



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

SPEEDING UP HEALING

If your pet is undergoing treatment with herbal or homeopathic remedies, or any other natural method, you can assist the healing process by doing the following:

1. avoid over-vaccinating your animals (be aware of what is absolutely required in your area and what is optional)
2. avoid low quality commercial foods, especially dry kibble
3. avoid exposing your pets to second-hand smoke
4. avoid the use of steroids, antibiotics and any other drug, especially long term
5. avoid the use of pesticides internally or externally (chemical flea products, etc.) and other chemicals in your pet's environments (air fresheners, etc.)
6. lessen the stress of boredom or of harassment by another pet or a child

FLEA SEASON IS UPON US

It seems like we were just talking about flea prevention and another year has gone by. When the weather starts to warm up, it is time to start protecting your pet naturally against fleas.

In addition to good diet, brewer's yeast & garlic supplements can be used providing your pet does not have a history of bladder problems (brewer's yeast alkalizes the urine). Black walnut tincture helps to repel insects and can be added to your pet's food.

Externally, herbal collars containing essential oils will help to repel fleas. Botanical sprays can also repel insects (mosquitoes, ticks and fleas) and some will put a coating on the fur preventing the insect from being able to land.

You can determine whether your pet has fleas by using a fine-toothed flea comb on a regular basis. We'll be happy to provide you with some more detailed information about keeping your pets flea free – just ask us.

CANCER STATISTICS_It seems that the statistics keeping getting more and more grim. In the February/March issue of Animal Wellness magazine, it was revealed that cancer is the most frequent cause of death in dogs now. One in three dogs will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime and 45% of dogs will die of cancer.

PERIODONTAL DISEASE IN ANIMALS_Over-vaccination has been linked with periodontal disease in dogs and cats according to Dr. Sharon Doolittle and Dr. Steve Marsden. Because of the effects of vaccines on the immune system, we are seeing an increase in the occurrence of tooth and gum disorders.

In addition to restricting the amount of vaccinations your pet receives, using an enzyme product (Wysong AddLife or DentaTreat) and a dental care product like PetzLife, tooth and gum disease can be eradicated.

Teeth can not be cleaned by using a dry kibble, no matter whether it claims to be a “tartar control” product or not. In fact, dry kibble when chewed, turns into a sticky starchy mass that can actually make tartar worse. If you are feeding only dry kibble, it is even more important to use an enzyme product along with the food.

DOG OWNERS HEALTHIER THAN CAT OWNERS ?

A study published in the journal of the British Psychological Society has reinforced what we have already known; that pet owners are healthier than those who do not have pets. Because pets are a positive influence in relieving stress, there is a lower incidence of stress-related illnesses like heart disease, immune related illnesses and some cancers among pet owners.

But, an additional finding was that dog owners have lower cholesterol levels, lower blood pressure and likely better overall health than those who do not have dogs. Because having a dog as a pet generally increases our physical activity level, (walking, playing and increased social interaction with other dog owners), the results of the study were perhaps not so surprising.

CANINE BREED TESTS MAY SOON BE AVAILABLE

A human and animal health science company (Metamorphix Inc.) has launched a diagnostic test in February that will use an animal's DNA to certify its breed. Up to 38 major breeds can be determined and results are available within 4-6 weeks of testing.

This test would allow owners of mixed breed dogs, or dogs without breed registration papers to determine the pedigree of their dog. This information will be useful in helping pet owners and veterinarians be aware of potential health risks that are specific to certain breeds. More information is available on their website at www.metamorphixinc.com

“Keeping your pet healthy is a much safer and simpler option than continuing to vaccinate for a disease that he will likely never come in contact with.” –Michelle Bernard, in article in Animal Wellness magazine

In good health, Mike, Lee, Jayne & Moxy

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