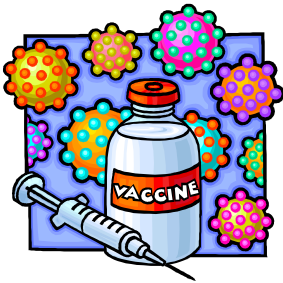


## Giardia Vaccine



We now have a vaccine for Giardia. The vaccine does not prevent the pet from contracting the parasite, but it can alleviate the symptoms, decrease the amount of organisms shed, and help their immune system to get rid of the infestation. We do not recommend this vaccine for all pets, just those that are at high risk: going to dog parks, going hiking and camping, currently or previously been treated for the parasite.

## Semiannual Fecal Testing

Speaking of intestinal parasites, we are now recommending fecal testing every 6 months to minimize parasite spreading and improve intestinal health in outdoor cats and all dogs unless they do not leave the yard. We see so many positive fecal tests in seemingly healthy pets that we feel it would be better to check more frequently and take care of the problem with as little dissemination of eggs in the environment as possible. This, like all recommendations, is suggested and optional. We feel we will be providing the best care possible by offering this new protocol and will be offering a discounted price for a semiannual fecal test (\$30).

## Fireworks and Microchips

The 4th of July is approaching fast. If your pet is very sensitive to loud noises, either get out in the middle of the mountains for peace and quiet, or ask for a tranquilizer to make their evening more tolerable. We recommend starting the tranquilizer a day or two before and through the weekend.

We don't recommend bringing pets to a fireworks show, as you don't know how they will respond to the loud noise right there, or all of the people around. It can also hurt their ears because of their heightened sense of hearing. While it is great spending time

with your pet, take them for a walk that morning or before going to the event.

Pets have been known to get so frenzied with panic that they break through windows and sliding glass doors. If this happens, and they are frantically running around outside, will you be able to find them when they calm down? If someone else finds them, will they know how to contact you? For this reason, we strongly recommend microchip identification implants for all pets, whether they are indoor or outdoor. Please call to have a chip placed now, before it is too late.

### Staff/Community Happenings

- We will be closed for the 4th of July Holiday through Monday the 6th.
- We will also be closed for Labor Day weekend from Saturday, September 5 through Monday September 7.
- Dr. Sawyer had an honest to goodness vacation in May. He and his wife went to England for 3 weeks. They spent their time wandering the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales, where James Herriott practiced. This was their first vacation for more than 10 days since their honeymoon, and they had a great time. We hope you had a good experience with the relief doctors. If you were seen by either Dr. Shapiro or Dr. Barchas, please let Dr. Sawyer know your impressions/opinions.
- The 4th Annual Kiwanis Texas Hold'em Poker Night Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 17th. If you are interested or would like tickets, please see Dr. Sawyer.
- The 2nd Annual Sunnyvale Howl'oween Pet Parade and Festival will be on Sunday, October 25th. You can register for the parade on the Downtown Sunnyvale Association website. We are also looking for groups (like Girl and Boy Scouts, sports teams, dance teams, etc.) to participate in foot-powered floats. Any school bands are welcome to march as well!

## Are You Prepared For An Emergency?

This is a reprint of an article Dr. Sawyer wrote a couple of years ago. Natural emergencies can happen at any time, and the preparedness kit never goes out of style. Happy reading.

You will need a sturdy container that can withstand rubble falling on top of it, and visible so you can see it under a large mess. There should be at least 2 weeks worth of food, the same kind you usually feed. If you feed canned food, don't forget a can opener. If you have a different brand, then the intestinal



upset from stress and a new food may be too much and cause vomiting and diarrhea.

There should be 2 weeks worth of fresh, potable water. A leash and extra collar for dogs, and a carrier for cats and small dogs. A cardboard carrier is nice because it folds up when not in use so it won't take up a lot of space.

A first aid kit can be handy for cuts,

infections, and bandaging wounds. There are nice, compact kits available online or at outdoor/hiking stores for those who are interested.

If you have enough room, you can also add a metallic cable and stake to tie your pet up and keep it from running around dangerous areas.

Include copies of vaccine records and medications your pet may be using.

If you have any other suggestions, please let me know and I will add it in the next newsletter.

## It's Foxtail Season!!!!!!

If your pet has ever had a foxtail problem, then you know what they are and how problematic they can be. For those of you lucky enough not to have encountered them yet, here is the low-down on the deleterious effects of foxtails.

A foxtail is a general term for a grass awn. It is the sharp, arrow-looking part at the end of the grass that can break off and go anywhere in your pet's body. They have small barbs that allow the projectile to burrow one-way into crevices such as the nose, ears, eyelids, and

between toes. Then they can continue to penetrate through skin, ear drums, or whatever stands in their way.

If you notice your pet licking its paws, having a painful and swollen eye, sneezing uncontrollably after being outside, then one of the things you should consider is a possible foxtail problem.

The sooner you bring your pet in to us, the easier it will be to remove the offending object, the less damage it will do, and the less it will cost. Some foxtail removals require anesthesia, so make sure that your pet has not

eaten breakfast prior to coming into the clinic.

To help prevent foxtails, remove all grassy weeds from your yard and minimize off-leash wandering in wild areas of known foxtail habitat. Try to minimize sniffing and check between your pet's toes after walks.

If you do not know what a foxtail is, or what one looks like, we have a display of different types. Just ask to see them the next time you are in the office.



**Beware, the Foxtail!**

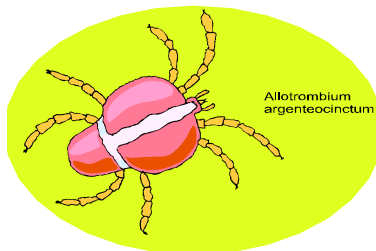
## The BARF Diet and You

The latest diet fad is called the BARF diet (Boiled And Raw Food). In theory, it makes sense in that you are feeding your pet what it would eat in the wild. Unfortunately, feeding this diet has risks to you and your pet. First, feeding raw meat exposes your cooking, feeding and body surfaces to bacteria, including Salmonella. According to the American Animal Hospital Association, Salmonella is responsible for 1.4 million illnesses and 600 deaths annually. Researchers also did a study showing 8 out of 10 pets fed raw food tested positive for Salmonella in their feces. That is a potential risk for those of you with children. Why would you want to increase your chances? The second risk is inadequate nutrition for your pet. A lot of research has gone into what nutrients an animal requires for healthy growth and body function. Unfortunately, not all BARF diets found on the web are completely nutritious. While you will not see adverse effects immediately, it can cause problems down the line. I understand that there are people feeding this diet with good results. I would just like you to think about these things before changing diets.

## Tick Talk

Some interesting things you may or may not know about the tick:

- 1) **Myth:** Ticks fall out of trees and land on our heads; they can jump.  
**Truth:** Ticks rarely go higher than 3 feet from the ground. They grasp onto blades of grass and weeds and wait for a mammal to walk by, sometimes waiting for many months. They climb onto us as we brush by the grass and begin to search for exposed skin. For a lot of us, that is the neck or head, which is why we find them there.
- 2) We are mammals, so we can play host to ticks.
- 3) Ticks live on hosts, feeding on blood, for anywhere from 3-10 days. During this time, if they were carriers of a tick-borne



illness, that disease would be passed on to the host. Once a tick finishes feeding, it drops off and lays eggs (thousands of them at a time).

- 4) Different ticks carry different diseases, and require different hosts to proceed through their life cycles. Some diseases which can affect us and our furry friends are: Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tick paralysis, and Ehrlichiosis. These can be treated but are no fun to go through and
- 5) Frontline and Advantix are both very effective at killing ticks. Client expectations of the current tick preventives are too high. We expect the medications to be as effective controlling ticks as we do with fleas. The truth is that they are as effective, but it is difficult for us to find 2 out of 100 fleas on a pet. It is relatively easy to find 2 out of 100 ticks because they engorge with blood. Ticks are harder to kill than fleas, and different ticks species can be harder than others to kill. It can take a couple of days to kill a tick, at which time it can attach and begin feeding.
- 6) Frontline is safe on both cats and dogs. We have had very good success using both Frontline and Preventic collars on dogs going into tick infested areas. Advantix and the Preventic collars should never be used on cats.
- 7) If you see a tick or two on your pet, even after using a good tick product, think about all the ticks you would have found if you had not used the product.

## Hyperthermia & Heat Stroke

Hyperthermia is a body temperature above 103 degrees F. 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.

Ways to prevent these problems are:

**Do Not Leave Your Pet In a Parked Car.** This is a rule for your pets and children to live by, and it is the law. In just a few minutes the temperature can rise over 100 degrees, even with the windows cracked open.

Do not exercise in the middle

of the day, and bring plenty of water.

When gone from your house/apartment, leave plenty of water and either the air conditioner or fan going. Temperatures in an enclosed building can get just as high as a car parked in the shade on a hot day.

Outdoor pets need a source of shade, available throughout the day, and plenty of water, too.

If you have a brachycephalic breed (short nose, such as Bulldog, Pug, Pekingese), do not take out on walks in the daytime for very long. These breeds are very susceptible to heat-related problems.

Old pets can overheat easily, as can puppies that don't know when to take it easy.



If your pet has long hair, heart or lung problems, or laryngeal paralysis, be extra careful when it gets warm outside.

Signs of a problem are: panting, hypersalivation, fast heart rate, respiratory distress, stumbling, seizures, coma, and heart attack. Heat stroke and hyperthermia are emergency situations and should be treated immediately.

## Murphy Avenue Pet Clinic

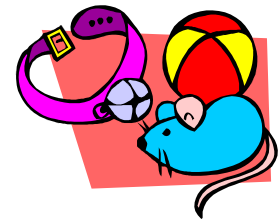
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(408) 733-7387  
Fax (408) 733-7420  
Wwww.mapc.vetsuite.com

**We Treat Your Pets Like Family!**

**Refer your friends  
and receive \$20 in  
credit on your  
account.**

**Remember, any unused, unwanted, or good conditioned pet food, toys, beds, blankets, or other pet paraphernalia can be brought to us and Dr. Sawyer will drive it up to Pets In Need to be used by a less fortunate pet. We also take new items, as well. Please tell your friends! Dr. Sawyer owns a Tundra and would love to have it stuffed with goodies.**



## Patient Tails



As everyone knows, dogs and mail carriers are not usually the best of friends. Dogs don't like uniformed individuals encroaching on their territory. Mail carriers don't like to get bit. But Boone's situation is wonderful.

Boone, a very lovable Golden Retriever, loves his



mailman enough to want to go out and greet him/her every day. Boone puts his paws up on the door, gets a cookie, and then gets his owner's mail. He then carries it inside and waits for the following day's mail to come. We wish it were like this with every pet. Have a great summer, everyone!