

# PET CONNECTION Newsletter April 2011

## April, our spay/neutering month, is coming!

Our extended DENTAL MONTH in March was a success!

Thank you to all who participated in maintaining their pets' dental hygiene.

April will be the SPAY/NEUTERING MONTH offering the unprecedented discount of 30% on the whole procedure.

There are many reasons to have your pet neutered or spayed.

This safe procedure is highly recommended to prevent unwanted pregnancies, uterine infections and mammary cancers. Male castration is also essential in order to prevent aggressive behaviors and urine spraying to mark the territory.

Additionally, it has been scientifically proved that spay/neutered animals live 30% longer than their non-spayed/non-neutered counterparts.

Making spay/neuter more affordable, we are helping to reduce the headaches of many pet owners and to make happier their life! In fact more and more people recognize the importance of curbing the pet overpopulation. And spay/neutering is a necessary component of any strategy to achieve a non-kill community.

Feel free of contacting us for further enquiries, quotations and suggestions.

## As April is warming up, here are two helpful tips to keep your pets happy and healthy!

Excessive tearing, either due to dust or hair-associated inflammation of **the eye, can cause unpleasant dark-reddish-brown stains under the eyes** of dogs which are particular bad to see in white coated dogs, but they can be also dangerous. Yeasts and bacteria like to colonize such areas and from there they can easily jump to infect the eye. It is a condition more common in breeds such as Maltese, Bichon frise', Poodle, Pomeranian and Shi-tzu. Excessive, chronic or recurrent bouts of tearing suggest that a bacterial/yeast problem may be present. See your veterinarian to rule out any serious problem and too determine the best course of treatment.

Does your Labrador start to throw up and look dizzy as soon as he gets into the car? He may be suffering from **motion sickness**. Cats and dogs can get motion sickness just like we can, and may become dizzy, nauseated, or even sick during car travels. Conditioning your pet to get

used to the cat with short frequent trips may help, and if not talk to your vet about alternative options, such as medications.

**Did you check your cat's ears recently?** The insides of the ear should be pink, clean, and odor-free. Shaking head and scratching should be absent. Presence of crusts, redness, excessive or dark wax, discharge, or foul odor could indicate signs of problems and require a visit to the vet. Clean your cat's ears weekly to monitor ear health and keep them debris-free.

## World Veterinary Day is 30 April 2011

The World Veterinary Association (WVA) is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. The selected theme of this year is rabies. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) agreed on the creation of the World Veterinary Day Award aimed at rewarding the most successful celebration of the veterinary profession by national veterinary associations, alone, or in cooperation with any other selected veterinary body. The 2011 Award will be delivered at the 30th World Veterinary Congress to be held in Cape Town, South Africa on 10-14 October 2011.

**It's finally time for Easter Holidays (Sunday 24 April): check out some of our tips to have great fun!**

**Keep chocolate and candy of the Easter basket away** from the reach of your pets. Candy can be harmful to dogs, and chocolate is toxic to cats, and ferrets. Chocolate contain a chemical substance called theobromide that, when ingested in fair amount can cause harm to the heart, lungs, kidney and central nervous system of cats. Dark chocolate is more toxic, while milk chocolate requires a higher quantity to be harmful. Pathological signs include hyper-activity, seizures, diarrhea, abnormal heart rate, unsteady gait, fever and coma.

Consider the consequences on your pets of crowd in and excitement when planning **family gatherings or parties at home**. Loud noises, careless movements from children and crowds of people can be very stressful for animals. If your pet is not used to the chaos of an Easter egg

hunt or family dinner, put him/her in a quiet area of the house when guests are visiting.

**Easter Dinner is usually celebrated with libations** that contain food rich in fat such as lamb, venison and other rich meats.

To dogs and cats the ingestion of fatty meats and foods they're not used to, can cause pancreatitis, an acute inflammation of the pancreas that often develops unrecognized into the chronic stage. Inducing signs such as vomiting, diarrhea, low energy, poor appetite and tenderness at the abdomen, pancreatitis can be acute or hyper-acute following a heavy holiday meal. Pancreatitis is a common disease in dogs and it's always a serious problem. In carnivores, the pancreas is a small underestimated organ with more functions than those it can reasonably afford!

It lies near the stomach and 98% of its mass secretes into the intestine important digestive enzymes, and bicarbonate, while 2% only of the pancreatic body is constituted by inlets secreting insulin and other hormones. Chronic pancreatitis can lead to loss of active tissue resulting ultimately in pancreatic insufficiency, maldigestion and/or diabetes. Pancreatitis is difficult too treat but easy to prevent: don't let your pets eat your Easter delicacies or their rests!

Please, remember where exactly you hide the Easter chocolates and eggs. Don't let your pets find it before you!

**Happy Easter!**