



AVC News

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Agape Veterinary Clinic, Inc.

Catching Up:

We hope you all had a wonderful summer full of blue ribbons, fetch on the beach, or just lounging in a favorite sun spot. As we head into Fall and back-to-school activities we'd like to remind you of a couple important dates. This year we have a booth at Haymarket Day on September 20th. Please stop by and say "hi!" We are planning on having some kittens for adoption, too. Also, we will be at "A Day in The Plains" on October 4th. Hope to see you all there!

We are also going to start to feature our

SPCA and other organization's kittens for adoption on our website. We usually have at least 2 in the clinic at all times. We'll be posting photos and bios to help them find their forever homes!



Inside this issue:

Catching Up	1
A Note from Dr. Gray	1
Small Animal /Equine Info	2
Important Info	2
Cosmo's Corner	3
Photo Gallery	3
Food for Thought	3

Special Deals

- * Keep a lookout for some fun quizzes and games for your chance to get discounts !
- * Also, we'll feature special discounts on seasonal services.

A Note From Dr. Gray:

We have recently upgraded our equipment at Agape Vet to include video laparoscopy. I just attended a 6 day course at The University of Georgia Vet School where I perfected my surgical technique using laparoscopy to spay dogs, take biopsies and numerous other surgeries. Wendy Hicks, one of our tremendously knowledgeable staff members, accompanied me in Georgia because those assisting in the surgeries are just as critical to the success of the surgery. Laparoscopy is a minimally invasive procedure which allows the Doctor to actually visualize the internal organs on a video monitor. The procedure requires general anesthesia and is done in a sterile operating room. One very small incision is made to allow a tiny scope to be placed into the abdomen. The second incision is for an instrument which is used to move tissue or to get biopsies. The recovery from this procedure only takes 1 to three days with minimal pain even when surgery is done. A traditional open procedure takes several weeks for recovery. Imagine if you were told that your pet had

a tumor somewhere involving his abdomen. We can sometimes palpate masses on an exam or find abnormalities on ultrasound but the only way to know whether it is treatable is by taking a biopsy. Needle biopsies done thru the skin are rarely of adequate size to give a good diagnosis. Laparoscopy allows biopsies to be taken of possible tumors with perfect accuracy. With laparoscopy and the surgical tools we have, we can stop any bleeding and remove small tumors safely. Bladder stones can easily be removed from not only the bladder but from the entire urethra. We are excited to be able to offer Laparoscopic spays for dogs. The procedure will be slightly more expensive than the regular ovariohysterectomy, however, it is much less painful with only a three day recovery. Laparoscopy is a great solution for crypt orchid males (dogs and cats) as we can easily find the internal testicle with minimal trauma. We will also be offering gastropexies for large dogs to help prevent the devastating consequences of bloat.

Small Animal Medicine:

Skin Problems

This summer has been a record summer for allergies in dogs and cats. Scratching, infected ears, licking feet or any where incessantly are all signs of possible allergic reaction. It can be very frustrating to track down what is causing the reaction.

Seasonal allergies usually are related to the plants that are growing or pollinating at the time the animal is showing the reaction. When they are exposed to allergens they may exhibit rolling, rubbing, scratching, chewing, and hair plucking. If the problem is not ad-

ressed they will get rashes, hot spots and sores on there body. Another cause for skin problems are fleas, mange and ring worm. It is very important that you bring your pet in for an exam so that we can make sure that the problem is not contagious to you or your other animals.

Some animals seem to have skin problems all year round. These animals may be suffering from food allergies as well as seasonal pollen allergies. We recommend allergy testing. There is a simple blood test which runs sensitivities to local flora as well as food. This test can

be run on dogs cats and horses and gives us a wealth of information and hopefully, a solution to a frustrating problem.

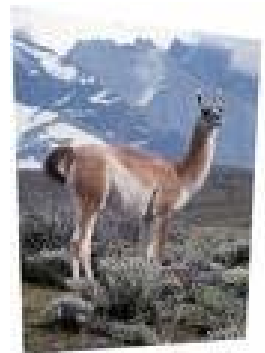
"In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semihuman. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog." - Edward Hoagland

Equine Medicine:

It's time to start scheduling fall shots for your equines! Also, as we head into winter, it's a good idea to ask our vets to give a quick check of your horse's teeth while they're there. We've been promised a particularly harsh winter and you want their teeth in tip-top shape for all the hay they'll be munching on! Dental health is a vital part of your horse's well being and performance. Annual dental exams allow the opportunity to perform regular dental maintenance (floating) and identify abnormalities that may need immediate attention. It is also important for the horse owner to recognize possible dental problems. Symptoms may include dropping feed, loss of weight, head tossing, poor performance, unilateral or bilateral nasal discharge or swelling of the face. Adult horses should receive a thorough dental exam annually. This will include the use of an oral speculum and possibly sedation for an adequate examination.

Younger horses (2-5 years old) should be evaluated twice yearly. Additional information is available on the AAEP website at www.aaep.org/ horseowner.

Now is also a great time to make sure your blankets have been washed and mended. Start locating and cleaning your bucket heaters, too. Don't get caught unprepared on the eve of the first cold snap.



Important Notes:

Recently, a certain dilemma has reared its head several times. Basically, you go on vacation and leave a trusted friend or family member or service in charge of your pets. But are they prepared for an emergency? Before leaving town it is critical that you provide very specific information to the caretaker in case of an emergency. Put our phone number and address 1st on the list. Also, you may want to call us before you go and give the dates you'll be

gone and what level of care you are willing to have done— should the worst happen. Leave us a number where you can be reached, if available. Also, we have the capability of keeping a credit card/debit number safely in your file, leaving one less thing to worry about. With pets that have certain health conditions such as diabetes and those requiring daily medications it is especially important to leave specific dosing instructions to your caretaker and make sure you have enough medication to last through your trip.

Cosmo's Corner (a "bird's eye view" of a cat's life in the hospital)

It's been an interesting summer. Tons of hot-shot kittens looking too cute for words trying to get adopted—stealing my thunder. I'm more adorable than them! I don't really mind them as long as we understand each other— this is MY hospital and they are just visiting! Help find them homes— if I hear one more bell or see another roley-ball zip through the waiting-room with kittens chasing them, I'm staying outside! Well... maybe not, but I won't like it! At least I still have Whitney and Beth under my spell and I can make them give me treats with my spellbinding charm!

I'm still not sure what "shoo!" means when they toss me treats while I walk across the keyboard. Whatever, treats are treats! Until next time, I bid you adieu!

-Cosmo the wonder cat

"In a cat's eyes all things belong to cats."

- English saying



Cosmo's Self Portrait.

Photo Gallery:



Food for Thought:

"To live long, eat like a cat, drink like a dog."

- German Proverb

"I think we are drawn to dogs because they are the uninhibited creatures we might be if we weren't certain we knew better." - George Bird Evans, "Troubles with Bird Dogs"



See ya next time!

Agape Veterinary Clinic, Inc.

6323 Hopewell Road
The Plains, VA 20198

Phone: 540-253-5619

Fax: 540-253-5628

Email:

agapemanager@verizon.net

Country vet charm, city vet
technology

We're on the web!
www.agapevet.net



Products:

We offer a wide range of prescription and general health foods and treats at prices as low as large pet supply chains—without the hassle of going there. We also carry a wide range of medicated bathing supplies, sprays, and behavior management products.

Other services that set us apart:

* Online pharmacy— have easy access to thousands of prescriptions and products from the comfort of your home. Have your prescription pet food delivered to your door too!

* Laparoscopic surgery ***new!***

* Wellness programs

* Shockwave treatments— treats degenerative arthritis

Regular clinic hours:

Monday-Friday 8am– 6pm

Saturday 9am– 1pm

Sunday closed



Q & A: answers in the next issue...

1. Why does a dog put its tail between its legs when it is frightened?

2. What was the name of George Washington's favorite horse?

3. What are infant beavers called?

If you can answer all 3 questions correctly, stop by the clinic to get a free small bag of Lean Treats for your cat or dog!

