

HEALTH MAINTENANCE PLAN OPEN ENROLLMENT (January-February 2010)

Due to the overwhelming acceptance of these plans we are again offering open enrollment of the HMP January thru February 1010. This is available for dogs and cats up to four years of age. They must be examined and approved for the program at the time of enrollment. The examination fee is your responsibility and can be part of routine care. The plan offers numerous free services and discounts. Free nail trims alone can add up (one every two months @15.00 a piece equals \$90.00/year savings).

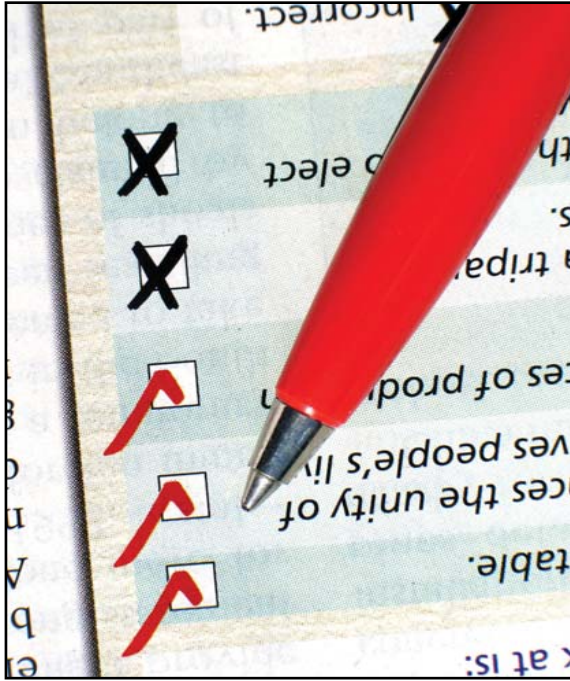
HEALTH MAINTENANCE PLAN RENEWAL

Renewal for existing plans is automatic as long as the renewal fee is paid for before expiration. Once a plan has expired a patient can only be readmitted during open enrollment.

The renewal fee has been decreased. Renewal is now \$10.00 less than the original joining fee.

HMP 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)



GROOMING SPECIAL
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2010
Must have coupon.
with coupon.

DENTAL HEALTH SPECIAL
15% OFF
DENTAL PROPHYLAXIS
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2010
Must have coupon.
with coupon.

HOLIDAY BOARDING SPECIAL
1 DAY FREE
WITH 5 DAYS OF BOARDING
DECEMBER 15TH - JANUARY 15TH 2010
Must have coupon.
with coupon.

INSIDE

- PET HEALTH ISSUES
- HMP NEWS
- SPECIALS AND MORE

STAFF:

- Staff Hospital Manager/Technician-Jennifer Holland
- Veterinary Assistants-Casie Lynn Fowler, Kendall Keller, Beki Smith
- Receptionists-Suzanne Hamilton, Sheila Armstrong-Brown, Elise Woodyard, Stephanie Slovon
- Kennel Assistants-Vincent Stark, Casey Gresy, Casey Miller

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CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!
410-363-0393

OWINGS MILLS ANIMAL & BIRD HOSPITAL

9623A Reisterstown Road • Owings Mills, MD 21117
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“For The Pet That’s Part Of Your Heart!”



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

A Message From Dr Slovon:

We want to thank everyone for their continued trust in us for providing health care to your pets. We have built this practice by delivering the best care, including, but not limited to preventive care (wellness care), treatment for illness (sick care), and senior care.

This year one of the improvements in patient care was accomplished by purchasing a thermal surgical support machine to ensure maintenance of body temperature during surgical procedures. We also have upgraded VIP boarding facilities to include therapeutic mats for added comfort for your pet.

For your convenience we have updated our credit card processing unit to be quicker and more efficient.

We wish you the best this holiday season. ■

Ernest A. Slovon,
DVM



BLADDER STONES

This month we have seen a few cases of bladder stones that required surgery. The history usually involves the pet showing signs of a urinary tract infection, such as frequent urination, urinary accidents and blood in the urine. Often times the pet has been previously treated for a UTI that appeared resolved. Sometimes the presenting complaint is diarrhea, but in actuality the pet is straining to urinate, not defecate. Diagnosis involves examining a urine sample and specialized x-rays to detect the stones. Treatment for bladder stones can involve dietary changes and surgery. Once surgery is performed and the stones have been analyzed we can determine an appropriate diet to help prevent recurrence.

One of the predisposing factors to bladder stones is often a diet supplemented with table foods. Periodic routine urine analysis helps detect urinary problems in early stages. Starting at 5 years of age we routinely recommend checking urine samples every six months. ■



DOG FLU-CANINE INFLUENZA

That's right, just like all people are susceptible to the swine flu, all dogs are susceptible to Canine Influenza. It starts out like kennel cough, but progresses to fever and can culminate with pneumonia. Treatment is mostly supportive and often we are not sure whether kennel cough or canine influenza is the cause of the illness. Testing for influenza must be timed appropriately and is not always practical. We have a naive population, which means all dogs are susceptible to the virus and can get sick. Dogs at risk are those that come into contact with other dogs, specifically dogs that are boarded, groomed, go to day care, brought to pet stores, walked around the neighborhood, or brought into a veterinarians office. Fortunately, a vaccine is now available to prevent canine influenza. The initial series is two injections, given about two weeks apart and then annual revaccination. We now require canine influenza vaccination for boarding, and it is best to complete the series before the actual boarding reservation. We have also added canine influenza as a recommended yearly vaccination booster. ■

CORPROPHAGIA

Corprophagia or eating ones own feces occurs in many species. It occurs frequently in puppies, and although many pups grow out of it most owners find it objectionable. Eating their own stool does not appear to result in illness, however the bad breath can be a challenge. A newer supplement called CoproBan has proven to be effective in stopping this behavior. It is packaged as a tasty chew that is given with each meal. We have been using CoproBan for about 6 months with 100% satisfaction so far. Call our office if you would like to try it for your pet. ■



MOTION SICKNESS

Up until now when pets suffer from motion sickness, (commonly called carsickness) we had advised not feeding them before trips and the use of a tranquilizer, which also prevents vomiting. The drawback is now you have a pet that is sedated for 6-8 hours. Cerenia, a tablet, can be administered once a day to prevent motion sickness. It works very well with minimal to no side effects, no sedation and can be given up to 5 days in a row if needed. It comes in a convenient four pack for dispensing and is now available at our office. ■

REPORT CARDS

After each examination we try to provide you with a report card of your pets' examination. It is a synopsis of what went on in the exam room, medical findings and recommendations. It also includes your pets' vital statistics, body condition score, and vaccine history. After each examination we try to provide you with a report card of your pets' examination. It is a synopsis of what went on in the exam room, medical findings and often modify or add to the medical record. The doctor will left to ensure it is complete. If you have any questions after reviewing the report card feel free to ask us about the details. ■

COVENIA

Another new advancement in veterinary medicine is the introduction of Covenia, an antibiotic injection that lasts 2 weeks. It is most useful in patients with infections that are sensitive to the drug. The most common applications are for skin conditions and urinary tract infections, although applications are widespread. If your pet needs to be treated with antibiotics and you like the ease of one injection ask if Covenia is appropriate for your pet. ■

SEMI-ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS

Examining your pet twice a year is one of the best preventive measures you can take. It's like us going to the physician for a physical every 5 years. We can often pick up abnormalities before they become serious and take appropriate measures to rectify the situation. ■



SENIOR CARE

As our pets get older they require more age related care and understanding. Laboratory blood testing to identify organ problems along with appropriate dental care as already mentioned are at the heart of senior care. Thyroid testing, routine survey radiography and urinalysis all help identify early problems. Most importantly, you should realize that we can do many things to keep our senior pets comfortable. A good example would be the use of glucosamines and NSAID medications to help your pet deal with arthritis. Too often I hear that he is slowing down, gets up slowly, doesn't jump like he used to, appears lame when he gets up, but warns out of it. All of these are hallmarks of arthritis or hip dysplasia. We can provide much needed comfort by providing medications to ease inflammation and offer pain relief. A good comparison would be us taking motrin or celebrex when we are stiff. Many of these medications are designed for long term use and can add years of productive life to our pets. ■

SOMETHING MAY BE WRONG

A few things to keep your eye out for in any age pet that may clue you in that something may not be quite right:

- Abnormal appetite-decreased or increased
- Excessive thirst
- Soiling in the house more often/large amounts of urine
- Weight loss
- Weight loss with increased appetite
- Behavioral changes-irritability
- Missing the litter box (felines)
- Hair loss
- Itching
- Bad breath
- Loose stools
- Periodic vomiting

Some of these are obvious and others are more subtle to detect. If you have any questions about your pets condition give us a call. ■

KITTENS FOR ADOPTION



Are you looking for a sweet kitten to adopt? We have adopted out several this year and we may have a few left when you get this. You can check them out online at petDR.com or drop by and take a peak. Ask for details about our adoption program. ■

DENTAL MONTHS (January and February 2010) Canine/Feline



Once again we will be offering a 15% discount on all dental prophylaxis that are done in January and February. This promotion continues to be a success. Dental disease is probably one of the most preventable problems in canine and feline patients. The links between dental health and more systemic problems continues to grow each year. With the addition of Oravet sealant to our dental procedures we can now recommend applying the Oravet plaque prevention gel once a week and also brushing twice a week as a good general protocol to follow in order to keep your pets teeth in good shape following a prophylaxis. It sure beats brushing their teeth 7 days a week which is the alternative. ■