



CHFA 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event
Wednesday April 15 th at 7:00PM	"Pet Grooming for Health and Beauty" (with actual demonstrations) Presented by Molly Hulbert, Groomer
Wednesday, May 20 th at 7:00PM	"Pet Allergies: How You Can Take Control" Presented by Stephanie Clifford, L.V.T.
Sunday May 31 st from 12:00PM – 4:00PM	Cascade Hospital for Animals' Open House
Saturday June 13 th Starting at 8:00AM	3 rd Annual Healthy Paws Healthy Cause Fun Run Walk
Wednesday, June 17 th at 7:00PM	"Hands On Pet Home Care with Pet Demos" Presented by Dr. Amy Hoss
Wednesday, July 15 th at 7:00PM	"Your Senior Dog: How to Find His Inner Puppy" Presented by Dr. Laura Sullivan
Wednesday, August 19 th at 7:00PM	"Pawsitive Weight Loss for Your Pet" Presented by Emily Harkness, L.V.T.

The Client Education Seminars are held at our hospital, and are complimentary to our clients and guests. It is strongly encouraged that you RSVP as seating may be limited.

The 3rd Annual Healthy Paws, Healthy Cause Fun Run/Walk is coming up fast! Be sure you and your pet start getting in shape to participate with us on Saturday, June 13th - It promises to be the biggest and best yet!

Registrations will be opening soon!

Mark your Calendars!

www.chfa.net: Same Address, New Look

Cascade Hospital for Animals is celebrating 54 years of providing quality, compassionate care to dogs, cats, and other small pets by holding an Open House on May 31, 2009 from Noon to 4pm. Come join us for fun, food, and education for the whole family!



We have updated our website to incorporate more information and offer more services for your convenience. A few of the highlights are:

- Online Prescription refill requests for pick-up at our hospital.
- A blog where you can ask questions or share information with us and our clients.
- A members only area where you can access newsletters, Pets4Kids and doctors' announcements.
- A number of resources for information on the topics and questions you have.



Cascade Hospital for Animals
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Phone: (616) 949-0960 Fax: (616) 949-2688
www.chfa.net

Open 7 Days a Week!

April 2009

CLIENT INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Cascade Pawprints

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Fleas, Ticks and Worms Oh my!

Mosquitoes and Ticks:



Stop them before they bite!

Thanks to its repelling ability, **Advantix®** reduces mosquito and tick bites and thus the risk of diseases—and reduces the stress of painful itching for your dog!

Advantix® also quickly kills mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas that do bite your dog.

Keep your dog comfortable, safe and stress-free this summer—use **Advantix®**! (Not for use on cats)



Until June 15, 2009, buy 6 months of Advantix and get 2 FREE!

The weather is getting warmer, the grass is turning green, and your dog or cat may be playing host to something that will make Spring a miserable season for both of you.

Fleas can be one of the most annoying aspects of owning a pet. They aggravate both you and your pet - dog fleas and cat fleas can and will bite people as well, and flea bites are itchy and painful. Fortunately, there are a number of ways to deal with the problem of fleas - both preventative measures you should take to avoid them in the first place and ways to get rid of them once your house is filled up with these unwelcome guests.

Ticks are the leading carriers of diseases to humans in the United States, second only to mosquitoes worldwide. It is not the tick bite but the toxins or organisms in the tick's saliva transmitted through the bite that cause disease. Deer ticks in particular have become more of a problem for West Michigan residents, as they are carriers of Lyme disease.

Worms, as they are generally referred to, are internal parasites that victimize dogs and cats. The most common are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms and tapeworms. Some of these can be transmitted to humans. Of these four only two are commonly seen in your pet's fecal sample with the unaided eye...roundworms and tapeworms.

What can you do? Indoor pets are also at risk of these pests greater than previously realized. The good news is that we have medications and treatment methods available to keep both pets and people safe and healthy. The best protection is a monthly preventative of Sentinel (for dogs) and Revolution (for cats) and additional treatments as needed based on the lifestyle of the pet. Twice a year fecal samples and physical exams help us detect any problems before they become a larger issue.



Only the Best for your Best Friend!

KITTY KORNER



New SAFER feline rabies vaccine

We are happy to announce that we have a safer alternative rabies vaccine specifically for our feline friends. Previous to this, we have been using a 3 year injectable "killed" feline rabies vaccine: Pfizer Defensor 3™ vaccine.

The new rabies vaccine we are recommending is the **Merial PureVax™** live canarypox injectable feline rabies vaccine.

The **PureVax™** vaccine does not contain adjuvants, as all other rabies vaccines do. Adjuvants are substances added to a "killed" vaccine to increase the body's immune response to the vaccine (since the virus is killed and doesn't stimulate an adequate response on its own). Unfortunately, adjuvants have been known to cause anaphylactic vaccine reactions, and significantly increase the risk of vaccine associated sarcomas (cancer at vaccination sites) which can occur in cats.



To learn more about this vaccine, please visit our website at www.chfa.net.

Pet Care During Tough Times

Studies have repeatedly shown that a large majority of pet owners consider their pets as a family member. We spoil them with birthday parties, presents, and all manner of toys and treats to keep them happy. But, when money is tight, extra expenses need to go. Sadly, some pet owners choose to avoid veterinary visits as one means to save money. And believe it or not, others might give up their pets completely. The list below contains some advice that can help and avoid short term only savings.

- 1) Don't skimp on wellness care! Too many diseases and parasites are prevented by inexpensive vaccines and medications.
- 2) Avoid trying to save money by buying over-the-counter products or vaccines. These items can be dangerous and sometimes deadly to your pet.
- 3) When emergencies occur, talk to your veterinarian. Don't try to treat the wound yourself with bandages or topical ointments. These steps are rarely helpful.
- 4) Never give human medications to your pets without authorization from your veterinarian. Many pet poisonings are due to this well-intentioned act.
- 5) Do exercise with your pet! A tired pet is a happy pet and less likely to look for trouble!
- 6) Keep your pet's weight at optimal levels. Obese pets are prone to costly diseases like diabetes, arthritis and certain cancers.
- 7) Love your pet each day! These daily touches can find little lumps and bumps before they turn into big expensive masses!
- 8) Consider a pet health savings plan or even insurance for your pet. A little money put aside today could be a life-saver for your pet tomorrow.
- 9) Talk with your veterinarian about the essentials of your pet's care. Some procedures could be delayed without undue risk to your pet's health.

We all want to keep our furry friends safe and healthy, but it is challenging when just feeding the family stretches your budget. Talk with your veterinarian about your pet's specific health needs and see what should be addressed immediately and what can wait.

Blending Herbal Therapy and Acupuncture with Conventional Medicine: "Katie's" story

Acupuncture and herbal therapy, partnered with conventional veterinary medicine, are proving to be highly successful treatment choices in situations where conventional medicine alone may not produce the desired results. This has also been the case here at Cascade Hospital for Animals for several of our four-legged clients. This is "Katie's" story:



Katie, a 13 year old spayed female Siamese cat, came to us 2 years ago as she had stopped eating due to severe kidney disease. Her veterinarian, Dr. VanderWall, noted on her exam that Katie appeared very depressed and lethargic, was thin, and had a greasy hair coat. Her blood work indicated that her kidney values were very

high. Dr. VanderWall started her on daily fluids, Pepcid A/C, (to offset the acid production resulting from the kidney disease), Cyproheptidine to stimulate her appetite, and began herbal therapy.

Three days later her kidney values were down significantly, but she still was not eating well. Due to the improvement noted in her bloodwork, the current therapy was continued. Twelve days later, her fur was much less greasy, and she was now eating and drinking on her own. However, her bloodwork indicated that her creatinine (one of her renal values) had spiked back up again. At this point, Dr. VanderWall started acupuncture. Two and a half months later, her fur was normal, she was gaining weight, and her energy was much improved! Her owner stated that Katie was back to the health level she was at over a year ago.

Six and a half months later her weight, fur, and energy

were back to normal, and her owner indicated that she seemed back to where she had been 3 years ago.

Katie currently continues her herbal and acupuncture therapies, as well as her Cyproheptidine to keep her appetite up.

Properly administered by a trained professional, herbs and acupuncture can provide additional resources which can complement conventional medicine, as indicated by Katie's story.

If you are considering acupuncture or herbal therapy for your pet, please give us a call at (616) 949-0960. We would be happy to set up a consultation for you with Dr. VanderWall.



MEET THE DOCTOR



Dr. Diane VanderWall (and friend "Onyx")

Dr. VanderWall is a graduate of Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and has been a Doctor for over nine years.

"Dr. Diane", as she is called by many of her loyal clients, brings a great deal of knowledge, experience and compassion to our hospital. While continuing to serve the needs of our clients, she recently became certified in Acupuncture from the Chi Institute of Chinese Medicine in Florida, and Herbal Therapy, studying with Drs. Steve Marsden and Mona Boudreaux, in Chicago.

Dr VanderWall lives in the Lowell area and enjoys gardening, rollerblading and hiking, and shares her home with her husband Jim, dogs Bailey and Onyx, and cats, Frankie, Kaija, and Edmund.