



Waggin' Tales

A Newsletter for Friends & Clients of All Tails Wagging Veterinary Clinic

Spring is Here! And So Are Fleas and Ticks!



All Tails Wagging is proud to offer **Revolution** for both cats and dogs. Revolution is a very safe, FDA approved, once a month topical preventative and treatment of multiple internal and external parasites. Unlike other topical products that leave behind messy oil spots, Revolution is an alcohol based product that is rapidly absorbed and dries quickly. Because Revolution is a prescription medication it requires an up to date yearly

physical exam by your veterinarian. Both dogs and cats should be on heartworm and flea prevention year round and seasonal tick prevention. Revolution is a great option for finicky pets that may refuse to eat heartworm prevention as a treat. In addition, it is a great way to save money because it controls multiple parasites, thus eliminating the need to buy multiple products.

Controls:

- **Heartworms**
- **Fleas**
- **Ticks**
- **Roundworms**
- **Hookworms**
- **Ear Mites**
- **Sarcoptic Mange**

Revolution makes it easy to control multiple parasites with just one monthly topical application and Revolution *guarantees* their product. If your dog contracts heartworm disease while current on Revolution, the company will pay for any associated treatment of the heartworm disease. Contact us to find out about the current promotion that Revolution is offering.

Springtime Hazards

As we move into the Spring and Summer months, we'd like to remind you of some of the hazards you may have in your own backyard. Gardening and yard work can often bring unknown hazards with potentially deadly effects. Use caution when treating your lawn or garden with **FERTILIZERS, HERBICIDES or INSECTICIDES** and keep pets away from storage areas of these products as well. **COMPOST** piles can also be a toxic source of interest to dogs that can cause seizures and even death. **SNAILBAIT** also causes severe tremors and seizures, so use an alternative such as Sluggo, which can be safely used around pets and wildlife. And last but certainly not least, **FOXTAILS** are an unpleasant surprise for a nosy dog. As the grass and weeds begin to come up, be sure to remove foxtails plants while the plants are green, before they dry and drop off in to your yard.



What's New at All Tails Wagging

We have gone through some changes over the last few months and are proud to announce our new team members below. We are also updating our website so please note our **new email address below**. Thank you for your patience during these times of change and we look forward to better serving you in the future!



← Brittany Schultz – Receptionist

Brittany came to All Tails Wagging in March 2011. She was born in Germany but has lived in the United States most of her life. She has been in the veterinary field since 2008 and volunteers at the UC Davis Marine Biology Lab. Her furry family includes her three German Shepherds, Diesel, Roxy and Nico, and her two cats, Panda and Safari. She also enjoys her freshwater and saltwater fish. Brittany has a warm smile, a compassionate spirit and is a great addition to our team.



Julie Morris, RVT → Veterinary Nurse/Practice Manager

Julie joined our team as Practice Manager in March 2011. She was born and raised in Sonoma County and started her veterinary career in 1990. Her veterinary experience over the last twenty one years includes emergency and critical care, specialty medicine, alternative and general practice. Her furry family includes two Pomeranians named B. and Cotton and her two cats Maddie and Cricket. Julie has a positive attitude and the experience needed for this position. We look forward to a successful future with her.



Why We Recommend Pet Insurance

We think pet insurance is a good idea. When you have pet insurance, you have peace of mind that if anything unexpected happens to your pet, you can do whatever it takes to care for them. It protects you against large unforeseen medical bills that force you to make unpleasant decisions regarding your pet's health.

Why We Recommend Trupanion Pet Insurance

Trupanion is one simple, easy to understand policy

Unlimited lifetime coverage for **anything unexpected** - 90% of the bill paid, less the exam fee.

Trupanion has the highest level of protection for all **unforeseen** medical bills.

With Trupanion, you pay for wellness expenses out of pocket, which are smaller bills that you expect to incur... annual exams, flea and tick treatments, heartworm medications and spay/neuters. Then Trupanion will pay 90% of the bill (less the exam fee) for anything unexpected; all accidents, illnesses, injuries, tests and medicines... unforeseen expenses that can often stretch into thousands of dollars. This is what you need pet insurance for. Often times, insurance policies reimburse only a portion of each product, exam or test. They are often not worth it, as you are paying into the plan monthly and still have to pay for a portion of the wellness items. **It is a good idea to pay for wellness out of pocket, and get the best insurance for unforeseen items.**

Trupanion has no per-cent limits, and no per year limits

Trupanion covers all hereditary and congenital disorders

As long as they have not presented themselves before you enroll.

Trupanion will not raise the rates due to the pet aging

All pet insurance companies adjust for inflation occasionally, and Trupanion will too, but they will not add on additional fees due to your pet aging... most other plans do.

We believe that the Trupanion policy is simple and fair. It is easy to understand and has a very high customer approval rating on petinsuranceview.com. If you choose to get Trupanion insurance, we will be eager to hear any feedback on your experiences.

Pet First Aid Kit

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Water | 8. Antiseptic wipes |
| 2. Sterile Saline | 9. Gauze |
| 3. Antibacterial Ointment | 10. Benadryl |
| 4. Vet Wrap | 11. Rectal Thermometer |
| 5. Telfa pads | 12. Leash |
| 6. Gloves (latex and leather) with | 13. Eye dropper or large syringe |

- Always have a current list and dose of your pet's medication and vaccination history.
- Phone numbers for emergency veterinary hospitals, and animal poison control (888-426-4435)
- Keep a pet first-aid book on hand
- Always contact a veterinarian before treatment and only perform treatment as a temporary measure before going to see a veterinarian.

Obesity is a Serious Issue by Anna Garner

Obesity is the most common nutritional disorder affecting pets today. It is estimated that 25% of cats and dogs seen by veterinarians are obese. The most common causes of obesity are over-consumption of calories and lack of adequate exercise, but it's important to realize that obesity has become increasingly recognized as a disease itself.

Fat cells produce hormones called Adipokens that decrease metabolic rate, making it more difficult for obese animals to metabolize energy. Adipokens also inhibit the normal appetite suppression seen in non-obese animals, making obese animals more likely to overeat. Adipokens can affect various organs and put overweight animals at risk for other diseases such as: heart disease, respiratory and urinary disorders, diabetes, arthritis, joint disease/injuries, anesthetic complications, and hepatic lipodosis (fatty liver disease) especially in obese cats. Aside from being significantly at risk for other diseases, overweight animals typically have a poorer quality of life. These animals experience fatigue, intolerance to heat and exercise, and increased levels of pain due to excess strain on their joints.

There are certain factors that may increase your pet's risk of being overweight. Genetically, some breeds are more prone to being overweight. Common breeds include the Golden retriever, Labrador retriever, Beagle, Bassett Hound, Sheltie, Cocker Spaniel, Cairn terrier, and mix breed cats. In addition, lifestyle is a factor. Does your pet get enough exercise? Are they physically able?

Altered metabolic rate is yet another consideration: Metabolism not only slows naturally with age, but also after a pet is spayed or neutered. Spaying and neutering is always recommended as it provides many health benefits, but after the procedure it is important to be aware of changes in your pet's dietary requirements.

There are many preventive measures that can be taken to avoid weight gain and obesity. We recommended measuring meals to monitor how much food your pet is getting per meal/per day. Animals that graze are typically prone to over-eating. Therefore, twice-a-day feeding regimens can often prevent future problems. In addition, Human food should be avoided as a treat. You may not realize that the calories from human food affect our pets greatly. For example: one ounce of cheddar cheese in a twenty pound dog equates to two and a half hamburgers in an average human. A cup of milk given to a ten pound cat is equivalent to a person eating four and a half hamburgers or five chocolate bars. Just one hot dog for a twenty pound dog is like a person eating three whole hamburgers.

Obesity is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. If you have questions about obesity or weight management, please do not hesitate to discuss these issues with one of our veterinarians. We offer several low calorie di-

ets, and there is now a weight loss medication called Slentrol which decreases appetite. After discussing these options, we will help you formulate a plan to get your obese pet to a normal, healthy weight.

SELECT A BODY CONDITION SCORE FOR YOUR PET

1	2	3	4	5
 VERY THIN	 UNDERWEIGHT	 IDEAL	 OVERWEIGHT	 OBESE
RIBS - Easily felt with no fat cover TAIL BASE - Bones are raised, no fat cover SIDE VIEW - Severe abdominal tuck OVERHEAD VIEW - Accentuated hourglass shape	RIBS - Easily felt with little fat cover TAIL BASE - Bones are raised with slight fat cover SIDE VIEW - Abdominal tuck OVERHEAD VIEW - Mild hourglass shape	RIBS - Easily felt with slight fat cover TAIL BASE - Smooth contour with slight fat cover SIDE VIEW - Abdominal tuck OVERHEAD VIEW - Well-proportioned waist	RIBS - Difficult to feel under moderate fat cover TAIL BASE - Some thickening, bones palpable under moderate fat cover SIDE VIEW - No abdominal tuck OVERHEAD VIEW - Back is slightly broadened at waist	RIBS - Difficult to feel under thick fat cover TAIL BASE - Thickened and difficult to feel under thick fat cover SIDE VIEW - No waist, fat hangs from abdomen OVERHEAD VIEW - Back is markedly broadened at waist

Image courtesy of Hills Pet Nutrition

Leptospirosis Is On the Rise in Our Area

By Anna Garner

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that can be contracted by both animals and humans. There are 8 strains that can infect dogs and cats. The multiple strains produce different levels of disease depending on the animals they infect. Lepto is much more of a problem in humans, dogs, and livestock than it is in cats. Cats can be infected, but rarely shows signs of disease.

Lepto is most commonly transmitted through contact with the urine of infected animals, as this is where the bacteria are shed. Soil and Standing or slow moving water may become contaminated, and the bacteria can survive there for weeks to months. Ingestion of contaminated flesh is another common way to contract Lepto. It can also be spread through bite wounds and venereal contact, as well as placental transfer to the fetus in pregnant animals.

Symptoms of Lepto infection include fever, shivering, muscle pain, vomiting, depression, and dehydration. More severe infection will affect the liver and kidneys. When the liver is affected, icterus (a yellow tinge to the

skin, mucous membranes, and eye sclera) may be present. If Lepto is suspected, it can be diagnosed through a blood test.

Can be contracted by both animals and humans.

This test can be negative within the first 10 days of infection, so multiple blood tests may be needed. It is also important to run blood work to check the liver and kidneys, since these organs are commonly affected by the disease. If an animal tests positive for Lepto, they are treated with antibiotics, fluid support, and for any corresponding kidney and liver disease.

Prevention

of Lepto involves keeping animals out of contact with potential sources of infection. We are faced with a challenge, living in location that has so many beautiful parks and other wildlife-inhabited areas. Taking our animals into these environments is not the only threat. Many of us live in areas where wild animals are coming into our own backyards and neighborhoods, possibly introducing contamination and infection. Raccoons, skunks,

squirrels, opossums, and rodents are all potential carriers of the bacteria Leptospirosis.

The best line of defense against Lepto is to get your dog vaccinated. There is no vaccine that protects against all 8 strains of Lepto, and no vaccine is guaranteed. The Lepto vaccine that we use protects against 4 strains, cutting the risk of infection in half. It is also designed to have a low incidence of vaccine reaction. The vaccine is initially given as a series of 2 shots. Boosters are administered 3 to 4 weeks following the first vaccine, then yearly to offer the most effective protection. There is currently no vaccine available for cats due to their low infection rate.

Raccoons, skunks, squirrels, opossums, and rodents are all potential carriers of the bacteria Leptospirosis.

There is currently no vaccine available for cats due to their low infection rate.

Please feel free to call us if you have any further questions regarding Lepto. If you are interested in getting your dog vaccinated or your dog is overdue for a Lepto booster, please give us a call and we would be happy to assist you in scheduling an appointment for vaccination.

Fever, shivering, muscle pain, vomiting, depression, and dehydrations

Vacations and Pet Care

Authorization for Emergency Treatment

The holidays are here, and many of you will be taking vacations and leaving your furry friends at home and in the care of pet-sitters. In the midst of preparing for these get-a-ways and reunions, it can be challenging to anticipate the medical needs your pet may encounter during the time that you are away. We want to remind all of our clients that in order for us to care for your pet in your absence, it is extremely important that we have prior authorization or a way to contact you by phone. In the event that an emergency arises and we do not have authorization to proceed with treatment, we are left with the difficult decision of either taking financial and medical responsibility for your pet, or declining to treat your pet. We care deeply for all of our clients and patients, and want to ensure that your pet is going to receive the kind of care you expect if you are not available to make that decision. We ask that you assist us by filling out our new treatment authorization form prior to departing for your vacation. It is available for download on our website (www.alltailswagging.com under "clinic info," then "clinic forms"), or in the office if you prefer to stop by and pick it up. We are also more than happy to fax the form at your request. Thanks for your help and enjoy the holidays!

All Tails Wagging Boarding for cats

We are able to offer boarding for your cats year-round. We would like all of our clients to be aware of this during the holiday season. Your kitty will be set up in a large kennel with a litter box, food, water, toys, soft and comfortable bedding, and a hiding/playing box. They receive lots of loving attention from our employees, and are kept company at night by our clinic cat "Magic". Throughout the day, all cats are given individual free roam play time in secure exam rooms. At night, they return to their kennels. We are happy to administer all medications necessary, and make special trips to do so (and play with them) on the days that we are closed. We require your pet's vaccinations, wellness examinations and flea control to be current prior to boarding or updated during their stay with us. Please call for pricing and availability.

*All Tails Wagging
Veterinary
Clinic
wishes you
a safe and
happy
new year!*

