



Oakwood News

OAKWOOD VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Fall 2011

Happy Autumn!

It's October again, my favorite time of year. The weather is usually perfect for dog walking and other outdoor activities. Plus, we celebrate Halloween, Adopt-A-Dog Month, National Pet Wellness Month, and National Veterinary Technician Week.

This month and every month, take steps to keep your dog healthy. Pledge to bring your dog to the vet for a wellness

check-up yearly. Contact your vet at the first signs of illness. Our dogs cannot speak for themselves (at least not in words), so we owe it to them to become their advocates. By educating yourself about pet health and communicating with your vet, you can take the right preventive measures to avoid illness and injury. After all, we want our furry companions to be with us for a long, long time.



Oakwood Online Store

Have you tried our online pharmacy? Available exclusively to our clients, this secure, safe website allows you to order conveniently from home. All orders are reviewed by our veterinarians and become part of your pet's medical record. You also get the peace of mind knowing that the manufacturer's guarantee is in full effect and you are *shopping local*. All products are shipped free for orders over \$39. We strive to be price competitive to non-local online pharmacies. Just log on to our web-

site at www.OakwoodVetHospital.com and click on your "Pet Portal LOG IN." Once you log in, click on the "Shop Online" menu tab to get started. It's as simple as that! We appreciate your support of our locally owned business.

You can also order prescription refills to be picked up at the hospital using your Pet Portal. Please plan ahead for medication refills. Some medications need to be special ordered or require a doctor approval for refill.

NOW, YOU CAN REACH OUR PRACTICE ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

Get a Pet Portal and stay connected with us – anywhere, any time. Access is fast, easy, and secure.

How to get started:

CLICK HERE

to give us your email address. We'll send your Pet Portal login information in the next few days.

Sign up and you can:

- Stay current on your pets' health schedule
- Request Rx refills
- Ask us questions
- Receive automatic reminders about future exams & vaccinations.
- Receive e-cards on your pets' birthdays

Stay connected with us. Get a Pet Portal – and make life easier.



Scan this to like us on Facebook!



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October is Adopt-A-Dog Month

What Can An Adopted Dog Bring To Your Life?

There are as many responses to that question as there are dogs in this world! That's why -- during American Humane Association's Adopt-A-Dog Month celebration in October -- we're encouraging people to adopt a shelter dog and experience the joy of finding their own answers.

Are you looking for:

- an exercise buddy?
- a best friend and confidant for your child?
- a dog you can train with to learn animal-assisted therapy?
- a partner in agility competitions?
- a constant companion for your favorite senior citizen?
- a fuzzy face to greet you after a hard day at work?

An adopted dog can be all these things -- and so much more!

Your local shelter is the perfect place to find dogs of every type, size, age and personality -- all waiting for a loving home. Or, if you prefer a particular breed that isn't currently available at a shelter, go online to find a breed-specific rescue group in need of adopters like you.

Find out what a shelter or rescue dog can bring to your life this October during Adopt-A-Dog Month!

Pet Wellness

A plan starts with routine wellness exams. Your pet's annual wellness visit is for more than just shots! While vaccines help reduce the risk of infectious disease, it takes much more to keep your pet happy and healthy. During the wellness visit, we will also have the opportunity to discuss behavior issues, dietary needs, parasite prevention, and other pertinent health issues. And don't forget the physical exam too! A full physical can help diagnose, prevent, and treat health problems before they become serious.

Wellness Exams

Regular wellness exams allow your veterinarian to evaluate your pet's general health and become aware of any health problems before they become serious illnesses. Since your pet cannot vocalize his or her feelings, you must rely on regular physical examinations by a veterinarian and your at-home observations to assess your pet's health. Your veterinarian may also wish to perform diagnostic tests, including blood tests and/or x-rays, to evaluate your pet's health.

How often does my pet need a wellness exam?

Every year for a dog or cat is equivalent to five to seven human years, so it is important that your pet receives a wellness exam *at least every year*, and more often when he or she enters his or her senior years. Many aspects of your pet's health can change in a short amount of time, so make sure your pet does not miss even one exam!

Similar to people, pets need to visit the veterinarian more often as they get older in order to prevent and treat illnesses that come with age. AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) recommends that healthy dogs and cats visit the veterinarian once a year for a complete exam and laboratory testing. Healthy senior dogs and cats should receive a wellness exam and lab testing every six months. Depending on your pet's age and health, your veterinarian will suggest an appropriate physical examination schedule to help keep your pet in tip-top shape.

What can I expect during my pet's wellness examination?

Your veterinarian will request a complete history of your pet's health. Don't forget to mention any unusual behavior that you have noticed in your pet. A complete Wellness Exam goes through the vital statistics, ears, eyes, mouth and teeth, heart and lungs, reproductive organs, skin and coat, diet and weight. Your veterinarian will do a complete exam from head to toe and may recommend additional testing to diagnose or verify a health problem if he finds any abnormalities during your pet's examination. Vaccinations are one of the most important preventive measure you can take for the health of your pet. How frequently and which vaccines depends on many factors, so talk with your veterinarian to understand what is recommended. Parasite prevention is another very important preventive measure, giving a monthly preventative year-round is important.

Do not underestimate the importance of taking your pet to the veterinarian for regular wellness examinations. These regular examinations will help your pet live a longer and healthier life, so do your part to care for your furry friend!



National Vet Tech Week: October 9th-15th

This month we celebrate our Veterinary Technicians. Pets and Vets need Techs! We have four wonderful techs, two of which have Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) degrees. A big thank you to Karen, Ryann, Sarah, and Sue! We couldn't do it without you.

Consider...

They are the pet whisperers who soothe an anxious cat or dog in an exam room. Who always have a kind word and a sweet snuggle for an animal in the waiting area, treatment room or surgery.

They are the skilled nurses who insert IVs, wrap wounds, clean teeth and monitor anesthesia. They are skilled surgical nurses and keen diagnosticians.

They are the first responders who are always in the front lines to help animals when there's an emergency.

But more than any of those things, veterinary technicians are without a doubt the reason that all the parts work together smoothly. Highly trained, highly skilled and highly committed, veterinary technicians handle the care of animals and the education of pet owners.

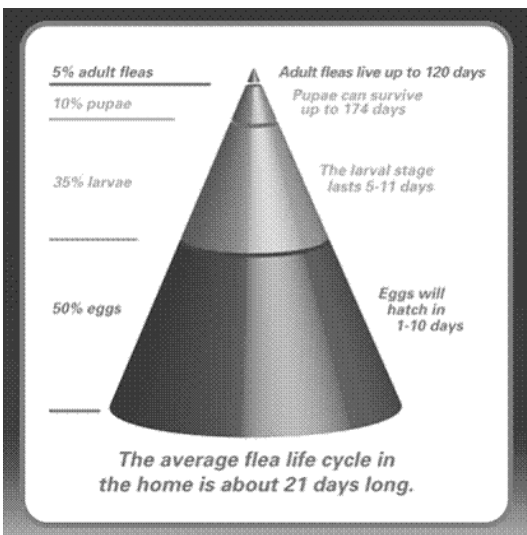
How has a vet tech helped you and your pet?



Flea Season is Here!

What you don't know about fleas can hurt your pet:

- Pets are permanent hosts for fleas and necessary for their propagation.
- City wildlife is an important source of fleas (raccoons, squirrels, etc.)
- Dogs pick up fleas from dog parks and other common areas, even when there are no other dogs around. These fleas come from eggs laid on other animals about six to eight weeks earlier.
- People can bring fleas into the home.
- Where there are adult fleas, there are eggs, larvae, and pupae. The fleas you see only make up 5% of the population (see chart below)
- Shady, protected outdoor areas are ideal spots for flea development.
- It can take several weeks for all developmental stages of fleas to become exhausted.
- In many parts of the country, autumn—not summer—is when flea populations are highest.
- Fleas reproduce rapidly—an average adult female can lay greater than 40 eggs per day.



More than a guarantee. Peace of mind. Available exclusively through veterinarians.

- Purchase a 3-pack or 6-pack of Frontline Plus from your veterinarian
- The appropriate full product must be used for at least 3 consecutive months on every cat and dog in the household.
- If you are not satisfied after 3 months of use, Merial will refund your money, provide you with a replacement product, or provide a FREE one time professional in-home inspection and if necessary, treatment by Terminix®.

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BUY 6 DOSES GET 2 FREE

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There's an App For That...

- Heartgard® (ivermectin) Dose Reminder FREE
- Frontline® Dose Reminder FREE
- Remind My Pet (for any medication reminder) FREE
- Fleas & Desist (game) FREE

Referral Program

The greatest compliment you can pay our staff is to recommend our services to friends and family. For every new client you refer to us we will add a \$5 credit to your account. Thank you for your confidence!



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Facebook.com/oakwoodvethospital



Like us on
Facebook



Have You Signed Up For A Pet Portal?

You've given your pets everything except their own personal website. Our practice provides FREE individual Pet Portals for your pets. These Portals will allow you to:

- Request and track appointments
- Check your pet's vaccination and exam status
- Order prescription refills and shop our online store
- Receive medication reminders
- Access answers to your pet health questions
- Receive important medical alerts
- And much more!



OAKWOOD
VETERINARY
HOSPITAL



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(231) 941-7241
OakwoodVetHospital.com

M. Drew Henshaw, DVM
Bruce C. Cozzens, DVM

Hours

Monday– Friday

Reception Hours

7:30-5:00

Doctor Hours

8:00-12:00 and 2:00-5:00

Saturday

8:00-12:00



Emergencies

Should an after-hours emergency arise, simply call our regular phone number and our answering service will provide you with the Emergency On-Call veterinarian's contact information. This service is available evenings, weekends, and holidays.

*Seasonally this schedule may change, please call ahead.