

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2015



# Gorham Animal Hospital

Veterinary Services

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THIS is YOUR HEARTWORM AND FLEA/TICK PREVENTION REMINDER!!!!

### Digital Dental xrays are now available

Two thirds of our pets teeth are under the gums. Dental xrays aid in assessment of the whole mouth. Dental xrays allow us to identify abnormal, malpositioned, missing, dead or damaged teeth. With a diagnosis, an optimal treatment can be planned and carried out. The digital dental xray, has put the renovations on the back burner ...we are painting!!

The VERY long awaited spring is soon to arrive!!! With the warmth and beauty of spring, MOSQUITOES, TICKS and FLEAS are soon to follow. Annual Blood testing for heartworm routinely includes screening for some tick borne disease including Lyme disease, Anaplasma and Ehrlichia. **All dogs over 6 months of age should be annually blood tested prior to starting preventative medications for June 1<sup>st</sup>.** These heartworm preventatives are often combined with flea, internal parasite and tick control to help keep your family happy and healthy. Please call for an appointment.



Gorham Animal Hospital Webstore is launching. Hopefully you will have received, by email or on our website the link to register for the webstore. Need help, our friendly staff will be happy to do so! We are excited to offer you the convenience of ordering your food to the clinic or right to your door! Free shipping is included for any orders sent to the clinic for pick up, or to your home if over 125\$ is ordered. The veterinary purchasing group has many products that we don't carry at the clinic which will also be made available. You will be pleasantly surprised by the costing of the pet toys and products available. Our cats love the toys available!

### INSIDE

- Preventative health programs easing the cost of care.
- Signs of dental disease
- Annual wellness exams



Our veterinarians believe strongly in both preventative medicine and in individualized vaccine protocols based on your pets needs. Did you know that all dogs should receive core vaccines against Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus and Parainfluenza? As a dog does not require direct contact with another pet to become exposed as the virus can survive in the environment, they are important to ensure your pet's protection. Our vaccine pricing is established based on need, not price.

Case studies and pet related articles are available on our website. Let us know of any topics you'd like to see here



The importance of annual wellness examinations can not be stressed enough. This annual check up aids in the early detection of, or in the prevention of disease. Did you know that Gorham Animal Hospital routinely schedules 30 minute appointment times to ensure time for both a thorough exam and to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Please advise the staff of any concerns or changes as they reflect

Changes in your pets health. Changes. in a Pets' body weight, appetite, hair coat , inappropriate urination,

Behavioural changes, and any vomiting or diarrhea can be signs

Of illness.

Signs of dental disease can be subtle and go unnoticed. Consider

that oral disease can be manifested as inappetence, fascial rubbing, fascial swelling, gulping or excessive salivation. When examining a pets mouth we are limited to what we are able to visualize. The dental xrays provide a valuable tool, and would be recommended for animals with retained baby teeth, missing or fractured teeth.

When a pet is in for a routine dental cleaning, consider while they are under a general anesthesia having full dental xrays done to ensure that problems needing attention are not missed.



## Heat Stroke

Heatstroke may kill or seriously injure your pet - but it can easily be avoided. Never leave pets in cars on warm days. Exercise should occur during the cool part of the day and monitor for rapid breathing; loud panting; or staggering. Professional help may be needed, but in the meantime quickly get the animal to a shady ventilated area, and sponge off with cool water.

## Inappropriate Urination

Male cats noted to be urinating outside of the litterbox or straining may be a medical emergency and require prompt medical attention. They are often thought to be constipated.

I have sen a number of cats labeled as having behavioural problems, when in fact a health issues existed. Over time, a behavioural component may develop.

Prompt medical attention is required. A thorough physical exam, combined with history of the problem will help dictate the diagnostic and treatment options. A urinalysis is usually recommended to evaluate for signs of infection (rare), blood associated with inflammation, crystals, or abnormal cells. Early stage kidney disease may also be picked up in a urine sample so this is often recommended along with blood work when evaluating a pets' overall health. If stones are



Veterinary Medicine teams are made up of compassionate individuals with highly specialized training and skills. We are fortunate to have OHIP hiding the high cost of medical treatments for ourselves! Our pets deserve the same level of care available to them. Our Preventative Wellness programs hope to allow families to provide their pets with the recommended preventative health care while easing the cost burden .

This unique service will be available to our clients who wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

Skin allergy testing involves shaving a pet and injecting various antigens and measuring the immune system's response. The identified substances creating an excessive immune response are then formulated into a series of injections to be administered over six to eight months. The aim is to try and fatigue the immune response to these substances. Dermatologists report about a 75% response rate to immunotherapy.



Hypoallergenic foods refer to novel protein sources or to diets with hydrolyzed proteins made so tiny as to not be identified by the immune system. It takes 3 months to clear residual diet ingredients from a pet's body so they must be kept exclusively on these diets for this long before their effects evaluated. Beef, chicken, lamb, milk products (yes cheese and yogurt), soy and wheat remain common food allergies. Remember do NOT give medications in cheese or we defeat the diet trial!!

**Allergies remain one of most costly and frustrating diseases for a pet. We are unable to cure allergies, but with proper steps taken, they can be well managed and your pet can enjoy a high quality of life. Pets should be under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. They will provide individualized recommendations on what would be the safest and most effective treatments for your pet. Please see our website for details on modalities of treatment available.**

## The Aging Pet – What to watch for?

Does your senior pet appear to move more slowly? Are they drinking and urinating more? Are they eating less? Gaining weight? Acting confused? Any of these conditions could be a sign of an underlying condition.

It is recommended that a senior pet should have a geriatric blood screening done at least annually. One year in canine/feline years equates to approximately 7 years of people's aging therefore a lot can change in this time span!!

A urinalysis is recommended as part of a senior wellness profile to identify disease processes, in particular kidney disease in the early stages. ¾ of kidney function must be compromised before changes

Age	Feline		Canine		
	0-20lbs.	0-20lbs.	20-50lbs.	50-90lbs.	<90 lbs.
1	7	7	7	8	9
2	13	13	14	16	18
3	20	20	21	24	26
4	26	26	27	31	34
5	33	33	34	38	41
6	40	40	42	45	49
7	44	44	47	50	56
8	48	48	51	55	64
9	52	52	56	61	71
10	56	56	60	66	78
11	60	60	65	72	86
12	64	64	69	77	93
13	68	68	74	82	101
14	72	72	78	88	108
15	76	76	83	93	115
16	80	80	87	99	123
17	84	84	92	104	131
18	88	88	96	109	139

Adult

Senior

Geriatric

## THANK-YOU!

The Drs and staff at Gorham Animal Hospital continue to involve and educate our families to ensure that they make informed decisions specific to them. We are privileged to be a part of your pet's

## CELEBRATE WITH US SATURDAY APRIL 12, 10:00am - 12:00pm

It's hard to believe a year has passed since joining Gorham Animal Hospital! I thank families, patients and especially my team for their patience, especially with our computers!!

A special thank you to Dr. Niki Low whose compassion and empathy remind us all why we choose this career path.

The internet can be a valuable resource for information, however, it can also contain misinformation. If there is a specific condition or topic that you wish more information on, or even reliable resources to search, please contact us. Both Dr. Niki Low and myself are members of the Veterinary Information



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# CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Occasionally life is unpredictable and unforeseen illness or injury can affect our pets. Here at Gorham Animal Hospital, we have a "Change For Change" program (previously called Pennies For Pets) where donations provided by clients go towards veterinary services for animals who would otherwise go without treatment. We strive to provide the pet with both the necessary care and when needed, a loving home as well! Over the past year these funds have been utilized to ensure diagnostics, treatments and even surgery for unhomeed pets or families in financial need. THANKS for your continued donations. We hope Hunter stays out of the hairbands ...



SYLVESTER "McCAT" - BOSS