

# Shiloh Veterinary Hospital Newsletter

Spring 2010

Volume 1, Issue 5



## \*\*Shiloh Vet Updates\*\*

### Open House

We are planning our annual Open house on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm. We will be giving hospital tours, offering a free BBQ lunch, free professional pet photos by *Burtchaell Photography*, drawings for prizes, and a variety of vendors. Your pet can also have the chance to obtain a Canine Good Citizen certificate on your pet as well. Family members, pets, and friends are all invited to attend. Hope to see you there!

### Dog Training Classes

Arial will be starting evening puppy classes May 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm so give us a call and we can put you and your pup on the list. There are classes for pets of all ages and stages of training so sign up early! Arial also offers private sessions if the weekly classes don't fit your time schedule.

### Congratulations Amber!

Previously our lead technician, Amber has recently moved to being our new Office Manager. She now manages all areas of the hospital and of course handles all client relations as well. She is the perfect person for the position and we are very happy to have her in her new position.

### Contents

New News at Shiloh	1
The Dog Days of Summer	1
Ask Arial	2
Meet Our Staff	2
Mosquitoes and Ticks	2
Kid's Page	3
Alarming Trends-Cats	4

## \*\*\* The Dog Days of Summer \*\*\*

Dogs cannot sweat and cool themselves like we can, and high outside temperatures, rigorous exercise, obesity, and/or breeds with short/flattened noses are the most at risk of overheating. Panting isn't the easiest way to cool off, and it is much more difficult in humid weather, as there is very little evaporation of liquid off the tongue so it is important to keep 'overexertion' in mind when out playing with your dog. Heatstroke happens fast, so being aware of the symptoms is key: glassy eyes and frantic panting indicate a dog that needs help.

Heatstroke is an emergency and to help on the way to the veterinary hospital you can cool your pet with fans and spraying cool water on their foot pads, armpits, groin/underside area but do not use ice as this can SLOW evaporation. Dogs who suffer from heat stroke can develop delayed complications that are really serious, including death, if they are not properly monitored and cared for after the episode.

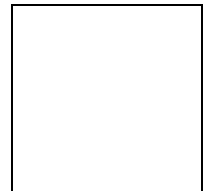
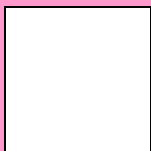
Some tips to avoid overexertion and heatstroke in dogs are: work up slowly to exercise fitness, exercise early in the morning or late evening when it is cooler, offer small amounts of fresh cool (not iced) water frequently, search for shade-available areas, and be mindful of pad burns on hot pavement and metal surfaces (i.e boat dock, car or truck surfaces).

There are cooling beds that offer a soft, climate-controlled spot for dogs to rest during the summer. There are several varieties from ones that plug in to ones with gel pads built in. Use caution however that to dogs don't chew the cords and make sure the gel pads are puncture-proof or that the gel is nontoxic, if they could gain access to it.

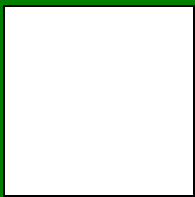
### \*\*Sweet Treat- Ruff Ruff Yogurt Pops\*\*

-32 oz Vanilla or Plain Yogurt  
1 or 2 ripe Bananas (or ½ lb frozen cherries or blueberries)  
2 Tbsp Peanut Butter  
2 Tbsp Honey (optional)  
1 tsp Cinnamon  
1 tsp Pure Vanilla Extract (optional)

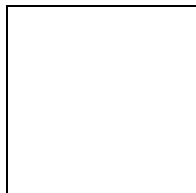
Mash bananas, then mix in the remaining ingredients. Spoon mixture into an ice cube tray and freeze. Place one or two cubes in your dog's bowl for the licking!



## Meet Our Receptionist Lindsey Serfazo



Lindsey has been a part of our team for 5 years. She started caring for pets in our boarding facility and has moved to being a receptionist 8-9 months ago. She grew up on her family's ranch in Silesia, Mt. and went to high school in Joliet. She participated in 4-H and FFA throughout high school. Animals are her passion and she enjoys caring for them. She has an associate's degree in Animal Science. For pets she has 2 dogs, Mattie (who was found tied to a sign at a highway rest-stop) and Levi (rescued from a ranch in Wyoming). She loves grey kitties so she has 2 cats Jake (found on their farm) and Luke (found in a chicken coop). She has also the oddball, Matilda (found as a little kitten in a pasture), who is a calico that is loved just as much as the grey kitties. Outside of work she loves camping, hunting and fishing in. She also likes to take her horse trail riding all the time.



"Arial, my puppy is eating his own feces-GROSS! What can I do?"  
-Grossed Out Mom

*Coprophagia* is the ingestion of feces. The mother dog has to keep her pups and nest clean by stimulating them to eliminate urine and feces with her tongue. Young puppies may begin eating their stools when their mother no longer performs the task to help keep the nest clean.

**ASK A TAI** Coprophagia in pups may persist beyond an acceptable phase and some dogs appear to enjoy this activity, making it all the more disgusting to their owners. You pet is not likely lacking anything nutritionally, it is just a bad habit.

Various solutions have been used to discourage this behavior: application of foul-tasting substances to feces, addition of substances to induce vomiting, feeding digestive enzymes to the coprophagic dog may affect the consistency of its stools, rendering them unattractive, but these methods aren't always reliable.

If stool is not available, your dog cannot eat it. The best way to correct coprophagia is to prevent access to fecal material. 1) Diligently leash walk your dog, moving quickly away from the stool as soon as possible. You may wish to reward your dog for good behavior with a food treat. 2) In extreme cases, a very determined dog may need to be muzzled during walks. An open-style "basket muzzle" will prevent your dog from taking anything into his mouth yet will allow them to open and close their mouth freely. 3) It may be helpful to discontinue yard access for a time, relying on leash walks instead. 4) Immediately and routinely remove stool deposits from your yard. 5) Provide a wide variety of appropriate objects for your dog to chew. 6) Increase the time you spend playing with and exercising your pet.

Some dogs use eating stools as a way to get attention, even if it results in scolding. As difficult as it may be, ignore your pet if you catch it 'in the act,' and concentrate instead on preventing it the next time. Some dogs develop a taste for the stool of other dogs and, occasionally, for the stool of cats. The same corrective approach applies as above other than making your cat's litter box inaccessible to your dog by decreasing the size of the opening of a covered box, applying a hooded litter cover, or leaving the door open just enough to allow the cat access and not the dog.

Hope this helps-good luck and give me a call if you need anymore advice!



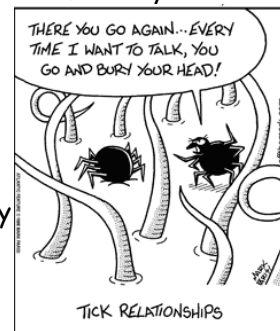
## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

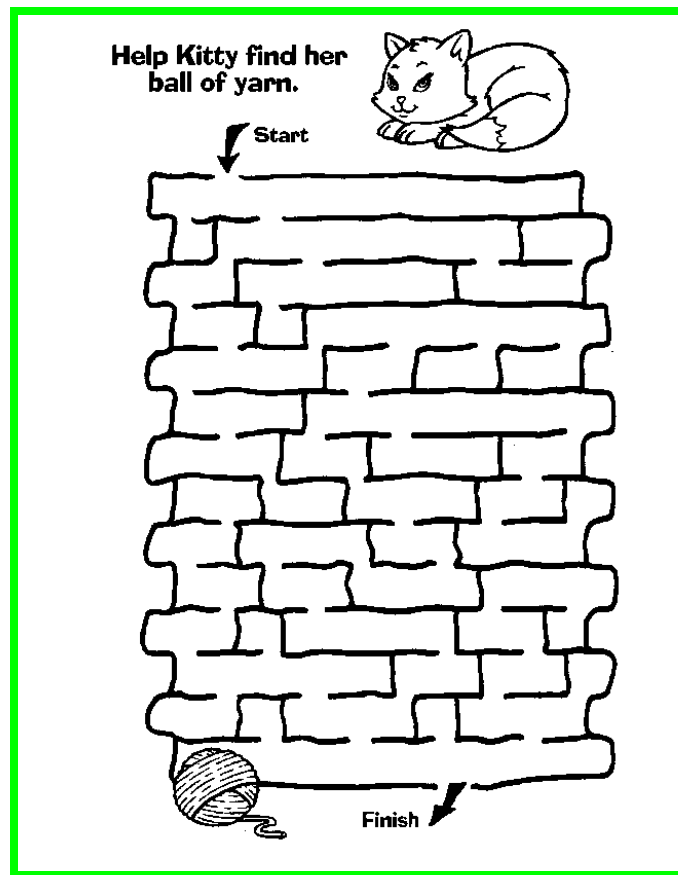
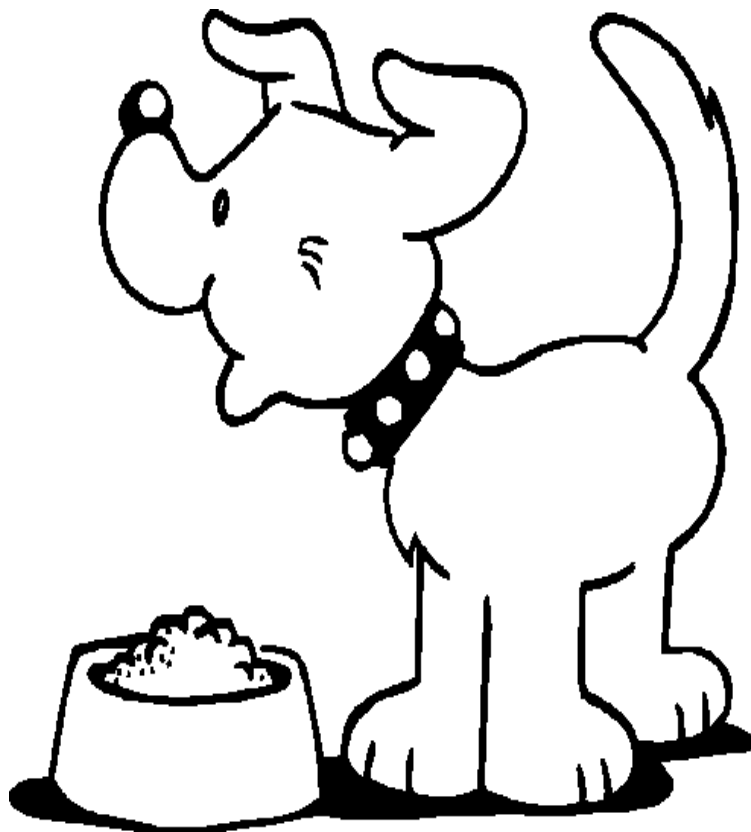
We at Shiloh are already starting to see ticks and mosquitoes, which means it is time to start using heartworm and flea/tick medications. It is essential that every pet starts prevention

early on, especially if they are spending their days in the backyard or going to family outings. Keep in mind, dogs over 7 months that haven't yet started heartworm preventative must be tested for heartworms before starting a preventative or they can be at an increased risk of complications from the medication. A heartworm infestation is dangerous; untreated dogs die and treated dogs go through weeks of discomfort while the worms are killed and expelled from their bodies. It is easier to prevent your pet from heartworms than it is to treat once they get them. All dogs are at risk for a mosquito bite even if they only go outside for a minute to do their business. The battle against ticks, however, must be fought on your pet and in your environment. Make your yard unfriendly to ticks by keeping your grass short, bushes trimmed and minimizing mulch leaf litter. Also, avoid tick breeding grounds like tall grass and brush when you are out on walks with your pet. On your pet, products such as Frontline, kills and controls ticks that come in contact with your pet continually for up to one month. Tick collars aren't the best prevention because it only works around the neck, and ticks aren't partial to biting just one area of the body, you can find them anywhere.

Let us help you de-bug your life by setting up a parasite

Prevention program for your pets and family. Be parasite free this summer!





### How Much Do You Know About Spaying/Neutering a Dog?

- When a female dog is neutered, some people refer to this as being fixed but, more often, she is said to be \_\_\_\_.  
a) Spayed    b) Sprayed    c) Spaded    d) Displayed
- When a male dog is neutered, people refer to him as being fixed or altered, but is more properly said to be \_\_\_\_.  
a) Castrated    b) Fixated    c) Emaciated    d) Vasectomized
- A spayed female has had her \_\_\_\_\_ removed.  
a) Her ovaries and uterus    b) Only her uterus    c) Only her ovaries
- A castrated male dog has had his \_\_\_\_\_ removed.  
a) His testicles    b) His scrotum    c) His spermatic sac    d) His penis
- Some dog owners wait until their dog has gone through 1 heat (estrus) before spaying. This is not recommended because spaying before the first heat greatly reduces the incidence of \_\_\_\_\_ later in life.  
a) Heart Disease    b) Bone cancer    c) Liver disease    d) Mammary tumors
- Neutering is often recommended for a male dog that is too \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Large    b) Happy    c) Small    d) Aggressive
- The neutering surgery in a female dog is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_ by veterinarians.  
a) Ovariohysterectomy    b) Cholecystoduodenostomy    c) Cardiac Bypass
- The neutering surgery in a male dog is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_ by veterinarians.  
a) Prostatectomy    b) Orca bypass    c) Orchiectomy    d) Gastrectomy
- If a male dog is found to only have one testicle in the scrotum, it may be his only testicle, or, more likely, his second testicle didn't descend from his abdomen into his scrotum. What is this condition called?  
a) Orchidism    b) Cryptorchidism    c) Feminism    d) Hypotestosteronism
- When is the best time to spay/neuter by dog?  
a) Never    b) 4-6 months    c) 1 year    d) Only when there is a problem

Answers: 1) a, 2) a, 3) a, 4) a, 5) d, 6) d, 7) a, 8) c, 9) b, 10) b

# Alarming Trend:

There may be nothing more soothing than the warmth and vibration of a purring cat on your lap when you get home from a long day at work. Indeed, cats are extremely popular, and outnumber dogs as pets in American homes by more than ten million. Despite their popularity, cats now seem to be suffering from an alarming trend: decreasing veterinary visits. This isn't just the result of the recession; veterinary visits appear to have been declining since 2001.

We can speculate as to the reasons—cats are more difficult to transport than dogs, they often hide symptoms of illness from their owners and “appear” to be fine, and owners may believe their indoor cats are not at risk for common problems such as intestinal parasites or diseases since they're not exposed to as many environmental elements as dogs.

The truth is, even indoor cats are at risk for many health problems. Dogs and owners can bring parasites into the home on their paws and shoes, and fleas, ticks and mosquitoes can also enter unannounced and transmit parasites and diseases. As they age, cats are at risk for many of the ailments known as “silent killers,” such as diseases of the heart, liver or kidneys, hypertension/hyperthyroidism, and cancer, and these conditions are often asymptomatic until they are fairly advanced. More than 85% of cats over four years old have periodontal disease, which can lead to pain and tooth loss, and the resulting infections can damage other organs as well.

Keeping your cat healthy with regular wellness exams is the safest and most cost effective way to help him live a long, healthy life.

## Have you Sent a Photo Yet?

We're collecting digital photos of your pets for our records. We'll use them for your Pet ID cards (complementary with any large blood panel), and to print on some of our correspondence with you. If you haven't done so already, please bring your pet by and we can take one for you, bring a photo with you to your pets next appointment, or email them to [Shiloh@yellowstonevalleyvet.com](mailto:Shiloh@yellowstonevalleyvet.com) with your name and your pet's name in the email.

Shiloh Veterinary Hospital  
345 Shiloh Road  
Billings, MT 59106  
406-656-1910  
[www.yellowstonevalleyvet.com](http://www.yellowstonevalleyvet.com)

