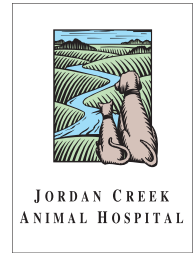




# WINTER 2012 Gazette

*A newsletter for people and their pets*



3401 E.P. True Parkway  
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

**in this issue:**



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## Dental Health Month?

February is traditionally considered dental health month, but at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital we believe dental health should be emphasized every month.

The benefits of regular, annual dental examinations and cleanings include:

- Removing plaque and tartar to help decrease gum inflammation
- Slowing the advancement of periodontal disease (infection below the gum line)
- Preventing bad breath and oral pain
- Helping prevent heart, kidney and liver disease

Almost all pets over the age of 3 have developed some form of dental disease. As plaque and tartar build up, the ensuing inflammation and infection can place increased stress on the heart, kidneys and liver of your pet, shortening their lifespan and altering their quality of life. It is quite common to find infected teeth during dental cleanings in middle-aged and older dogs and cats. Left undetected, these infections can cause continuous oral pain and lead to other serious health issues.

Dental cleanings at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital are performed daily, Monday through Friday, and involve general anesthesia, a complete dental exam, thorough cleaning of the teeth (both above and below the gum line), and polishing. Owners are called if infected teeth are found to discuss treatment options.

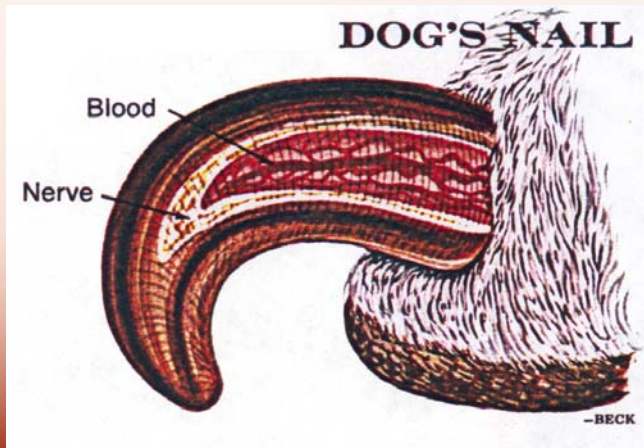


Contact us by calling 515-224-9500 or visit our website at [www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com](http://www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com)



# Torn nails—a common pet injury

If you notice your dog is limping, licking a paw excessively, or has blood on a paw... he may have a torn nail. Torn nails are a common problem and although not serious, they can still be quite painful.



In the middle of a dog's nail lies the quick, which is mostly comprised of blood vessels and nerve tissue. If the nail gets caught and torn so that the quick is exposed, your dog may limp or cry out. Often you will see blood on the paw around the broken nail. If left untreated, a torn nail can bleed off and on and could become infected. The affected toe is usually quite tender to the touch. In many cases there is a hanging piece of broken nail that needs to be removed to alleviate the pain.

If your pet is suffering from a torn nail, give us a call. We can remove the broken piece of nail and stop the bleeding. Sometimes antibiotics are prescribed to prevent infection.

Regular nail trims can help prevent torn nails. Call us today at 224-9500 and schedule a nail trim for your pet with one of our technicians.

## Canine Respiratory Infections could be on the rise right here in Central Iowa...

**A**t Jordan Creek Animal Hospital we take great care and caution to protect your pet, whether being seen for veterinary care or boarding. Recently an outbreak of respiratory disease affected 65 dogs at a central Iowa boarding facility. Although not confirmed, the symptoms and scope of illness was highly suspicious for canine influenza H3N8.

**What is the H3N8 virus (Canine Respiratory Virus)?** It is a highly contagious virus, easily spread in environments where dogs are housed together in communal spaces – kennels, pet stores, dog parks, grooming facilities, and doggy daycares. This virus is not seasonal but sporadic and although the virus was first discovered almost 5 years ago, Iowa has still seen very little evidence of “dog flu” while surrounding states have seen a recent surge.

**What are the symptoms of dog flu?** Dogs who are suffering from this virus may experience a per-

sistent cough, nasal discharge, fever, vomiting, and in some instances, it can lead to pneumonia. The virus is spread through direct contact, coughing, sneezing, and exposure to contaminated surfaces. Because this virus is new to dogs, in a facility where no dog has protection, virtually 100% of dogs exposed to the virus become infected. Unfortunately, there is a rather significant mortality rate with this virus as well, assessed between 3-5%.

Dogs with symptoms of respiratory infections are contagious to other dogs and common sense dictates that sick pets should avoid dog parks, doggy daycares, and other areas where large groups of dogs congregate. A problem with this virus is that it is contagious even before affected dogs show signs of illness, so outbreaks can begin even when all dogs appear healthy.

Rather than wait for an outbreak to hit Des Moines, the veterinarians and staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital



are recommending that all dogs that board, groom, daycare, or visit dog parks get vaccinated for canine influenza, and **as of February 1, 2012, Jordan Creek Kennels will require this vaccination to board at our facility.**

Call us today at (515) 224-9500 to schedule an appointment for your dog if you suspect he may have a respiratory infection or is in need of vaccination! (This is an initial series of 2 injections, given 2-3 weeks apart, at a cost of \$28.00 for each injection. If your pet has had an annual exam within the past 12 months at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital, there is no exam or office call fee assessed.)

*Your friends at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital*

# TOP 10 TOXINS

## what you need to watch for.

**Antidepressants** (*Prozac, Paxil, Zoloft, Reconcile*) Many antidepressants are rapidly absorbed and have a rapid onset of action, so it is important to keep these medications out of our pets' reach.

**Attention Deficit Disorder Drugs** (*Adderall, Dexedrine, Vyvanse, Ritalin*) This is another class of drugs with rapid onset of action after ingestion, so quick response is important.

**Sleep Aids** (*Ambien, Lunesta*) Typically these drugs have a wider margin of safety. Absorption after ingestion typically takes 1 – 2 hours.

**Over-the-Counter NSAIDs** (*Advil, Motrin, Aleve*) Although reasonably safe in people, these drugs can cause severe bleeding from the intestinal tract and kidney failure.

**Xylitol** (*Orbit gum, Ice Breakers gum*) An artificial sweetener found in sugarless gums and candies as well as some baked goods, Xylitol causes a profound drop in blood sugar and potential liver failure. Xylitol is safe for humans but it can be very harmful to dogs and ferrets.

**Grapes and Raisins** This is another example of a food source commonly eaten by people with potential serious consequences in pets. As little as 30 grapes could cause illness in a 20 pound dog.

**Chocolate** Unfortunately this is one treat our pets should not enjoy. Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine. If ingested in significant amounts, they can be toxic to our pets. The levels of caffeine and theobromine vary among different types of chocolate. White chocolate, for example, has the lowest concentration of stimulants and baking chocolates have the highest concentrations. Although rare, you should know certain mulches are made from the hulls of cocoa beans and ingestion of large amounts can result in chocolate toxicity. Absorption is slow so inducing vomiting is frequently helpful within the first few hours after consumption.

**Alcohol** is not metabolized in dogs like it is in humans. Even ingestion of relatively small amounts can cause signs of toxicity to develop. Symptoms include confusion, excitement, staggering and seizures. In severe cases the body temperature will drop and respiration will become labored. Remember too, alcohol is not only found in liquor. Vanilla extract and raw bread dough contain ethanol as well, and although we would not consider eating a bowl of bread dough, your dog will likely not be so discerning.

**Batteries** release corrosive chemicals that can cause deep ulcers and even perforation of the intestinal tract. The lithium button type batteries are the most dangerous. Fortunately, batteries are easily seen on radiographs (x-rays) so we can confirm ingestion.

**Gorilla Glue** Small amounts of this glue can expand in the stomach to a size that will cause obstruction. Surgical removal is usually required.

With most toxins early treatment is critical. When in doubt call us (224-9500) or contact the *Pet Poison Helpline* (800-213-6680). The *Pet Poison Helpline* is available 24/7 for consultation with clients and veterinarians. For a one-time fee of \$35 their toxicologists are available to give advice and make recommendations on treatment. It is important to have the product label, an estimated quantity or volume ingested, and the approximate time of ingestion available when you call so the doctor can determine if your pet is in trouble.



## Kennel News

### Doggie Daycare

**Jordan Creek Kennels offers one-on-one daycare for your pet. Rather than turning your dog loose with other dogs that he has never met and you are unsure as to their health or temperament, we take your dog on personal walks 4 times during the day and provide a pleasant, comfortable place for him to wait for your return.**

**So, if you have a schedule that doesn't allow you to get home in time for your pet, let us give your dog those walks and potty breaks for you! You can bring him in as early as 7 AM and pick up as late as 6:00 PM Monday-Friday and until 1 PM Saturday.**





### Monthly Meetings

The doctors and staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital feel that monthly employee meetings are essential to promoting communication and educational opportunities. Because of this, we will be closed from **1:30-2:30 PM** on the following **Wednesdays: January 18, February 15 and March 21.**



and our boarding facility is filling up! We hope many of you will have the opportunity to enjoy the upcoming break. If you need us to care for your furry friend during that time, it's not too early to make reservations. Call today to book your boarding appointment. 224-9500

## Welcome Dr. Hankins!

We are pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Cody Hankins to the veterinary staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital! Dr. Hankins was born in Falls City, Nebraska. She attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, receiving her Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science in 2006. She then enrolled in veterinary school at Iowa State University and received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 2010. For the past year, Dr. Hankins practiced in a small animal hospital in Rochester, MN.

Dr. Hankins has 2 dogs, Gus and Stewy, and 1 cat, Noodle. In her free time, she enjoys hiking

with her dogs, camping, boating, attending outdoor concerts, watching movies at home, and spending time with family.

All of us here at Jordan Creek are excited to have Dr. Hankins join our team on January 11th!



## THANK YOU for your referrals.

In 2011, Jordan Creek Animal Hospital celebrated its 20th year of serving dogs and cats, and their extended families, in West Des Moines and the surrounding suburbs.

To show our appreciation for your referrals, we recently introduced a "Share the Care" referral program that rewards both the new client as well as the referring individual. By referring just one new client, you are awarded a \$25 credit for use in our hospital or kennel. Stop by our front desk and pick up referral cards today!

## MEET THE STAFF/our editors for this issue of Pet Gazette



**Dr. Dan Whitney** was born and raised in West Okoboji, Iowa and received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Iowa State University in 1979. Prior to building Jordan Creek Animal Hospital in 1991, he worked for 12 years at a multi-doctor veterinary practice in Barrington, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Dr. Whitney's family consists of his wife Lorraine; daughter Lauren and son Daniel.

His family also includes an American Water Spaniel named Murphy and a cat named Yogi. In addition to spending time with his family and pets, Dr. Whitney enjoys photography and gardening.



**Mistee Martin, RVT** - Mistee grew up in Horton, Iowa and went on to obtain her Associate of Applied Sciences degree in Veterinary Technology from Kirkwood Community College. Before joining the staff of Jordan Creek Animal Hospital in October 2005, she worked at Den Herder Veterinary Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa and Klein Animal Clinic in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Mistee shares a dog and cat, Shamee and Kitano, with her husband Patrick and son Marik. When she's not at work, Mistee enjoys camping, playing sand volleyball, going to Iowa State football games and relaxing on their deck by the lake.