

## APRIL NEWSLETTER

Happy Easter and Spring Equinox to all! While we welcome the season change and the April showers there are a couple things to get prepared for in the coming month.

### **Bradshaw Updates**

This month is Neuter Month here at Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic, which means we are offering a 15% discount on all neuter procedures scheduled during the month of April. Also this month we will be holding our seasonal Vaccination Clinics. Vaccination Clinics are held the first Saturday of every month and run until October. Vaccination clinics are from 9am to 11am this year, we have changed the time this year to help keep pets out of the heat come summer time. This month's vaccination clinic is on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vaccination Clinics offer strictly vaccinations for your pet with no appointment exam charge. For details contact a customer service representative. As a reminder to all our clients, our general business hours are from 6am to 9pm. After 9pm we are open on an emergency basis only. When calling after business hours you can leave a message on voice mail and your call will be returned immediately the following day. We appreciate your cooperation.

### **Seasonal News**

Spring means budding flowers and trees and while it provides a beautiful environment, it can mean allergies for humans and pets alike. Seasonal allergies are generally more common in dogs than cats, but in any event can be diagnosed and treated. A pet can contract allergies by inhaling allergens in the air and sometimes can be ingested. Some pets can even develop skin disorders as a result of allergies, which may or may not include the symptoms of sneezing and watery eyes. Pets are often very itchy all over the body or specifically the feet. More specific signs to watch for are licking the feet excessively, rubbing the face and frequent scratching. Your pet may develop skin or ear infections as a *result* of the allergies.

There are two common types of seasonal allergies that may specifically affect your dog which include flea allergies or Atopy/Allergic Inhaled Dermatitis. In the warmer weather fleas are in an environment in which it is easier to reproduce and establish a greater population. Pets react to flea saliva and even just one flea bite can result in a severe allergic reaction. Contact your veterinary clinic to discuss flea prevention or veterinarian regarding an infestation of fleas.

Types of allergens that can stimulate a dermatitis reaction are foods, ragweed, pollen, house dust, house dust mites, mold, animal dander, feathers, grasses, trees, and shrubs. These allergens can be found almost anywhere so avoiding them can be difficult. However it is possible to diagnose which allergic substances your pet may or may not be reacting to more than others. Sometimes a physical exam or health history is not sufficient in being able to diagnose specifically your pet's allergies and blood testing may assist in doing so. If you suspect that your pet is suffering from allergies schedule a consult/exam with your veterinarian to explore diagnosis and treatment options.

With plants and flowers surfacing it is important to consider that some can be toxic to your pet. In dogs, plants are the fifth most common type of toxic exposure and are second in cats. Plant toxicities are a serious hazard and can cause irritation of the mouth, gastrointestinal tract problems, serious illness and death. Plants prominent in the springtime that can cause gastrointestinal upset in dogs and cats include:

- Amaryllis
- Ferns
- Caladium
- Calla lily
- Hyacinth
- Iris
- Tulip

Plants considered very toxic and can result in severe illness or even death include:

- Crocus
- Azalea
- Rhododendron
- Tiger Lily
- Easter Lily
- Bittersweet
- Clematis
- Daffodil
- Day lily
- Foxglove
- Lily of the Valley
- Narcissus
- Morning Glory
- Death Camas

If you suspect that your pet has ingested a toxic plant it is important to first determine if your pet actually ate the plant, how much was ingested and which part of the plant was eaten (as different parts of the plant can be toxic and others non-toxic). Plant identification is crucial in diagnosis and treatment as well, bring a sample of the plant to your veterinarian when bringing your dog or cat in if you are unsure of the name. Be aware of which types of plants are in your yard or community to help your pet avoid ingestion of anything hazardous.

## **General News**

With the nice weather in the coming months it may be an opportune time for some spring training for your dog. Dogs old and young need exercise, however an exercise regimen can vary for each dog. Daily exercise can be highly beneficial to your dog but be sure to consider weather conditions and any medical limitations that may limit your dog's physical activity level. Obese dogs and those with heart and lung conditions are especially at risk so consult a veterinarian before beginning any strenuous activity to protect your pet. One some days the weather in the spring can be perfect, however on other days can prove hazardous. Make sure that your dog has access to fresh and clean water at all times (even in cold weather) and provide a place for him or her to escape weather extremes (the high heat and freezing cold). Exercise should be limited depending on the type of weather on any given day. Be sure to consider your dog's breed, those with given cardiovascular and airway problems, and with thick coats can have problems in hot and humid conditions. The best times of day to exercise with your dog is early in the morning or evening when the heat is less than 80 degrees and the humidity is less than 30 percent.

We hope spring finds you and your pets enjoying the spring season!