

Tibby's Tidbits

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Laser and Acupuncture offered at Animal Emergency Clinic of the High Country

Beginning in October, Dr. Federhart will be offering some exciting treatment options at the Animal Emergency Clinic of High Country.

Maggie has been using a Class IV K-Laser on many patients since attending a course in Canine Rehabilitative Therapy in 2006. It has been beneficial in a variety of cases, including post-operative recovery, arthritis, acute or chronic injuries, and wound healing. Therapeutic effects include improved healing time, pain reduction, increased circulation, and decreased swelling.

Maggie is also certified in Veterinary Acupuncture and will be offering this service at the Emergency Clinic as well.



These services are being offered to complement your veterinarian's treatment plan. Dr. Federhart will communicate with your Veterinarian to develop the most beneficial treatment regime for your pet.

For you more information, talk to your local Veterinarian or call WWAC at (828) 264-8077.

Heartworm Prevention in Winter?

Tips for Car Sickness

- **Do not feed before traveling.**
- **Ginger is known to be calming to the stomach.**
- **Dramamine can be used—check w/ your Vet for dosage**
- **Don't avoid traveling -Puppies can often grow out of Car Sickness**

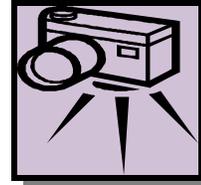
In the last issue we discussed Heartworms and the importance of getting an annual test to check for the parasite. Once it starts getting cold, many people ask, "Now what?"

Here in the NC mountains, we are fortunate to experience a range of seasons. Once the weather is consistently cold, the mosquitoes are gone and HW prevention may not be necessary. When making a decision to discontinue HW prevention in the winter months, some things to consider are:

- Will you be traveling to areas that do not experience a cold winter (FL, eastern NC, etc)
- Many HW preventatives also protect and treat against other parasites such as roundworms and hookworms—consider your pet's history and risk of exposure to intestinal parasites

After you've made a decision with your Vet, make sure we are through the "warm spells" and winter is here to stay before discontinuing prevention and don't forget about your annual HW test in the spring.

Purrrfect Pets . . .



Corky



Beautiful Blakegirl



Wes



Jura



Betty and Daisy play at WWAC



Miss Lucy lounging on the sofa at WWAC

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

Cooper



Davis



Send us your Pets Purrrfect Picture!

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

Attention: We need cat pictures, please!

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>.

Earl Grey's Story



One cold and rainy night, Dr. Maggie's assistant, Meredith, was driving home from work when she came across a kitten in the road. The gray and white kitty was unconscious and appeared to have been hit by a car. Dr. Maggie immediately rushed to the clinic and met Meredith and the kitty. They treated the cat with Homeopathy. Meredith's favorite tea was Earl Grey, so the cat was called Earl from then on.

The next day Earl Grey regained conscious and continued to heal while living at the clinic. He was a bit shy and would usually hide during the day when clients were around. At soon as the doors closed, he would come out to get some attention from Maggie and the staff. Earl liked to lounge in the most uncomfortable looking places, such as an open toolbox!

A few years later Dr. Maggie closed the clinic on 321 and Earl Grey went to live with Ann; Maggie's mom. At Ann's house, Earl came to have other kitty friends to play with. He continued to be shy around people and often would not appear until after the stranger had been gone for a while.

In recent years, Earl has come out of his shell and will spend his time lounging on the ottoman. Sometimes when visitors come he will stay put and continue lounging, without a care in the world. Earl lives the good life with all of his kitty roommates and lots of love, toys, and cat perches. What more could a cat desire!



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