



North
Portland
Veterinary
Hospital

3000 N. Lombard • Portland, Oregon 97217

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AND THE WINNER IS...

Kudos goes to North Portland Veterinary Hospital for its contributions to the Veterinary Memorial Card program through Morris Animal Foundation. Funds from this program go to help support new veterinary research. In fiscal 2011, Morris Animal Foundation will be funding 159 dog, cat, horse and llama studies, with a total commitment of more than \$15 million over the length of these studies. These studies include laparoscopy training for veterinarians, insight into anesthetic techniques for horses, drugs that may help fight soft-tissue tumors in dogs, insight into feline injection-site tumors, and developing a test for diagnosing a new type of heartworm, just to name a few.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KEEP ON HAND

North Portland Veterinary Hospital Pharmacy Refill Line - 503.285.2858

Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Hospital (Downtown) - 503.228.7281

Animal Poison Control - 800.426.4435

Emergency Veterinary Clinic of Tualatin - 503.691.7922

Columbia River Veterinary Services - 360.694.3007

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TATTLE TAILS

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North Portland Veterinary Hospital Newsletter / Fall 2010

www.northportlandvet.com
503-285-0462

PROTECT YOUR PETS, PROTECT YOUR FAMILY: VACCINATE FOR LEPTO

You may have heard the word "Leptospirosis" on the news lately due to the death of sea lions on the Oregon Coast. The disease, however, is actually closer to home. In a survey by Multnomah County, 14% of rats in Northeast Portland tested positive for Leptospirosis. In addition, one of our patients contacted Leptospirosis at home in the backyard and died.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that is carried by rats, livestock, and wildlife. It is contagious to dogs and humans. A third of humans with the disease actually catch it from their dogs. Transmission is usually through contact with animal urine.

Signs you might see at home may include high fever, depression, decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, and bloody urine. If left untreated, this disease leads to liver and kidney failure and even death. Fortunately, Leptospirosis is treatable and responds well to antibiotics.

Vaccination can prevent Leptospirosis. We recommend all dogs over three months of age be vaccinated. The vaccine is given in two doses a month apart. A second booster four weeks later is essential. If you miss this second appointment, you will need to start the series over again. After that, the vaccine is given yearly at the annual exam.

If you've already brought your dog to see us earlier this year for the annual exam, we'll have you make an appointment with one of our Technicians. The cost is \$22 per vaccine. Please call us if you have any questions or would like to make an appointment.

A VISIT FROM A KINKAJOU

Recently, a 4 year old kinkajou named "Fuego" from the Oregon Zoo came to North Portland Veterinary Hospital for a dental problem. Dr. Mitch Finnegan and some of his staff brought "Fuego" to see Dr. Pat Frost-Fitch for an intermittent TMJ problem. It seems that sometimes his lower jaw would slide to the right, and the opposing canine teeth would catch, which can be painful. Then he would try different techniques to try to get it back into place including chewing on his right front paw. Over the last few months, the problem was happening more frequently, and he was traumatizing his paw. His lower right canine tooth was also becoming damaged from the upper canine tooth striking it.

The zoo staff anesthetized him, and Dr. Frost went to work. She radiographed both temporomandibular joints and his canine teeth and came to the conclusion that Fuego had developed some laxity in those joints which allowed his jaw to shift. After conferring with Dr. Finnegan, she decided to extract the upper right canine tooth instead of performing a more invasive TMJ surgery. The extraction went very well, and Dr. Frost also placed some restorative composite filling material on the lower canine tooth to protect it. Fuego woke up well from the anesthesia. His jaw will still slide out of place, but it is hoped that he will be able to get it back into place more easily, and therefore be less painful.

Kinkajous originate from Central and South America and are related to raccoons, olingos, coatis, and ringtails. They look sort of like a cross between a cat and a small monkey. Adults are 16-24 inches long with prehensile tails 16-22 inches long. They weigh 4-7 lbs., are nocturnal, and eat an omnivorous diet consisting mostly of ripe fruit. They look absolutely adorable, but don't be fooled. The zoo staff says they don't make good pets!



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SARAFINA SAVES AKIRA

Incoherent shrieks pierced the receiver. The only other time I heard my neighbor this upset was when her poodle puppies disappeared. At that time, I told her to call the police and raced into my back yard to get Sarafina, my adolescent border collie/coyote dog, to help look for them. I found her gently grooming her “abductees” that she had leapt over a four foot fence to obtain. Awkward! Graciously, my neighbor offered Sara a pup when it was weaned.

Confident that I'd made it clear to Sara that puppy-napping wasn't neighborly; I now tried to decipher my neighbor's words. As I yelled, “I'm coming”, she gasped, “Your dog is killing your cat!” I paused. I thought about my girl Sarafina and Akira, the Siamese kitten she had chosen with a nuzzle at the shelter. I said, “I don't think so.” I heard: “...in the front yard!” I ran to the window and gasped. My indoor cat was outside! He raced towards the front gate as cars zipped by. Before I could drop the phone, a blur reached him. Sarafina picked him up by the scruff and carried him to the front step. He made another break for the gate but Sarafina was faster. Again, she deposited him safely. One more go-round as I lunged across the living room and flung open the front door. Akira raced in with wild eyes. Clearly, the outdoors was not all he had anticipated. Sarafina, on the other hand, grinned proudly, “I saved him Mom!”

BUDDIES (IN HIS OWN WORDS)

My former owner, Keith, approached my present owner, John, in 2000 explaining that he and his wife had picked me up at the pound and now this...this wife of his wanted him to take me back there. John inquired why. “Because when we sit on the sofa to watch TV, he gets up between us but works his way over onto my lap...and my wife is jealous.” John simply cracked up and then replied, “Over a dog? Of course I'll take him.” You see, John is a single insulin-dependent diabetic while I'm a very bright, intuitive, handsome (so everybody tells me), sleek, black Australian Kelpie who resembles a Dingo. Soon after I moved in, I woke John up one morning at 3am, placing my paws on his mattress while pushing him with my face. He assumed I had to go out; I simply went back to bed. His blood sugars were 52. John looked at me puzzled. A few months later, same scenario (new word for me), but this time I received no response. So I began barking and eventually woke him up. We believe he was headed into a coma. (He tells folks he'd never seen “panic” on a dog's face till then). His blood sugars were 31...and ‘Jake’ became ‘Buddy’. How fortunate for both John and moi, (I'm Aussie, but I've picked up a little French from Miss Piggy) that Keith had such an unreasonably jealous wife. I mean “How Lucky Can You Get!!”

NEW DRUG GIVES HOPE FOR FERRET OWNERS

Any ferret owner knows about Adrenal Disease. Adrenal Disease is a common affliction in ferrets. Symptoms include weight loss, hair loss, difficulty urination, swelling of the vulva and aggression.



Although treatable, this disease is a progressive, debilitating illness, and seriously affects the quality of life in the ferret.

Up until now, treatment options were limited to frequent and expensive Lupron injections or costly surgery. For many ferret owners, both options were out

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of reach. Recently, a new treatment has become available. Deslorelin is being used to treat as well as prevent adrenal disease. It is a slow-release implant, and an excellent alternative to the Lupron injections. The Deslorelin implant can be used as a preventative measure for ferrets over three years of age, even if they are not yet showing signs of the illness. Deslorelin implant is placed under the skin similar to a microchip and has shown to be effective 12-18 months. With the use of Deslorelin, it is hoped that the need for surgery will be reduced in aging ferrets, while making treatment for Adrenal Disease more accessible and affordable.

MEDICAL BOOTIES

Healers Veterinary Dressings, otherwise known as Medical Booties, are designed to be used when paws are in need of medical attention. Moisture is wicked away through Breathe-O-Prene® air cell dynamics which allows air to flow freely. The booties have a wrap-around design and Velcro® closure which provides a snug fit and allows the pet owner to easily put the bootie on and off of the sore or injured paw. The outside sports a non-skid rubber pad that provides natural traction. Each package comes with a pair of booties and 4 non-stick gauze inserts that have an adhesive backing which can turn the bootie into a bandage. With easy removal of the gauze inserts, it makes for a safe healing environment for your pet's paws. Booties are machine washable and water resistant. We carry three different sizes; S, M and L. Ask us for more information.



NEW PRODUCT FOR URINE PROBLEMS

Urine-Away is the fast and easy permanent solution to getting rid of urine stains and odors. Did you know that 9 out of 10 urine stains are originally treated with a detergent? And when you go to use an enzymatic remover, the soap and detergent that was used first will inactivate the enzymes, which leads to product failure. The great news about Urine-Away is it eliminates the frustration because it works no matter what detergent was used before. There are four ways that Urine-Away works to permanently eliminate odors. The odor is caused by molecules that emit a vapor. Many products claim to ‘control’ odors, but none of them ‘eliminate’ them like Urine-Away.

- **BONDS** within seconds of application to neutralize odors for good.
- **ABSORBS** to permanently eliminate the smell.
- **COUNTERACTS** odors at the molecular level.
- **PREVENTS** odors after initial application.

Urine-Away is fast, easy and effective and is a permanent resolution from pet urine odor and stains. Its proprietary triple-action formula keeps odors from coming back. It is safe, non-toxic, non-irritating as well as biodegradable. For more information, call us.

