back into the truck with an orange tabby in a cardboard box. Maggie said out loud, "What will we call you?" and Bruce (not to surprised at the turn of events) said, "Call me Mr. Tibbs".

After surgery to have his broken leg repaired and some recovery time; Maggie was still unable to find a home for Tibby. So now he is the resident happy and healthy orange Tabby at WWAC. He may lose his balance sometimes and be very persistent in trying to steal your lunch, but Tibby always brings a smile to your face and often a laugh as well.



"There's no need for a piece of sculpture in a home that has a cat." ~ Wesley Bates