

**HEALTH MAINTENANCE PLANS**

Our health maintenance plans continue to be a big success. They provide substantial savings on your pet's health needs as well as ancillary services. The plans now include unlimited uncomplicated nail trims (technician administered without significant restraint or sedation) and a free bath when boarding a minimum of two days

Up to now the plans have only been initially available to puppies and kittens, which allow for yearly renewal throughout their life. Plans must be renewed before they expire or they are non renewable. We send a series of three notices to remind you to renew. ■

**HEALTH MAINTENANCE PLAN OPEN ENROLLMENT**

You missed the chance to get your pet into the health maintenance plan as a puppy or kitten or you let your plan expire, but you are interested in the plan now. We are offering a one-time opportunity to join the plan if your pet is between 2-4 years of age. Your pet must be examined by the doctor prior to acceptance. You are responsible for the cost of the examination; however, if the examination is for the sole purpose of entering the HMP and the plan is denied than the examination will be at no charge. The discounts will take effect at the time of entering the plan, except for the examination charges.

One of the key components of the plan is that it promotes wellness care, providing for one free semi-annual wellness examination and one free sick examination every year. This allows you to provide the very best care for your pet at a reasonable price.

We have added two extra benefits this year, unlimited free (uncomplicated) nail trims and a free bath with boarding. We continually add to the benefits, but will never remove a benefit.

**Plan benefits**

- 25% discount on vaccinations
- 20% discount on all other medical services including surgery
- 20% discount on medications
- 10% discount on heartworm and flea products
- 10% off boarding and grooming

- FREE Sick examination
- FREE Semi-Annual examination
- FREE Nail trims (uncomplicated)
- FREE bath with boarding (min 2 days)



This offer is good for December 2008 through February 2009. ■

<p><b>HEALTH MAINTENANCE PLAN OPEN ENROLLMENT</b> DECEMBER 2008 - FEBRUARY 2009</p>	<p><b>DENTAL HEALTH SPECIAL</b> <b>15% OFF</b> <b>DENTAL PROPHYLAXIS</b> JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2009  with coupon. Must have coupon.</p>	<p><b>GROOMING SPECIAL</b> <b>15% OFF</b> JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2009  with coupon. Must have coupon.</p>
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The holiday season is upon us and the cold weather is here. Over the past year we have made some improvements. We expanded our capabilities and upgraded some systems to better serve you. We installed a new automatic x-ray processor to improve our turn around time on radiographs and improve consistency and quality. We have new iv pumps and some new diagnostic kits available for more immediate results on certain disease conditions.

A Message From Dr Slovon:

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



Ernest A. Slovon, DVM

9623A Reisterstown Road • Owings Mills, MD 21117 • 410-363-0393 • www.petdr.com • WINTER 2008

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**INSIDE**

- **PET HEALTH ISSUES**
- **HMP NEWS**
- **SPECIALS AND MORE**

**STAFF:**

- Hospital Manager/Technician - Jennifer Holland
- Veterinary Assistants- Rachel Kamer, Judy Widlake
- Receptionists- Lynne Johnston, Stephanie Slovon, Suzanne Hamilton, Sheila Armstrong-Brown
- Kennel Assistants- Casey Gresey, Vincent Stark, Elizabeth Grove

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**CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!**

**410-363-0393**

## TRAINING TIPS

Treats can help motivate your pet for all kinds of training. The best treats for training are those that are delicious and gone in just a few seconds after presenting them to your pet. This gives him an immediate reward, which he loves and he is then ready to move on quickly to the next task. Use semi moist treats and avoid those treats that take a long time to chew. For small dogs you may want to break the treat into pieces. ■



## DENTAL MONTHS



Dental health continues to be a major concern for our pets. Take the challenge; first, smell your pet's breath, then inspect their teeth for plaque and tartar. Just imagine how you would feel if your mouth was like his. The body is wonderful and can fight off significant disease, but not without consequences. Dental disease slowly robs your pet of vitality and strength. Many clients have reported to me after a dentistry that their pet is acting like a puppy or kitten again, and they didn't think there was anything wrong to begin with.

Once again we are offering our Dental Prophylaxis Special. During the months of January and February 2009, a complete dentistry is being offered at a 15% discount. Call today to set up your appointment. ■

## BATHING YOUR PET

Bathing our pets may be necessary at times. This can be done safely and without incident if you follow a few simple guidelines. Frequency of bathing is always a topic of discussion. Puppies and kittens are certainly bathed more frequently than adults. Use a mild shampoo, one meant just for cleaning. A good choice would be one used for grooming that is hypoallergenic. If your pet only needs a foot or hind end bath, than just do those parts. We also provide complete grooming services at the hospital for your convenience.

Before bathing have everything you will need within reach. Apply mineral oil or an ophthalmic ointment in the eyes to protect them from shampoo. Put cotton in the ears to prevent water from getting down in the canals.

When bathing start at the tail and work forward, trying to make it a pleasant experience, using treats if necessary. Dry your pet completely with a towel and if they are cooperative you can use a hair dryer, making sure not to burn him. Keep a hand on him to detect the temperature of the dryer on his skin. Remove the cotton from your pet's ears after the bath. ■

## REPORT CARDS

With our newest veterinary software update we can issue report cards with most examinations. The report card will be a copy of the examination findings, diagnosis and recommendations. Your pet's vitals will be recorded along with his body condition. This will give you an overview of the examination process.

These forms are prepared from the actual examination and printed at the time of the visit; however, notes may be added to the exam after the examination, so the forms are not necessarily entirely complete and should only be used for reference, not as a complete medical record.

Noting your pet's body condition has become part of the standard assessment. This number reflects your pet's overall body condition taking into account weight and body conformation. This is a numerical value between 1 and 9.

For dogs, a value of 4-5 is in the ideal range, 1 being the extreme for thinness and 9 being the extreme for overweight.

For cats, 4 is in the ideal range.

I use the dog scale (4-5 ideal) for all other animals and birds. ■

## XYLITOL TOXICITY

Xylitol, a sugar substitute, has proven to be toxic to dogs. It is most commonly found in toothpastes and gums; although, it can also be in breads and other foods. Small amounts have sent canines into severe hypoglycemia by causing a sudden release of insulin.

As little as one gram of xylitol can cause a 22 pound dog to become ill. A stick of trident gum contains .2 gm of xylitol. Raspberries and mushrooms can contain 1 gm of xylitol per cup.

Affected pets will show signs of being uncoordinated and weakness from hypoglycemia. Smaller amounts of the toxin can cause liver failure as well.

If you suspect your pet has been exposed seek veterinary attention immediately as nothing can be done at home. ■

## SENTINEL REBATES

Sentinel continues to be our most popular heartworm preventative, providing protection from heartworms, fleas and intestinal parasites. The new \$50 rebate for a year's purchase is the best rebate we have ever had. We file the rebate for you. The manufacturer will send you a \$25 check within 4-6 weeks and another \$25 check made out to the clinic in 11 months that can be used for any purchase or service.

We also currently have \$20 rebates for a six months supply, \$10.00 now and \$10.00 in six months.

The rebates are in limited supply, and will probably be discontinued soon, so you may want to consider securing a supply now. ■

## OUNCE OF PREVENTION/POUND OF CURE

During these trying times we have all felt the economic pinch and may find the need to cut some corners. Health care for our pets should take precedence. We continue to promote wellness care through preventive medicine. Simple things like heartworm testing and prevention can detect and or prevent heartworm disease, lyme disease, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis and fleas. That's a lot of bang for your buck with one procedure and an oral preventative.

Fecal analysis can detect intestinal parasites before they cause clinical disease (diarrhea). We have seen a significant increase in the detection of giardia in the past few years. Giardia can cause diarrhea in animals and can be contagious to people, causing diarrhea in them as well. Treatment is accomplished through oral medication; however, re-infection is always possible, especially if your pet frequents the same areas.

Both heartworm/lyme/ehrlichia/ anaplasmosis testing and fecal analysis are important routine tests to insure your pet's health needs are met. Heartworm prevention continues to be the cornerstone of comprehensive preventive program. ■

## TOP 10 HUMAN MEDICATIONS THAT POISON OUR PETS

(NSAIDs) Ibuprofen/Naproxen

Most common cause of pet poisoning, stomach and intestinal ulcers, kidney damage

Antidepressants

Vomiting, lethargy, tremors and seizures

Acetaminophen- (Tylenol)

Very toxic to cats, liver damage in dogs

Methylphenidate (for ADHD)

Stimulant in pets, seizures

Fluorouracil (Anti cancer drug)

Vomiting, seizures and cardiac arrest

Isoiazid (treats TB)

Seizures, death

Pseudoephedrine (popular decongestant)

Acts as stimulant, seizures

Anti-diabetics (oral)

Drop in blood glucose resulting in disorientation, seizures

Vit D Derivatives

Spike in Calcium level leading to vomiting and kidney failure

Baclofen

Muscle relaxant causing CNS signs, depression seizures and death ■