PARKSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL e-NEWSLETTER

Kaye Wigginton, D.V.M.
Rita Ruple, D.V.M.
Sandy Krall, D.V.M.
Deidra Blackmon, D.V.M.

1780 Rufe Snow Drive
Keller, Texas 76248
817-281-1111
FAX: 817-281-2917

Welcome to the 29th edition of the PARKSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL monthly e-Newsletter

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Look forward to health care tips and information, services available for your pet; product rebates/promotions and much more, coordinating with the Parkside Animal Hospital website: [www.parksideanimalhospital.com](http://www.parksideanimalhospital.com)

Seened recently at Parkside Animal Hospital:

Wanda  Sadie  Pumpkin  Ginger  Gabby  Austin
Gracie  Little G  Roscoe  Gracie  Bella  Snowball
Buttercup  Shura  Nugget  Pug Pug  Lady  Malaya

Feature articles this issue:

** DENTAL CARE FOR YOUR PET? .. IT’S ABOUT HEALTH

** AFFORDING VETERINARY CARE

February DENTAL MONTH: $80.00 OFF dental package with full mouth x-rays and $20.00+ free dental products.

$100.00+ savings! Limited space available, call for complimentary evaluation... 817-281-1111

Join us now on Facebook: PARKSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Full Service Veterinary Care - Laser Surgery – Dental Care – Digital Radiographs & Digital Dental X-ray – Grooming
[www.parksideanimalhospital.com](http://www.parksideanimalhospital.com)
February IS pet dental health month...

Dental/Periodontal disease may cause more than pain for your pet. Bacteria thrive in tartar building up around teeth and gums, showering your pet’s bloodstream with bacteria and toxins and affecting vital organs including brain, heart, liver and kidneys.

Keeping your pet’s teeth and gums in good shape has many more benefits than fresh breath. Regular cleanings, brushing your pet’s teeth a few times weekly can help your pet live a longer, healthier life.

Dental care for your pet? ... it’s about HEALTH.

Warning signs to look for in your pet:

- Bad breath
- Sensitivity around the mouth
- Loss of appetite, difficulty chewing
- Yellowing or brown deposits on the teeth
- Bleeding, inflamed or receding gums
- Loose or missing teeth
- Pawing at the mouth or face

Veterinary examinations at Parkside Animal Hospital include monitoring your pet’s dental health; but if you see any of these signs between visits.. please call for an appointment.

A complimentary dental evaluation can also be done by one of our veterinary technicians and an itemized dental services treatment plan with optional services selection will be provided.

During examinations, your pet’s mouth is evaluated for:

- Periodontal disease
- Root abscess
- Gingivitis
- Fractured or missing teeth
- Retained deciduous teeth, rotated or extra teeth
- Tooth resorptive lesions
- Oral tumors or cancer

Dental care needs are staged from 1 to 4, with Stage 1 and 2 indicating cleaning and care are needed soon and negative impact on your pet can be reversed.

Stage 3 and 4 indicate immediate care is needed and your pet’s health is being seriously impacted. In Stage 3 and 4, damage to teeth, gums and bone is not reversible, but may be stopped, preventing further damage, infection and pain.

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Full Service Veterinary Care - Laser Surgery – Dental Care – Digital Radiographs & Digital Dental X-ray – Grooming
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At Parkside Animal Hospital, evaluation and treatment includes:

- Pre-anesthetic examination and blood work.
- Thorough, professional evaluation of dental care needs
- Careful and considerate anesthesia and pain care management before, during and after procedure.
- Constant protection of airway during procedure.
- Constant monitoring of vitals during anesthesia including heart rate, respiration and temperature.
- Warming bed and blankets during procedure and recovery for your pet’s comfort, safety and support.
- IV fluids to prevent dehydration; provide body organ support and an access line for medications needed during procedure.
- Meticulous evaluation, scaling and polishing of every surface of every tooth.
- Digital radiographs and evaluation, if needed.
- Should extractions be indicated, Consil is applied to strengthen remaining bone.
- Should periodontal disease be present, Doxirobe can be applied as a long acting antibiotic to help restore integrity and health to gum tissue and tooth attachment.
- Monitoring and support as your pet recovers. (Cuddles are free!)

A dental done at Parkside Animal Hospital is an intense, approximately 1 to 2 hour health treatment for your pet, done under anesthesia with full veterinary and technical support.

Photos BEFORE and AFTER initial cleaning. Thorough examination of individual teeth and entire gum-line, plus meticulous cleaning and polishing of each tooth surface yet to be done.

Ways to keep your pet’s teeth/mouth healthy:

- Bring your pet in for regular check-ups.
- Brush your pet’s teeth a few times a week. We’ll show you how.
- Choose pet food/treats/toys formulated to reduce tartar and plaque – ask us for recommendations.

Ask for a complimentary dental examination for your pet today.

It’s about HEALTH!
Parkside Animal Hospital now offers DIGITAL X-RAY/RADIOGRAPHS

We are proud to offer the most innovative, highest quality digital radiographic equipment and diagnostic tools for the benefit of your pet's health and well-being.

- Better quality, higher resolution
- Faster process for your pet (less time under anesthesia)
- Ability to email directly to specialist, if needed.

Since one-half of each tooth is under the gum line, problems may not be visible without x-rays (radiographs). Just as people get x-rays as part of a thorough dental exam, pets should also.

With digital radiographs, we can find problems including:

- Abscessed teeth
- Fractured teeth
- Bone loss or fracture
- Broken teeth with roots remaining

Dental evaluation and estimate are COMPLIMENTARY.. call today for an appointment.

Tip of the month: There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast.

PET PORTALS NOW AVAILABLE!

Pet Portals can be accessed from the Parkside Animal Hospital website! You can:

- Check your pet's vaccination and exam status
- Request prescription refills
- Request appointments
- Send updated contact information
- Upload your pet's photographs

Your FREE Pet Portal can be available within a couple days. In order to have on-line access to manage your pet's health, we will need your email address. Please contact Parkside Animal Hospital reception staff today.
AFFORDING VETERINARY CARE

It seems that everywhere we turn, costs are continually rising. Many of us find ourselves thinking twice before spending money on things we may not have second-guessed in the past. Unfortunately some of that may hold true when considering veterinary care for our pets. At Parkside Animal Hospital we understand that the cost of veterinary care can sometimes be overwhelming. We want you to know we are here for you and have some ideas that may help.

Pet Insurance: Pet insurance may be a great alternative for some pet owners. While you still have to pay for veterinary care at the time services are rendered, knowing you will get reimbursed from your insurance may mean the difference between getting needed care or not, especially in an emergency. Monthly premiums will vary with your pet’s age, breed and the plan you choose. We have written several newsletter articles on pet insurance (see archives on website), have links on our website and brochures in the office. Do you homework on each company and ask lots of questions to determine the right company and plan for your needs.

Third Party Financing: Have an emergency credit card for your pet. That way you will always have funds available should the need arise. You can also use your credit card to split up payments and reduce the amount coming out of your pocket all at once. Simply pay part of your bill with cash or debit card and put the other part on a credit card. If you pay it off within the grace period (often 28 days) it may also be interest free.

“Lay Away Plan”/Pet Saving Plan: Some pet owners are putting off preventative care or perhaps dental treatments or surgery because it is too hard to pay for it all at once. Parkside now offers a “lay away” plan. The idea is to make payments for the needed care or procedures ahead of time. We would apply the payments to your account. Funds would be held on your account until there was enough for the procedure. The same could be accomplished by opening a medical savings account at a bank. A bank account could also earn interest.

Treatment Plan Estimate: No one likes surprises at check out, especially us. We are always happy to provide you with a treatment plan estimate for your pet’s care before the services are done. We will always offer you the best care treatment plan, explaining and discussing every treatment and option. Together we can make decisions to develop a treatment plan that is best for your pet’s health as well as your budget.

Shop in Your Own Neighborhood: Pet medications can be expensive. Online retailers are very tempting. They often use “loss leaders” to get you to buy stuff that was actually less expensive here at Parkside. We would like to encourage you to shop with us. We usually have rebates or special offers to help defray costs. In addition, not only are you supporting your hospital, it’s employees and your local schools and community with tax revenues, you are getting veterinary backed, safe products for your pets. Many drug manufacturers only support and guarantee products sold through veterinary hospitals. Several times last year they funded treatment for our patients. What a huge financial burden they lifted for those clients! Sometimes buying medications or getting vaccines at our hospital is an insurance policy in and of itself. It could save you money in the long run.

Don’t Put off Preventative Care and Exams: An ounce of prevention in the veterinary world is really worth a pound of cure. For example, a year’s worth of heartworm prevention with the required exam and blood work can cost as little as $143.00 for a small dog, while heartworm treatment for the same dog costs about $950.00. That is about 6 ½ years worth of exams, heartworm testing and prevention! We know it can be tempting to forgo annual blood work, exams and even vaccines when our pets appear healthy to us. On many “healthy pet” exams we often find unexpected but very treatable problems. If left unnoticed and untreated, these problems could become life threatening and a big financial hit to you later. It has been very sad to see the pets and their owners go through illness, pain, stress and the loss of having to euthanize due to finances for something that could have been treated early on.

Remember, your pets are aging approximately 7 years during 1 calendar year…. A lot can happen in 7 years.

We want you to know that we value your patronage and will always work with you to provide your pets the best possible care. Talk to us about your needs and those of your pet. Please call if we can be of any assistance.