

- 1) We will be closed for the 4th of July Holiday from July 4 through July 7th. If you have an emergency during this time, please call South Peninsula Emergency Veterinary Hospital at (650) 494-1461. We will reopen our regular hours on July 8th.
- 2) Elizabeth is now Mrs. Layson. Congratulations and best of luck!
- 3) As you may or may not know, we do donations of good, used toys, beds, scratching posts, and opened food to Pets In Need. We are now going to help the human need. If you go out of town and stay at a hotel, motel, bed and breakfast, etc. please bring back any extra, unopened soap, shampoo, sewing kits that the establishment leaves in your room. We will collect them when you visit us and take them to Sunnyvale Community Services, where they can be used by someone who is down on their luck and needs assistance. Please don't raid the maid carts, as we want to keep this civil. Thank you for thinking of this as you travel and for taking up a little extra space in your luggage. Dr. Sawyer has already started the donations by bringing back soap, shampoo, and lotion from his conference in San Antonio.
- 4) **“Tyler” update:** Thank you for all of you who gave your condolences about “Skylar”, and who asked about the neurological problems with “Tyler”. “Tyler” is now completely normal, back to his old, goofy, hyperactive and playful self. We have no idea what happened, what caused it, or what cured it, but we are happy to have him back with us.
- 5) **Coaching:** As most of you know, Dr. Sawyer loves volleyball and coaching the sport. This year, he has the chance to coach the Cupertino High School Girls' JV team. The season starts in mid-August and goes through

the first week of November. He will be leaving the clinic early in the evening for practices and games. In order to maintain the same number of examination appointments, we will be open during the lunch time for your convenience. The clinic will still be open regular hours to pick up your pet post-operatively, get medications and food. If you perceive this as a problem or inconvenience for your pet, please call and let either Dr. Sawyer or Elizabeth know your concerns. We want this to be a win-win for everyone.

- 6) **Survey:** It is time for our annual report card/survey, where you get to rate us! This year, it is digital, so you can download it, type in your responses, and email it back. Hooray! We want honesty and constructive criticism so we know where you think we are falling short and how we can improve our service to you. Please take the time to be as complete as possible. We really do want to know how we can improve. We already know that our evening check-out time is lengthy and are implementing protocols to try to expedite getting your pet to you. Thank you in advance for taking time out of your busy day to help us. It is really appreciated.
- 7) **Internet Stores:** We now have links on our website where you can get Hill's/Science Diet prescription diets and have them delivered to your door! The link is VetSource, is on the Home Page, and by using them, you don't have to drive to the clinic to purchase your prescription food. If you have questions or trouble using this new service, please call Elizabeth. If you still wish to order through us and not pay shipping charges, you may. We will still be placing orders on Saturdays for Tuesday delivery and Ayumi is still in charge of keeping your pets fed. For all other diets, toys, treats, beds, etc., you can go to the "Links" section of our website and click on VetStore and shop.

- 8) **Forest Fires:** Please keep in mind that pets can have respiratory and allergy problems from the smoke in the air from all of the fires burning in the area. It is recommended that you keep your pets indoors as much as possible with the windows closed, as long as the house temperature does not get too high. Also, don't exercise your pets when it is really smoky outside, or only walk instead of run. If your throat hurts, or eyes sting, then it probably isn't doing your pet any good, either.
- 9) **Hyperthermia and Heat Stroke:** Since we are expecting the hottest summer in years, I thought it would be a good idea to remind you about heat-related problems with your pets. Hyperthermia is defined as a body temperature above the normal range, generally above 103 degrees Fahrenheit. You can take your pets temperature using a rectal thermometer (make sure you mark it for pet use, so you don't accidentally get it mixed up with your human thermometers). Heat stroke is a form of hyperthermia where the heat-dissipating mechanisms of the body cannot accommodate excessive heat, which can lead to multiple organ failure.
- a. The first rule, and law, is DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET IN A PARKED CAR! Even if it is in the high 80's, the inside of your car can get close to 100, which puts your pet at risk for heat stroke. Cracked windows don't do anything to help, and leaving the windows open makes it easy for your dog to escape or be stolen.
 - b. Do not exercise during the middle of the day. Take your walks or park time in the morning or evening when it has cooled off. Bring plenty of water for both you and your pet.
 - c. For indoor pets, make sure there is extra water available, and if you have air conditioning, set it around 75 degrees so it stays comfortable for your pets and is a nice greeting when you come home.

- d. Signs: panting, excessive drooling, fast heart rate, breathing distress, seizures, tremors, stumbling, vomiting blood, bloody diarrhea, shock, and death.
- e. Pet Risk Factors: young pets, old pets, pets with short snouts (Bulldogs, Pugs, Boston Terriers, Persians, etc.), long-haired pets, pets with heart or lung problems, and pets with laryngeal paralysis.
- f. Treatment: Submerge the pet in cool water (NOT ice!) and transport to the veterinarian immediately. If you cannot transport in water, start the bath while getting your things together, then transport while wet and apply rubbing alcohol to the pads of the feet. While in the car, use the fan on cool, but be careful with the air conditioner because we don't want to cause hypothermia. You also don't want to cool the pet down too quickly.
- g. What will we do?: We will evaluate the organs for problems, monitor for bleeding disorders caused from the damage, start fluid therapy to replace water and electrolytes that were lost, treat other symptoms your pet may be showing, and maintain in the normal temperature zone. This can be a very serious condition, and one that, in most instances, is preventable. Please be careful.

10) **Foxtails:** We have many new clients from out of the area who don't know what these look like. In general terms, a foxtail is a native grass seed awn. They come in many sizes and shapes, but basically are grass versions of arrows or spears, with little barbs that allow them to catch on fur and then burrow into the skin. They get into any opening they find, (use your imagination and we will have found at least one there), and continue to migrate until they finally exit the body or the body walls it off and forms an abscess. They cause a lot of pain and destruction to your pet and

your pocketbook. Signs that your pet may have a foxtail are: excessive shaking of the head, licking between the toes, finding draining tracts on the skin, a suddenly painful and swollen eye, violent persistent sneezing, painful urination, and swellings underneath the skin. The sooner we see the pet, the easier it is to remove the foxtail and the less damage it will do. We prefer to remove the foreign object under anesthesia, as the barbs do cause pain when the matter is removed, and sometimes we must go into a tract to find it, which isn't pleasant for your pet. We will also send home antibiotics for 2 weeks after the foxtail is removed, depending on where it was located, because they carry bacteria which leads to infection. To prevent a foxtail problem, be diligent in removing all weed grasses from your yard, do not allow your pet to play in fields or go off trails, and check the coat on a daily basis so you can remove them before they cause a problem. If you would like to see what they look like, we have a sampling here at the hospital.

- 11) **Patient Tales:** We got a call from a client saying one of their cats vomited a Tiger Lily flower they had received as a Mother's Day gift. They had called the Animal Poison Control, who informed them that they are very toxic and treatment needed to be implemented immediately. The problem was, they have 5 cats and they didn't know which one was the culprit. They brought all 5 in for examinations, and they all appeared healthy at that time. We decided to treat all of them, because guessing wrong could lead to the death of one. We gave all of them activated charcoal by mouth, blood work, and started IV fluids. All plants in the lily family are toxic and cause kidney failure within hours of ingestion. Luckily, the blood work was normal on presentation. Two hours into the treatment, one of the cats began to stumble in the cage and had a glassy stare. We thought this might be our plant

eater, but reaction to activated charcoal can look the same. We rechecked the lab work, and it was still ok, so we continued fluids throughout the day, then transferred all of them to the emergency clinic for care and observation. They all did great after 24 hours of care, so they were sent home and are still with us today! We thought we would share this case because (1) it had a happy ending; (2) showed great commitment by the owners to do everything possible for their pets; (3) showed how timing is sometimes everything- if the cat hadn't vomited the flower, it might not have been known that someone had eaten the lily and we would have had a very different outcome; if the cat had vomited behind the couch, it would not have been caught, if the cat had waited to vomit after the owners were at work, it would have been too late by the time they returned, etc.; (4) know what plants and flowers are toxic and make sure your pets do not have access to them (the owners had put the vase of flowers on top of a bookshelf and the cat still managed to get up there for a vegetarian snack).

- 12) **Fireworks:** Remember that even though fireworks are illegal in Santa Clara County, there are still plenty going off around the 4th of July Holiday. If your pet is sensitive to loud noises, gets anxious, or worse, will bolt through windows, please call to get a prescription of a sedative. Also, don't take your pet to a firework show. While it is great spending time with your pet, it is stressful to them. Instead, take them for a walk that morning or before you go to the event.
- 13) With all of the natural disasters occurring throughout the world, and the 4th of July coming up, it is a great time to get your pet microchipped! The worst time to think about microchipping is after your pet escapes from the earthquake, or the gardener leaves the gate open, etc. The microchip implant is relatively painless (it is an injection),

requires only a technician appointment, and the cost is only \$50.50. Please give this serious consideration before the worst occurs. There are thousands of victims from Hurricane Katrina and the current Midwest floods who wish they had their pets chipped.