



# THE SOUTHTOWNS JOURNAL

## A Quarterly Newsletter

Prepared by the staff of the Southtowns Animal Hospital

Newman, Editor-in-Chief

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SPRING, 2003



## An Important Reminder from Doctor Winkle

Over the colder months Rabies struck the Buffalo area. A raccoon came in contact with a family dog and that raccoon then tested positive for the deadly disease right here in West Seneca. There have been positive tests in bats, raccoons and a cat in other towns around Buffalo as well.

Now that the weather is warmer, our pets will be spending more time outside, wildlife will be more active, and the risk of rabies exposure will be greater. Rabies is considered epidemic in Western New York, and all animal owners need to be aware.

We can't stress enough that all dogs and cats in Erie county must be vaccinated by law. This is for their protection as well as for the protection of people.

Please check your records and be sure all of your pets have a current rabies vaccination. If you cannot find one in your records, call the office and we will verify the vaccine for you. If your pet needs a rabies vaccine, call to make an appointment immediately.

When your dog or cat is vaccinated, we provide you with a certificate stating that the animal has been vaccinated. This certificate also contains information about the vaccine used. This certificate is the only legal proof that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies. Tags are not legal proof. Always keep this certificate in a safe place. Certificates can only be issued by the veterinarian who gave the vaccine. If your pet was vaccinated at a different hospital, we at Southtowns cannot give you a certificate.

Anyone who cannot afford a rabies vaccination can receive one at no charge over the summer at one of the Erie County Health Department free clinics. When we receive the schedule for these clinics we will post it in the office and on our website: [www.SouthtownsAnimalHospital.com](http://www.SouthtownsAnimalHospital.com)

If your pet does come in contact with a wild animal, call us at 824-4108 to set up an appointment to booster his vaccine immediately. The vaccine must be boosted after contact with a suspect animal even if the current vaccine is up to date.

Stay away from wild animals, especially those which seem tame. If you see a suspect animal call your local dog warden or wildlife control office.

Bats can enter houses with ease. If you find a bat in your home, do not try to capture it, leave it alone and contact the Health Department immediately. Indoor cats are also likely to try to catch a bat. Keep your cat vaccinated. It's the law.

If you have any other questions regarding this matter please contact us. The problem is a difficult one, and it is unlikely that the rabies problem in this state will ever go away. The best we can do to protect our families and pets is to keep our companion animals vaccinated.

## PREGNANT WOMEN NEED NOT FEAR CATS



According to a recent article in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* it was noted that undercooked meat was a greater risk of toxoplasmosis infections in pregnant women than cats are.

Dr. Jeffery D. Kravetz of the Yale School of medicine said that casual contact, like petting, would not expose women to the disease that can cause miscarriages or fetal damage.

Indoor cats are less likely to spread the infection, and older outdoor kitties are less likely to carry it than younger cats that go outdoors.

Traditionally, doctors have warned pregnant women to stay away from cats and their litter boxes because cat poop is thought to spread toxoplasmosis.

About 3,000 women do transmit the infection to their fetuses every year--but the source was more likely to be contaminated meat or infected soil.

Even so, it is suggested that cat owners who are concerned should wear gloves when changing litter boxes, and should change the litter often. Women can also take a test to see if they have developed immunity through earlier exposure.

# NEWMAN CELEBRATES S.P.C.A. TAG DAY



Hi there everybody! I'm not answering questions today. I want to tell you about an upcoming event sponsored by the SPCA. It is tag day on April 15th. Many pets that are brought to shelters each year are never reunited with their owners because they have no identification.

I see many animals that come into the clinic without any type of collar or tags. All animals, even strictly indoor cats, should wear a collar and ID tag. A current rabies tag is a must for the well-dressed pet. Dogs should also wear their numbered license tags.

Check your pet's collar to be sure all tag information is accurate and readable. Be sure the collar is secure and in good condition.

A collar and tag is the first thing most people think of when they have a pet, but we have high tech options to ensure that your friend is returned to you if he ever becomes lost. Microchipping is a great way to help your pet find his way home.

Each microchip has its own number which you file with a national database, and that number stays with your pet. If you need to give your pet to a new home, you can transfer the number to a new owner.

The doctors can place a microchip in your pet right here in the office. It is just as easy as getting a routine vaccine injection. All animal shelters and most veterinarians have microchip scanners.

Unlike a collar or a tag, a microchip cannot be removed or stolen.

For more information about microchips, call us at 824-4108. The girls that pet me would be glad to tell you more. Or, for those of you who like to surf the internet, visit our website:

[www.SouthtownsAnimalHospital.com](http://www.SouthtownsAnimalHospital.com)

Be safe. Wear identification at all times. I do.

--Newman

APRIL 14-18 ONLY!  
At Southtowns Animal Hospital



10% OFF  
ALL  
MICROCHIPS

MAKE SURE YOUR SPECIAL FRIEND  
CAN FIND HIS WAY HOME

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## BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING COMES TO SOUTHTOWNS

Every time one of us goes to the doctor, we have our blood pressure taken. For a person, this is a simple test. Species differences make simple and reliable blood pressure measurement difficult.

Blood pressure is a dynamic process and two measurements are taken. Systolic pressure is the maximum pressure value and diastolic pressure is the minimum.

Both low and high blood pressure can occur in pets.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is usually a symptom of another

problem in animals. Hypertension can damage many organs including the eyes, heart, kidneys and the central nervous system. A few examples of diseases that can cause hypertension in our pets are: kidney failure in both dogs and cats and thyroid problems in cats.

Measuring blood pressure is also needed to detect Hypotension, or low blood pressure. Anesthesia is a common cause of low blood pressure. Low blood pressure is the most common adverse effect of anesthesia.

Other medications and tranquilizers can also lower blood pressure. Pets that have had severe injuries or serious injuries will often have hypotension.

For the best possible care of our patients, we now have a blood pressure reader at Southtowns Animal Hospital. We now have the ability to monitor blood pressure while an animal is under anesthesia, in addition to heart rate and specific oxygen monitoring.

The newest technology helps the doctors deliver the highest level of medicine for your special friends.

Bow Wow  
**WOW!**  
 WHAT A COMBO!

Attention dogs! Sit up and take notice! Now you can have total flea and tick control from one product.

Introducing...  
**K9  
 ADVANTIX™**



Now you can have total pest control. K9 Advantix controls:



**FLEAS!**



**TICKS!**



**MOSQUITOS!**

All this from one monthly application!  
 Ask the staff if

**K9  
 ADVANTIX™**

Is right for your dogs!

Welcome!

To our new Outpatient Nurse, Michelle! She joined us a few weeks ago. She has a big orange kitty of her own and enjoys meeting all of your pet animals.



**Hip, Hip, Hooray!**  
**The Brand-New System  
 is On Its Way**

Southtowns Animal Hospital will soon have a new computer system so we can serve you better. The staff has already had some training with the new program and everyone is looking forward to working with it.

It will take several weeks for the programmers to transfer all the data from our current system to the new one before we can begin using it.

As exciting as this is, we know that as with anything new, there may be a few bugs to work out, and we ask for your understanding.



**CELEBRATE  
 NATIONAL  
 PET WEEK!**



Mark May 4th through May 10th on your calendar so you can celebrate National Pet Week with all the critters that share your life. The theme for this year is "Pets Make the Difference".

How true that is! Our companion animals give us so much in unconditional love and boundless affection and they ask for so little in return. To help celebrate our pets and all they do for us, we would like you to share your stories about your pets.

Beginning on the first of March, log on to our website: [www.SouthtownsAnimalHospital.com](http://www.SouthtownsAnimalHospital.com), and tell us about how your pets make a difference in your life. You can also send your stories to: *Southtowns Animal Hospital, 154 Orchard Park Road, West Seneca, NY 14224, Attention: Merry.* Beginning in May, we will publish these stories on our website for all the other animal lovers in our Southtowns family to see. Please keep submissions to 150 words or less. We look forward to reading all your stories.

**ANIMAL POISON  
 CONTROL CENTER**

**ASPCA**

**888-426-4435** Where knowledge is your lifeline.

*A \$45.00 fee applies to each call.*

# **SOUTHTOWNS ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

**154 Orchard Park Road**

**West Seneca, NY 14224**

Visit us on the web!  
[www.SouthtownsAnimalHospital.com](http://www.SouthtownsAnimalHospital.com)

## **THE SOUTHTOWNS JOURNAL**

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about rabies in our area!**

**Toxoplasmosis--what  
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need to know!**

**Plus...**

**Get ready for S.P.C.A.  
Tag Day and National  
Pet week!**

**All in one Flea, Tick  
and Mosquito control  
for dogs!**

