

Fall 2008 Murphy Avenue Mews

1) **Pet Parade & Faire:** Sunnyvale is having its first annual Howl'oween Pet Parade & Faire on Sunday, October 26! Please join us in the parade or just stop by to say hello to us and check out the Faire! Give yourself, your kids and your pets an opportunity to wear their Halloween costume twice this year by participating in this family event. See some of the best pet and human costumes, enjoy the "American Pet Idol" talent contest, and check out pet themed arts & crafts vendors. There will also be an abundance of products & information all geared toward your favorite pet! The Pet Parade will be held on several downtown streets and the Faire will be held at Plaza del Sol. If you plan to participate in the Parade, please register before the parade. You can get a registration form at www.downtownsunnyvale.com

2) **Hill's Prescription Food:** If you have a pet on one of our Hill's Prescription diets, please be aware that all of their prescription diet formulas will be changing this fall! Hill's is improving their food products by using only natural preservatives. Hill's feels that your pets will be able to make the transition smoothly. If your pet experiences vomiting, diarrhea, or other signs indicating stomach upset upon starting a new bag of food, please let us know and we will be happy to work with you.

3) **Entertainment Books:** We now have 2009 Entertainment books for sale. The cost is \$25 each and the proceeds go to the Kiwanis Club of Silicon Valley. Stop by if you would like one—they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

4) **Staff:** Many of you knew Ayumi, our former head technician. Unfortunately for us, she went home to Japan in August. Since her departure, we have hired two fantastic new technicians, Sandra and Gerardo. Sandra joined us in September and has ten years of experience at a pet clinic in the Auburn area. She has already proven herself to be a wonderful addition to our team. Gerardo joined our team in October and has twenty-three years of experience in the veterinary field. He is a Registered Veterinary Technician and is great with our patients! Please feel free to introduce yourself during a visit or ask to meet them if you are in the clinic!

5) **Coaching:** Dr. Sawyer's coaching has been a fun and interesting experience. The girls are doing quite well, but, being young women, have

their good games and bad games. They have shown that they can compete with anyone in the league when they are focused on the game. The season ends on November 6, with the game at Fremont High School at 5:30 pm for those of you who are interested to see what Dr. S has been up to for the past 2 months.

6) **Chocolate Fundraiser:** Murphy Avenue Pet Clinic is partnering with the Sierra Nevada Chocolate Company to bring you a delicious fundraiser. For only \$2, you can purchase heavenly chocolate or butterscotch in pet shapes, on a stick, and all proceeds go to Pets In Need. We will have them come December, and if you would like to order a large amount, just let us know. We should have a photo of the different shapes available on our website and at the clinic in mid-November. Now you can enjoy a tasty treat and help needy pets at the same time!

Patient Tails:

This issue we will be looking at 2 different cases showing the same symptoms. Both patients came in for panting excessively within 1 week of each other. They both started showing signs 2 days prior to presenting at the hospital. The examination showed both pets to be alert and anxious (because they weren't able to breathe properly). Their temperatures, gum color, and rest of the physical exams were normal except for abnormal lung sounds and difficulty hearing the heartbeat. We took radiographs of the chest and found 2 different problems. The first pet had asthma, based on the changes we saw in the lungs on the x-ray. We placed that pet on appropriate treatment and it is doing great. The second pet had a tumor in the chest cavity which caused fluid build-up in the chest, as well as displacement of the lungs from the bulk of the mass. This led to the breathing difficulty. Unfortunately, this pet is no longer with us.

I put both of these cases together to show that similar symptoms can be caused by completely different diseases. Without proper tests, such as radiographs, we would not be able to determine the diagnosis or proper treatment protocol.

Holiday Hours

We will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. We will also be closing the clinic at 2:00 p.m. on the days preceding these holidays. The emergency clinic will be open 24 hours a day during the holidays. Their number is 650-494-1461. Please enjoy the holidays but keep your pets safe from turkey bones and tinsel! ☺

