

Avonlea Animal Hospital

March 2003
Volume 1, Issue 1

Inside this Issue

- 1 First Annual News Letter
- 1 Allergies
- 2 Our Staff
- 2 Ear infections and Hot spots

Company Name
Number Street Address
City, State Postal Code
Country

First Annual News Letter

Welcome to the first annual Avonlea Animal Hospital Newsletter. It is hard to believe that two and a half years have passed since we started providing veterinary care in the Meadowvale community. Time really does fly when you are having fun! Providing veterinary care is a wonderful and very rewarding career. Comments such as, “you are so lucky to work with animals, or I always wanted to be a veterinarian” remind us about how fortunate we are to work in the veterinary field. It is not easy to name jobs in which you are suppose to play with puppies and kittens, and befriend loving people who are devoted to their loyal companions! Imagine we even get paid to do this!

Avonlea Animal Hospital opened back on July 4, 1999 with the starting staff of Dr. Sandi Rosely, Michelle (technician), and Marissa (reception). We are now pleased to have added Dr. Colleen Bray to our team of professionals. The addition of Dr. Bray has allowed us to continue to provide you with the utmost of veterinary care that you have received in the past and continue to deserve. Hint: if you have any questions about any breed of dog, just ask Colleen. She is a walking dog encyclopedia.

Avonlea Animal Hospital will soon be sistered with Brittany Glen Veterinary Services. This clinic will give us the opportunity to provide high quality veterinary care within the growing

community in Meadowvale south (Thomas and Tenth line). Services provided at Brittany Glen will include examination, vaccinations and routine health management. Surgical, dental and x-ray procedures as well as hospitalization for medical conditions will only be provided at Avonlea. Medical records can be transferred on a request basis, but is not necessary as the records can be accessed from either clinic.

We hope you enjoy the following newsletter. We have focused on some of the common problems and questions that we encounter in the spring and summer. Remember prevention and early identification of a problem will reduce recovery time for your pet.

P.S. keep you eye on the mail for your pet’s birthday care and come by to pick up his/her birthday treat!



Allergies

Runny eyes, sniffly nose and itchy skin are the hallmarks for seasonal allergy. It is not uncommon to see a human suffering from seasonal allergy. And it

Continued on Page 3

Out Staff

Dr. Sandi Rosely



Dr. Sandi Rosely is a 1996 Ontario Veterinary College Graduate. Sandi has always loved animals and people and knew from the age of 8 years that she would become a veterinarian. She is thankful to her husband who has helped to support her in obtaining her dream of being a veterinarian. Life is never dull with her two sons Bradley 3 ½ years, and Russell 18 months, dog Hector, and cat Zoser.

Dr. Colleen Bray



Colleen is a 2002 graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College and is very glad to be starting off her career at Avonlea. Colleen has always been an animal lover, and knew from an early age that she wanted to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine. Time spent as Toronto zookeeper, llama groomer and rescue work at a wildlife sanctuary in Queensland Australia attest to Colleen's

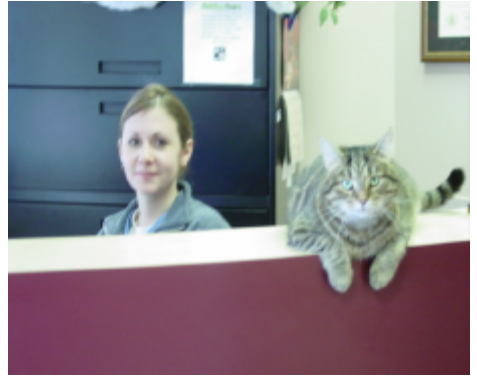
love of all animals. Colleen resides in Guelph with her husband Sanjeev Seahra, a Physicist at the University of Waterloo, their Cavalier King Charles Spaniel "Sydney" and three cats, "Lola", "Schrodinger" and "Truffles".

Michelle Barns



Michelle has been working in the veterinary profession for 12 years and has known from a very young age that she wanted to work with animals. Her first couples of jobs were working with horses until she finally got her "dream" job working in a Veterinary practice. She is currently owned by "Sinbad" a 14 year-old cat and soon will be adding a Bearded Dragon, which I'm sure Sinbad, will love. As well as a new puppy in the spring provided her and her husband could agree on a breed.

Marisa



Marissa is a recent graduate of the Sheridan College "Animal Care Program", which has given her a lot of useful knowledge when working so close to animals on a daily basis. She looks forward to a continued education in the animal field. Marissa currently resides in Oakville with her two crazy cats, "Oliver" and "Chester"!

Ear infections and Hot spots

With the cold and snowy winter that we have had this year I am sure that I am safe to say we will all be happy when the hot summer arrives. For many of us the pool, lake or sprinkler will be a welcome retreat from the heat but for

Boarding your pet

Hurray, fun in the sun! Good-bye coats, boots and shovels, hello camping, cottaging and barbecues. While many cottages and campgrounds allow pets on the campsite they are very strict about leash use and many campgrounds do not have swim areas for dogs. For these reasons many of us will board our dog or cat with a good kennel so that they are cared for while we enjoy our short trip. A good kennel will allow you to visit before your trip, for a full tour. Kennel owners should be happy to answer any of your questions about the facility and should allow you to observe how the current residents are housed. Dogs should have access to the outdoors, either by frequent walks or the use of outdoor exercise pens. Outside areas should be secure, and have sheltered areas from the cold weather. The kennel should look and smell clean. Ask family and friends for the names of kennels that they have been pleased with – and don't be afraid to ask for extra references!

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 3

Here are a few tips to help ensure a good boarding experience for your pet

- 1) Bring your pets regular food. The stress of being away from home may cause an upset tummy the first few days, and a switch of diet on top of this can only make matters worse. Check with the kennel beforehand that they are willing to accommodate your pet's feeding schedule. If your pet has an especially sensitive tummy or food allergy, inform kennel personnel not to feed treats.
- 2) Bring some comforts of home. A familiar blanket, sweatshirt or toys that smell like home will help comfort your pet. Don't pack your favorite sweater, as a certain amount of wear-and-tear should be expected!
- 3) Make sure your pet is well identified. While good kennels should be very secure, accidents can happen. Should your pet get loose you want to be certain he/she can be identified and returned to you. ID tag with a phone number, municipal license, microchip, and rabies tag are all great forms of identification.
- 4) Safety first. Good kennels should ask for the name of your veterinary clinic, and an emergency contact number. Be sure to choose a contact that you trust to make decisions for your pet until you can be reached. Give us a call to inform us about your vacation to help reduce confusion should veterinary care be necessary. Inform kennel staff of any special health concerns that your pet may have.
- 5) An ounce of prevention. Good kennels will require all vaccines to be current, including vaccination against Bordetella, a.k.a. "kennel cough". Examination, fecal and vaccines should be performed 2 weeks prior to boarding.
- 6) Homecoming. When your pet returns he or she may seem tired and sleepier compared with usual. The kennel is a new and busy environment, resulting in less sleep. If your pet is not back to his or her normal self in a few days, a trip the vet may be in order.

If you would like more information on choosing a good boarding kennel, or other options for care while you are away feel free to drop us a line – we'd be happy to help!

head excessively. When this is evident an ear infection is likely present and veterinary attention should be sought. Excessive licking on the body or feet does NOT heal a dog or cat wound. In fact, prolonged licking will aggravate wounds, delay healing and cause infection. If licking is observed, try to part the hair and look at the skin in the area affected. Compare the skin with skin in another area of the body. Irritated skin will be red, may show wetness (from licking) and may have pimples. This is a hotspot. Hot spots can be small, large, singular or scattered over the body...but usually are located in the groin, arm pit and belly areas. These areas should be clipped free of hair to allow air circulation and the animal should be prevented from licking. Veterinary attention should be sought to help with discomfort and treatment of infection. Topical ointments should be used with care as allergic reactions and pain at sight of application can occur. Preventative shaving of the bellies of long and thick haired dogs and cats can help to prevent hot spots. Omega fatty acids can also be very useful in the prevention of ear infections and hotspot. But the number one prevention of hotspots and ear infection is drying the hair and cleansing the ears after getting wet.

Continued from Page 1

our heavily furred friends the water can be a foe. That's right, the water that helps to cool can also cause problems such as ear infection and moist exzema (hot spots). It is impossible to keep a water-loving animal out of the water, so it is very important that these animals are thoroughly dry prior to bedding down at night. Ears should be cleaned with a good quality ear cleaning solution daily if swimming is a daily event. These solutions should not

contain large amounts of alcohol as this can irritate and damage the sensitive ear canal. Daily brushing and grooming will help you to notice any areas on the body or ears that look or smell unusual. You should never ignore a smelly ear! The smell can be very strong and have a yeasty/musty odour. There may or may not be any discharge or redness involving the affected ear. Many dogs/cats with ear infection will paw the ear or rub it on the ground or shake the

is becoming much more common to see cats and dogs suffering from seasonal allergies. The symptoms that they show can be very similar to the human counterpart but usually have a much more intense skin itch component. Excessive scratching, licking, nibbling or biting at oneself is a sure sign of skin irritation. If this is observed the first thing you want to do is to be sure that your pet is free of fleas. Fleas are very difficult to find, but their droppings can

be the tell-tail sign of fleas. The flea dirt will usually congregate on the back near the top of the tail. The flea dirt is dark brown and is thin about the length of 2-3mm. The substance dissolves and turns red when a drop of water is applied. If this is found your pet should be treated with a safe flea control. We provide many safe and easy to use flea control products if this becomes necessary. If fleas are not found and no changes have occurred other than the changing season when the itch started it is very likely that your pet has some type of allergy i.e.

pollen, grass etc. Limiting exposure to the offending allergen can help to minimize symptoms. Bathing and wiping down (removing allergen) the body can also help to minimize the itch. However, in many situations short-term therapy with antihistamines, or stronger medications will be necessary. Omega fatty acids started 2 months prior to the allergy season has shown success in minimizing the allergic reactions and therefore the need to use other medications. Allergy testing can be performed to identify the offending

allergens so that allergy injections can be given to help and desensitize the body to the allergen. Scratching, biting, and licking should be prevented as infection will occur and a secondary bacterial skin infection will occur that requires antibiotic therapy to control. If your pet has a known seasonal allergy prevention is the key. Try the omega fatty acids starting 2 months prior to the seasons and you may notice a much less intense itch and therefore less allergy medication.

.