

Tails From the Glenview Animal Hospital

WINTER 2007

Process vs. Progress

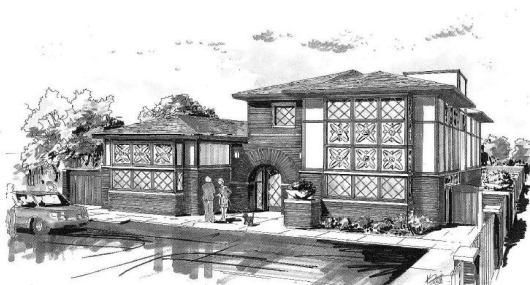
David A. Cohen, DVM

Our last newsletter brought to light the realization of a dream to build a "new and improved" Glenview Animal Hospital. The **PROCESS** has been a labor of love. If not for the tireless and tremendous effort of our practice manager, Missy Tarpey, I would not be able to continue to see patients and deal with the myriad of issues that arise on a daily basis. I know at times there have been distractions that have taken me away from my tasks at hand, but Missy has alleviated most of these time constraints and stresses. I owe her a great debt of gratitude.

The **PROGRESS** has been a different issue. It was our intent to "ground break" this winter. As most construction projects go, there have been disappointments, delays and the usual budget concerns. We ARE getting closer. I have learned to plan for all the contingencies, and hope for

the best. If all goes reasonably well from this point forward, we should be able to start construction this Spring. We are working on a plan to deal with all the inconveniences to our clients and patients. This will allow the transition to be as smooth as possible.

We enjoy all the "when is the new clinic going to be built" questions. Hopefully the answer will be obvious to all this Spring. It is with the past, present and continuous support of the community and our clients that have allowed us to realize this dream. Thank you to all, and have a happy and healthy New Year.



The Future Glenview Animal Hospital

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Chris Malak

Animal Care Coordinator

Most of you know or have met Chris. And if you haven't met her, she knows you and your pet. She has an uncanny memory for patients. Chris has been with the Glenview Animal Hospital for 18 years. You will often talk with her on the phone or see her at the reception desk. But she is also an integral part of the technical staff as an assistant. From helping the doctor with an examination, to assisting the technicians with procedures and radiographs, to making sure every hospitalized patient has a fluffy blanket and lots of TLC. Although she always has a smile on her face, Chris is happiest when she can give some love to the patients. Chris is a native of Glenview and many of you run into her around town. In addition to the cats that she adores here at the hospital, Chris shares her home with her two cats John and Lacey.



February Is National Dental Month

Stacey Geasey, CVT

Most people don't know the importance of oral hygiene in dogs and cats. You, as a pet owner play an important role in taking care of your pet's teeth. Pets can develop dental disease and other health problems due to lack of oral hygiene. When soft plaque hardens into rough tartar, it irritates and inflames the gums causing condition called gingivitis. This can cause bleeding gums, loss of teeth and even infection in the heart or kidneys. Gingivitis can also make eating very painful and could cause weight loss.

At your annual or semi-annual (for seniors) examination, Dr. Cohen or Dr. Bloomberg will examine your pets mouth for oral health. Based on the degree of gingivitis and tartar, they may recommend preventative steps to take at home such as brushing, dental chews, or a special treat/food. If the disease process has progressed, the doctor will recommend that you have your pet's teeth cleaned under anesthesia.



Because it is necessary to use general anesthesia while cleaning your pet's teeth, we will run a pre-anesthetic blood work panel to confirm that your pet is a low risk for complications from anesthesia. During a dental cleaning we use a periodontal probe to check for pockets underneath the gum line. We remove

large pieces of tartar and then use an ultrasonic scalar to remove tartar from crevices and at the gum line. The teeth are then polished to smooth out any scratches in the enamel. A fluoride treatment is applied to strengthen the teeth and desensitize the exposed roots. We also use a product called Ora-Vet[®] that when applied provides a protective coating on the teeth.



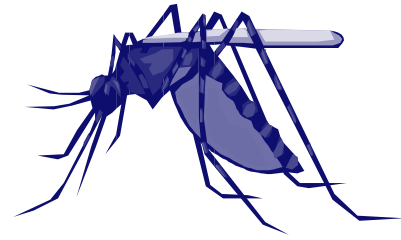
As with many things, prevention is the best medicine. We recommend brushing your pet's teeth daily with a soft brush and pet tooth paste. We also recommend C.E.T dental chews and rinses, and Hills T/D as a treat or food. We carry these products at the hospital. By doing preventative care at home, such as brushing and specialized treats you are preventing possible dental disease, diseases to the heart and kidneys, reducing dental discomfort, and the need for anesthesia. But most importantly you are letting your pet lead a healthy lifestyle which will lead to a healthy pet.



Did you know that the Glenview Animal Hospital has 3 Certified Veterinary Technicians on staff? Christy, Stacey and Missy have completed a specialized program in veterinary technology and have then taken state licensing examinations to become certified. We feel very fortunate to have these technicians on our staff as it is unusual to have so many at one hospital. (Some don't have any.)

Spring Is Just Around The Corner

Many of our patients will be getting their postcards to remind them to visit us for their heartworm test and to refill their prescription for Heartgard Plus. Merial will again be offering a \$5.00 rebate for Heartgard Plus dispensed by the hospital. In addition, Merial will support their product if purchased through a veterinary hospital, but not through other sources as they do not have control over how the product has been shipped and stored. Remember, *prevention is the best medicine!*



Case In Point— Hyperthyroidism and Hypothyroidism

Jeffrey Bloomberg, DVM

While speaking to families during examinations one of the most common phrases we hear is "I chalked it up to old age". Pet owners will use this term to describe a plethora of changes in their pets. In fact, any change may indicate early, mild signs of disease in older animals. If diagnosed early, many of these diseases may be managed or eliminated before they become more serious. The thyroid gland, which controls metabolism, is a common culprit in both cats and dogs. The interesting thing is that cats become over-active (hyperthyroid) in older age while dogs become under-active (hypothyroid).

It is understandable why families believe that the changes that occur due to hypothyroidism in dogs are just aging changes. The signs are vague: decreased appetite and energy, weight gain, and dull haircoat. Diagnosis is achieved by discovering a low thyroid hormone level on a general health blood panel. Hypothyroidism is treated by supplementing the dog's thyroid hormone with a pill that is given for the duration of the dog's life. The response of some dogs to thyroid supplementation can be astounding. Often owners describe their dogs as seeming years younger in a matter of weeks.

*"I chalked it
up to old
age."*

With hyperthyroidism, in cats, the changes that owners report are the exact opposite. Cats become ravenously hungry, lose weight, become more anxious, and are at risk for blindness. They also begin to drink and urinate more. Changes that aren't seen by the owner are heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney disease. Hyperthyroidism, just like hypothyroidism, is detected on a general health blood panel. Treatment, unfortunately, is not as simple. Sometimes hyperthyroidism can be controlled with daily medication, but often surgery or even radiation is necessary to cure a cat of this progressive, debilitating disease. If your cat is diagnosed with hyperthyroidism one of our veterinarians will go into further depth with you about the pros and cons of these treatment options.

It is not an overstatement to say that we diagnose new cases of thyroid disease weekly here at Glenview Animal Hospital. The secret to our success in detecting and treating thyroid disease is simply that we know we need to screen for it. Pets that are showing any of these changes or are considered seniors (dogs and cats over 7 years old) should have a general health panel submitted. By doing so, early stages of disease can be detected and treatment can begin before irreversible damage occurs.

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Healthy Practices.
Healthier Pets.

Our Mission

Our goal at the Glenview Animal Hospital is to team with pet owners to maintain wellness through education and preventative based medicine.



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National Pet Dental Health Month February 2007

Without proper dental care,
80% of dogs and 70% of cats show signs
of oral disease by age three.

SOURCE: Wiggs RB, Loprise HB. In: Veterinary Dentistry. Principles and Practice: Lippincott-Raven, 1997;187.

Oral disease
is the **#1 health problem** diagnosed in
dogs and cats.

SOURCE: Lund EM, Armstrong PJ, Kirk CA, et al. Health status and population characteristics of dogs and cats examined at private veterinary practices in the United States. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 1999; 214:1336-1341.