

# Summer 2010 NewsLetter

## LANE VETERINARY SERVICES

### SUMMER NEWSLETTER

#### *Can Dogs Swim – True or False?*

**False!** All Dogs Cannot Swim. Here are some Water Safety Tips for the summer. Dogs & cats can drown in lakes and pools just like people, however most cats do not like water. Even if your dog wants to keep playing fetch or swim, at some point you need to take a break. They may be excellent swimmers, but when exhausted they have a hard time keeping their head up because their blood sugars drop. Be on the lookout for stagnant pools of water and lakes lined with algae. Certain forms of algae, particularly blue green are very dangerous and cause illness. One parasite in stagnant water is Giardia, which causes diarrhea and people can get it too.

#### *Hotspots in dogs:*

If your dog is licking or chewing more than normal, it may have a hotspot. Hotspots are painful sores, warm to hot (red) and moist with a thick discharge in the centre. They can be **started by bites** from fleas, ticks, blackflies, mosquitoes and/or other animals. Another way to get hotspots is when a thick hair coat is not completely dry after swimming or grooming. **Immediate veterinary attention** is needed to treat the skin infection and to prevent it from spreading further.

#### *Dog & Cat Dental Quiz*

1. Pets and people have the same dental problems. T or F2. Tartar can affect your dog /cat's health. T or F3. Tartar is preventable. T or F4. I can use my Toothpaste on my Dog or Cat. T or F
- Answers:1. **False:** The most common dental problem in humans is tooth decay. In dogs and cats it is periodontal disease, an infection surrounding the teeth. Tooth fractures can also occur in dogs from chewing hard bones, wood, rocks, etc.2. **True:** Tartar is an accumulation of thousands of bacteria found above and below the gum line which cause gingivitis. These bacteria get absorbed into the blood stream causing infections in the heart, kidneys and liver. We see this more often in smaller dogs and older cats. Bad breath is the warning sign!3. **True:** Tartar can be prevented by daily brushing. Other methods include special chew toys, dental foods and treats. Severe tartar should be removed under general anesthetic here at the clinic – a Dental Cleaning & Polishing.
4. **False:** Human toothpaste should **NEVER** be used on dogs and cats. It contains fluoride which can be harmful when swallowed. There are pet toothpastes available in different flavours that your dog and/or cat will enjoy.

Did you know? Cows only have sweat glands on their nose! Explore our website to get more details on the topics in this newsletter: [www.lanevetservices.ca](http://www.lanevetservices.ca)

### **What is Pinkeye in cattle?**

Pinkeye is an infectious disease of the eye tissue, caused by *Moraxella bovis* bacteria. It can be brought onto the farm with new animals or from a carrier such as flies, a farmer's hand or posts used to rub on. Environmental factors like tall grass, pollen, dusty round bales, dry paddocks can further aggravate the eyes. Pinkeye can spread quickly, so watch for excessive tearing, increased redness and cloudiness on the eye surface. Early treatment with medication and fly control will help reduce damage to the eye.

### **Parasite Control – cattle, goats, sheep & horses**

Large amounts of intestinal worms can cause poor condition of the haircoat, weight loss, diarrhea, and colic. Pasture rotation and good manure management are crucial for parasite control. Dewormers should be rotated annually to reduce resistance. A fecal sample can be analyzed at the clinic to help you choose the appropriate product.

### **Equine Vaccinations**

Vaccinations are recommended for *Rabies*, *Tetanus*, *West Nile Virus*, and potentially for *Eastern/Western Encephalitis*. Depending on the risk factors, you may also consider *Influenza*, *Potomac horse fever*, *Rhinopneumonitis*, and *Strangles* vaccines. More information can be found on the OMAFRA's website. Please contact us regarding choosing the right vaccines for your horses, ponies or donkeys.

**Cross-tying** horses, ponies, donkeys is ideal and safer for you, the veterinarian or the farrier when administering wormer, vaccines, medications and other health care needs.

### **Does your Dog or Cat eat Grass? Why?**

Some people think they do this when their stomach is upset. Others think it's because they're bored or because they just like the taste! Others theorize that it is a trait inherited from their wild ancestors. You may have your own theories! One thing is for sure, if your dog or cat likes to consume grass and plant material, you should keep them away from chemically-treated lawns and plants that can be toxic. Visit our website to learn more about everyday things that can be toxic to your pet.

### **Fleas and Worms**

If your **dog or cat** has had fleas, likes to hunt or gets into the garbage/compost, they could have intestinal worms. Worms grow and breed in your pet's gut and can result in an upset stomach, abdominal pain, pass smelly gas, diarrhea, anemia and weight loss. Please speak to Dr. Lane or the other helpful staff at Lane Vet Services for more information about your pet's risk and about treating this condition.

### **“Congratulations to the winners!”**

**Month...** March - “Chester” Weatherilt, Yarker

“Charlotte” Benn, Napanee

Tamworth

May - David Willard, Stella

### **New Patients of the**

April - “Waylon” Genik, Erinsville

May - Dave Way,

**Calving of the Month...** March – Bill Dunn, Roblin

April – Bill Dunn, Roblin

**HST Tax Changes** As of July 1, 2010 all services and products will have HST 13% added.

Some products already have both taxes, such as pet food and flea products.

Did you know? That an Ostrich's eye is larger than its brain !

Enjoy your Summer! **“Prevention is the best medicine!”**