



THE SOUTHTOWNS JOURNAL

A Quarterly Newsletter

Prepared by the staff of the Southtowns Animal Hospital

Newman, Editor-in-Chief

Volume III, Number 3

WINTER, 2003

We Wish You All The Best



At this festive time of year, I, and all the staff at Southtowns Animal Hospital would like to

wish all of you Happy Holidays, and a great new year.

It means a lot to all of us to care for the companion animals that mean so much to you, and we feel privileged for the trust you have in us.

I also want to thank all of you who have sent cards and letters to us over the past year. We treasure these warm expressions from you, and we want to let you know how much that input means to Doctor Edinger, the staff, and myself.

Thanks too, to all of you who were thinking of us over Thanksgiving, and sent over all the treats.

It is the connection we have through all of your animals that makes this profession so rewarding, and we are pleased that you make us feel like part of your family. The love we share for animals brings us together.

I hope that the season and the New Year brings you joy and prosperity. I, and the staff, hope that you, and your pets stay well.



Arrange Holiday Travel Plans Early

In answer to your questions, Yes, we do have boarding facilities here at Southtowns Animal Hospital, but space is limited, so be sure to book your reservation early.

Because the demand for kennels is always greatest during the holiday season, be sure to call and check with us before making your travel plans. Some prime travel times are filled as far as six months in advance.

Even if you don't board your pet with us, but at another kennel, it is a good idea to check your pet's records and be sure that they are current on any vaccines that a kennel will require prior to your pet's stay. Here at Southtowns, we require that cats be current on their distemper and rabies vaccines. Dogs need to be up to date on those, as well as kennel cough. There are two ways to administer the kennel cough vaccine, either with a nasal spray, or with an injection. Keep in mind that the injection will need to be boosted in 3-4 weeks for full immunity, so take that into consideration when making your boarding reservations. Just ask the doctor which of the vaccines will be best for your pooch.

If your pet is traveling with you to sunny Florida, or out to Colorado to ski, check with the town in which you will be staying to find out what your pet needs to travel. If you are taking a plane or train to your destination, be sure to contact your carrier for important information on what documents your pet will need. These requirements vary from airline to airline, and can change from month to month as the airlines adjust to new and tighter security. Do not assume that the documents that were fine for last year's trip will be fine for this year.

We understand that this can be a hectic time for everyone, and we hope these reminders take away some of your holiday stress.

Enjoy the season.

ARCTIC MOSQUITOS???

No, not a sci-fi invasion. Just a reminder to all of you not to forget to give your dog his heartworm medication. The risk of a dog contracting heartworm in the winter is slim, but there. Even here in sunny Buffalo we have warm spells in winter. Temperatures can soar in March, and mosquitos overwinter in basements and under shingles. Even during the coldest months, mosquitos can be buzzing in a heated or attached garage.

Call us to be sure your pooch is up to date at 824-4108.



Polly Wants More Than A Cracker

Many people keep birds as pets, and more than anything else, it is diet that keeps them healthy. Unlike dogs which are all the same species in spite of their different shapes and sizes, the birds most commonly kept as pets are from many species.

Parakeets and Cockatiels come from the dry climate of Australia; Macaws and Amazon parrots come from South America; Zebra finches and Lovebirds come from Africa.

Seeds comprise part of a wild bird's diet, but not the entire diet. Even when seeds are eaten, they are in varying stages of ripeness--green, ripe, and newly sprouted. The condition of a seed offers different combinations of nutrients. Birds in the wild will eat fruits, insects, vegetables and grasses.

A pet bird has no choice in the food it eats. It is dependent on its keeper. Granted, seeds are easy to feed and to store, but they are not a complete diet. Some seed mixes have dried vegetables and greens mixed in, but seeds form the overwhelming ingredient. Seeds, such as sunflower and safflower seeds are high in fat, others such as red and white millet are high in carbohydrates. Fats and carbohydrates give energy, but pet birds do not get as much exercise as a wild bird. Fats and carbohydrates are also tasty, and birds will often go through the seed mixes to pick out the more flavorful and less nutritious items

To keep your bird healthy, offer a variety of foods. Washed fruits and vegetables can be offered, as well as dark leafy greens such as spinach, kale and chard.

Many pet birds refuse to eat such healthy foods because they do not see them as something to eat. The owner of such a bird needs to be persistent and try to offer the new foods in different ways.

Persistence will pay off in the health and long life of your pet bird.

For a more complete list of healthy choices

Give Your Pet the Gift of Good Oral Hygiene

Everybody knows what happens in February. It is time for a visit from everybody's jolly friend, Dental Dave. He is all decked out in his Santa Suit to remind you that oral hygiene will help your pet's health in the long run.

Eliminating all the bacteria filled tartar from around your pet's gums will protect the liver, heart and kidneys, not to mention keeping breath fresh.

Once those teeth are clean, be sure to start brushing those pearly whites, to prevent the return of all that tartar.

And don't forget, healthy dental chews are a tasty gift for the dog or cat on your shopping list.

Call us here at the office to set up your appointment. The number is 824-4108..



Dental Dave Says:
Be sure to ask
about special offers
to help keep your
pet's teeth shiny
bright!
Call the office at
824-4108
for
more information

Welcome
to the newest members
of our team!

Christel Gerwitz, LVT
Nancy Kroll, Receptionist.

A Great Gift For The Pet Who Has It All



We are happy to announce that we will soon be offering Gift Certificates, in \$5.00 increments, good for services here at Southtowns Animal Hospital.
Call 824-4108 for details!

Join Us For SPAY WEEK!

February 23-27

**Bake sale to benefit
Animal Birth Control**



Discounted Spay and Neuter Packages

For cats and pups 3-8 months
of age.
Call for prices



**Raffles, Prizes, Coloring
books and More!**

The statistics are depressing. Many dogs and cats die in the United States because there aren't enough homes for them.

You can help by making sure that your companion animals are spayed or neutered. In addition to reducing the numbers of unwanted pets euthanized each year, there are health benefits for your pet. A spay surgery is the same as a woman having an Ovariohysterectomy. If spayed before the first heat period, breast cancer can be virtually eliminated. Even if spayed later in life, ovarian and uterine cancers are eliminated, as well as the risk of uterine infections.. Male dogs benefit too. The most common cancer of male animals is testicular cancer, and having a pet neutered early reduces the risk of prostate cancer and other tumors of the perianal region.

Some people think that it is healthy for an animal to have "just one litter", but this really isn't the case. It is just a myth.

Do your pet a favor, and be sure to have it altered. Don't let the shelters overflow with unwanted puppies and kittens.

Happy New Year!

When the year turns, we think of what the future may bring. We, the staff and doctors of Southtowns Animal Hospital want to share our Vision Statement with you.

Southtowns Animal Hospital must look to the future to envision and ensure growth within the practice, our lives, and the community in which we live and work. To entrust our staff to ensure the continuity of patient care and deliver the best health care quality by evoking continuous quality improvement. We will create new ideas in order to stay financially strong. Our morale must remain high in order to stay focused on achieving the highest level of quality and client satisfaction. We will make a strong community presence through continuous client and staff education. We are empowered to participate and take responsibility in the development of our future.

Awwwwwwww! Ain't that Cute!

We are collecting "baby" photos of everyone's pets when they were just puppies and kittens, to make a scrapbook.

They get so big, so fast! If you would like your pet to be in our baby book, send us a photo. You can mail it to

Southtowns Animal Hospital
154 Orchard Park Road
West Seneca, NY 14224
ATTN Michelle G.

If you want your photo returned,
just include a SASE.
Or, email your digital photo to:

Staff@
SouthtownsAnimalHospital.com

Be sure to put ATTN Michelle G.
in the re: line.

SOUTHTOWNS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

154 Orchard Park Road

West Seneca, NY 14224

Visit us on the web!

www.SouthtownsAnimalHospital.com

THE SOUTHTOWNS JOURNAL



From our family to
yours

The Doctors and Staff of
Southtowns Animal
Hospital

Wish you all the best
the Season has to offer

Our Mission Statement:

To achieve excellence in the treatment and care of all pets.