



# Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

"We'll treat your pet like family!"

Newsletter

January – March 2011

## Breed All About It – The Boxer

The Boxer gets its name from the way it positions its front legs in play; just as a human boxer does. It is the descendant of a long line of bulldog-type dogs that were common in medieval Europe. The Boxer is related to the English Bulldog and Great Dane as well as the Mastiff of Tibet. It was the first breed of dog found in Germany. The breed was originally bred to participate in the blood sports of dog fighting and bullbaiting. What was once a fierce temperament has been removed, and today the Boxer is an intelligent, even tempered family dog. It has been used as a guide dog for the blind and for police work.



### Appearance:

**Size:** Height 22 ½ -25 inches (males) and 21-23 ½ inches (females)

**Weight:** 70 lbs. (males) and 60lbs. (females)

**Color:** Brindle or fawn, generally with white markings and a darker face or mask.

**Eyes:** Dark, alert-looking eyes

**Ears:** Ears can be cropped and erect or folded just above the top of the skull.

**Body Structure:** The Boxer has a deep chest and level topline. It has well-bent rear legs and a docked tail carried high. His head shows his mastiff heritage, with an undershot jaw and fairly well-broken, upward muzzle.

**Hair Coat:** Short, easy to care for hair coat.

**Possible Health Problems:** Skin tumors, digestive problems, hypothyroidism and corneal ulcers. Some may develop hip dysplasia, colitis, or bleeding disorders. Early death might occur due to a faulty heart.

**Positive Qualities:** The Boxer is a very fun loving, energetic dog. It is very alert and a good watchdog. It is very intelligent and good with children.

**Negative Qualities:** Because of his energy level, the Boxer requires obedience training. It may challenge other males and needs plenty of exercise. The Boxer is an increasingly popular breed. Before selecting a puppy, be sure to research the breeder, ask about the parent's medical history, and require that the puppy be vet checked before purchasing due to potential health issues. Once you find the right one, you will have a loyal and friendly four-legged friend for life.

CRITTER'S CHRONICLE

## Employee Spotlight –

To start the New Year, we would like to highlight all of our wonderful and dedicated employees. Six out of our sixteen employees have been with the practice for 10 years and over!

We have a spectacular team that is devoted to our patients and their pet parents. Being in one of the top fields for occupational burnout, we feel very fortunate to have employees that choose to come to work day after day and give their all for the good of our patients and clients.

We enjoy seeing our patients grow and enjoy sharing in those changes with you. Thank you for your continued trust in us.



## Monthly Specials

**January:** During the month of January we are offering 20% off of routine fecal tests; a savings of \$5.25! Also during January anyone who purchases a 3 or 6 month supply of Frontline Plus will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 Target gift card. The purchase of a 3 month supply will give you 1 (one) entry and a 6 month supply is good for 2 (two) entries.

**February:** During the month of February we are offering \$10 off the cost of a professional dental cleaning and polishing. Please visit our website [www.funkstownvet.com](http://www.funkstownvet.com), our facebook page or stop in the office for a coupon. We are also offering 5% off CET dental chews and 20% off toothpaste. In addition, Purina Veterinary Diets is offering a \$50 rebate when your pet gets a professional cleaning and you purchase any size bag of Purina DH dental health formula. Ask us for details and rebates.

**March:** During the month of March anyone purchasing 6 months or more of Interceptor or Sentinel will be entered into a drawing for an iPod Shuffle. The purchase of a 6 month supply of Interceptor will be one entry and a 12 month supply is good for 2 entries. A 6 month supply of Sentinel is also good for 2 entries.



*“A closed pyo is much more dangerous because...”*

## ***Beware of the Pyo –***

Pyometra or pyo is an infection of the uterus. Most commonly seen in dogs but also seen in cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs. It is a very serious and potentially deadly problem.

Pyometra occurs when there is a change in the hormonal and structural lining of the uterus in an unspayed female. There is no specific age for this to occur and it does not matter if the pet has been bred or not or how many times she has been in heat. The main risk period for a female is approximately 8 weeks after her peak standing heat.

During this time the pet can be exposed to bacteria which then gets trapped in the uterus as the cervix closes. In the moist, warm environment of the uterus the bacteria then multiplies rapidly causing pus to form and fill the uterus.

The most common symptom for an open pyometra (meaning the cervix has not closed all the way) is discolored discharge from the pet's vulva especially if the pet was recently in heat. A closed pyometra (the cervix has completely closed) is much harder to detect. The less common symptoms of both are fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, depression, and increased drinking and urinating. A closed pyo is much more dangerous because there is no outlet for the infection; it can only build up until the uterus can not stretch any farther and will eventually rupture.

Pyometra is diagnosed multiple ways: physical exam, blood work, x-rays, and ultrasound. Often the doctors can feel an enlarged uterus during an exam, blood work will indicate an active infection, x-rays will show an enlarged uterus, and ultrasound will confirm the presence of fluid in the abdomen.

The most important aspect of treatment is quick action. Treatment will vary based on the seriousness of the infection, although the best treatment option is emergency spay surgery. The pet will be administered IV fluids and IV antibiotics. Spaying will quickly and completely remove the infection, prevent uterine rupture, peritonitis (infection in the abdomen) and of course recurrence. The pet will spend several days in the hospital under close monitoring.

Now let's talk prevention. The only true prevention is spaying the pet before she goes into heat. If a pet is not being used

for breeding, spaying should be done as soon as possible. We recommend spaying at 5 months of age, not only to eliminate the possibility of pyometra but also to reduce the chance of breast cancer and remove the risk of uterine and ovarian cancer.

Pyometra is not something most people think about until it happens to their pet. If your pet is not spayed we would be glad to schedule an appointment.

## ***Dental I.Q. Test –***

As February (National Pet Dental Health Month) approaches we are reminded once again of the extreme importance for dental care in our pets. Please take a few moments to test your dental knowledge and see how you score. Good luck!

1. Bad \_\_\_\_\_ is not normal, it is a sign of disease.
  - a) hygiene
  - b) coordination
  - c) breath
  - d) attitude
2. Bacteria excrete toxic waste products and enzymes that break down \_\_\_\_\_ tissue.
  - a) organ
  - b) gum
  - c) toilet
  - d) brain
3. Plaque, consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ combined with saliva and food particles, accumulates on your pet's teeth after eating.
  - a) bacteria
  - b) sugar
  - c) parasites
  - d) waste
4. Neglecting a pet's dental care can cause your pet significant \_\_\_\_\_ and potentially jeopardize your pet's health.
  - a) embarrassment
  - b) discomfort
  - c) happiness
  - d) loss of appetite
5. There are significant dangers of plaque buildup which can lead to increased levels of bacteria which may spread throughout the body, weakening the liver, kidneys, and \_\_\_\_\_.



*“Dental disease not only affects your pet’s teeth but...”*



- a) heart
  - b) lungs
  - c) legs
  - d) stomach
6. The most neglected part of pet care is paying proper attention to a pet’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) heart and lungs
  - b) ears and eyes
  - c) nose and throat
  - d) teeth and gums

**Answers: 1. c), 2. b), 3. a), 4. b), 5. a), 6. d)**

So how did you do? Much of this is probably review however dental disease is still the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets. An astounding 80% of dogs and 70% of cats over the age of 3 years show signs of oral disease according to the American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS).

Dental disease can range from slight tartar and redness of the gums to gum recession and tooth or bone loss. Our doctors grade the pet’s teeth from 1-4; 1 being the most minimal amount of tartar present for the pet to need a dental cleaning and 4 being an immense amount of tartar and gingivitis present.

There are many things that can be done at home to keep your pet’s teeth clean. We have a variety of wonderful products ranging from Oxyfresh (a solution added to the pet’s water) to dental diets and treats. Brushing is, of course, the best option when it comes to oral care but any little bit helps.

Dental disease not only affects your pet’s teeth but their overall health as well. Dental disease can lead to liver, kidney, and heart disease. By keeping your pet’s mouth clean you are contributing to a longer, healthier, and pain free life.

Routine dental cleanings with your veterinarian are also a wonderful way of keeping your pet’s mouth in good condition. As humans, we visit our dentist every 6 months and that is when we brush daily, even twice daily. Imagine if we never brushed our teeth and never went to the dentist for years on end! Our mouths would undoubtedly be, not only smelly, but also extremely sore.

Our pets rely solely on us to care for their teeth. They cannot brush, floss, or rinse for themselves. Nor can they tell us if something in their mouth hurts. Together, we are their allies and we depend on you, the pet parent, to alert us of any problems your pet

is having. You are their first line of defense against dental disease.

Our doctors will be more than happy to discuss your pet’s particular dental needs. We are also available to work up a treatment plan so you know what to expect when dental time comes. Don’t forget, we also offer Care Credit which offers a no interest payment plan for up to 6 months. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to get your pet the treatment he needs now instead of later? Ask us for details.

## **Calendar of Events –**

### **January - Adopt a Rescued Bird Month**

Saturday January 1st – HAPPY NEW YEAR! – Office Closed

Wednesday January 5th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday January 12th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday January 19th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday January 26th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

### **February – National Pet Dental Health Month**

Wednesday February 2nd – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday February 3rd – Happy Groundhog’s Day – More Winter or early Spring?

Wednesday February 9th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Monday February 14th – Happy Valentine’s Day! Give your pets some extra TLC today!

Wednesday February 16th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday February 23rd – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

### **March – Adopt a Rescued Guinea Pig Month**

Wednesday March 2nd – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday March 9th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday March 16th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday March 17th – Happy St. Patrick’s Day

Wednesday March 23rd – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday March 30th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed



## Just for Fun –



- Groups of kittens are called “kindles” while groups of adult cats are “clowders.”
- One litter of kittens can be produced by more than one father.
- Cats weigh an average of 12 pounds. The heaviest cat on record weighed nearly 47 pounds. The lightest was 1 pound, 8 ounces.
- A cat’s heart beats 140 times per minute, or about twice as fast as a human’s.
- Cats have 5 toes on each front foot, but only 4 on each back foot.
- Many cats do not have eye lashes.
- Many people think that cats are colorblind, but it is a myth. Now we know that cats can see blues, reds, and greens.
- Cats will spend about a third of their day grooming. The process is helped along by the backwards-facing spikes on their tongues. Now you know why it feels like being rubbed with sandpaper when they lick you.
- Cats also spend about 16 hours a day sleeping.
- Bluebell, a Persian cat, had 14 kittens in one litter; the largest single litter in which every kitten survived.
- Puss, a cat from England, lived to be 36 in human years: the oldest cat on record.
- Sir Isaac Newton invented the cat door.

## Just a Reminder –



When calling to refill your pet’s medication, please allow 24 hours notice. When calling to refill prescription diets, please allow one week’s notice. Also, as a reminder, we can mail medications directly to you within 2-3 business days.

Please also feel free to visit our online store accessible through our website [www.funkstownvet.com](http://www.funkstownvet.com). This is another way to purchase your pet’s medications, food, or even toys and accessories, and have them shipped directly to you.

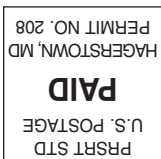
We are dedicated to making your life as simple and easy as possible while at the same time making sure your pet gets the medications he/she needs.

## Operation K-9 Military Care –

We want to extend our sincere thanks for everyone’s support throughout the years with Operation K-9 Military Care. Through the Pet Fair, Santa Pictures, and stocking donations we were able to raise almost \$1400 which was spent on goods for the canine soldiers and their handlers. We have purchased several cooling vests, dog booties, doggles (dog goggles), toys, treats, shampoo, and brushes. Some of this money will also be used to defer the cost of shipping.

We appreciate everyone’s help with this worthy cause. We will continue to collect items all year so anytime you are able to donate we will be more than happy to mail the items as needed. For more information about Operation K-9 Military Care you can visit our website [www.funkstownvet.com](http://www.funkstownvet.com) or [www.uswardogs.org](http://www.uswardogs.org).

www.funkstownvet.com



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