



# THE SOUTHTOWNS JOURNAL

## A Quarterly Newsletter

Prepared by the staff of the Southtowns Animal Hospital

Newman, Editor-in-Chief

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## A Message from Dr. Winkle



When the weather gets warm, everyone knows that it is not safe to leave children or pets unattended in a parked car, because the temperature can soar to a dangerous level in a very short time. We have all heard stories of how people have lost pets this way.

Over heating isn't the only danger your automobile can pose to your pet, and the other dangers have nothing to do with the temperature. Many vehicles now have power doors and windows. The story of how a dog has locked its owner out in the cold makes us all smile, but sometimes a pet has locked the door in the hot sun, and the keys are inside too.

Power windows can be dangerous to a pet left alone in a car, or while it is traveling unrestrained. It is very easy for a dog to step on the power window control while looking out, and become trapped as the window rises. If the dog is alone, this can be a fatal situation. It can also be dangerous if the dog does this while the car is in motion, and the driver is dangerously distracted trying to free it.

The best way for pets to travel in a car is for them to be in a crate--that way they are not a potential distraction. If it isn't possible to keep a crate in your car for your dog, there are seat belts that are comfortable and easy to use. It is also best for all concerned if pets are restrained in the event of an accident. A crate or seat belt can keep your pet from being thrown from the vehicle.

The staff would be happy to help you if you have any other concerns regarding car safety and your pet.



## Pet Travel Checklist

The secret to a smooth vacation with your pet is to plan ahead. If your dog needs anti-nausea medication, it is best to have it on hand well before the trip, and not as you are packing the van. You certainly don't want to find that you need a health certificate to fly with your cat as you are about to board the plane! We hope that this list helps you plan ahead. If you need more travel tips, or boarding information, call the hospital at 824-4108

Check reservations and requirements of any lodgings you will be using. Many now allow pets.

Check airline reservations and the policies of your carrier.

Carry proof of up to date vaccinations.

Be sure ID tags are easy to read, not old and worn.

Consider a permanent AVID microchip.

Check collars to be sure they fit properly to prevent any escapes.

Carry your pet's usual food and water with you.

Clean up supplies--just in case. Keep those highway rest stops clean.

Bring any medication your pet requires.

Try to look up a vet at your destination--emergencies can happen.

If your pet can't go with you, call your sitter or boarding facility early for a reservation!!





We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who donated their old blankets to the Hospital.

## We would like to make an announcement!!!

Congratulations to Darlene, who is expecting a baby in October! We know you will join us in wishing her and her husband all the best!



## Flea Prevention Start NOW!!

Fleas are little insects that can cause big problems. They can transmit tapeworms and for some pets set up a severe skin allergy.

As for so many things, prevention is the best way to keep fleas away from your pet.

One flea may not seem like much, but, for a pet that is allergic to the bites, only one flea is enough to start up the itchy reaction and subsequent skin infection

If that one flea reproduces, by the end of the season, there can be thousands of fleas in a home, and for every adult flea that is seen there are many, many more eggs and larvae in the environment, waiting to hatch and grow.

It is far better to keep fleas off of your pet by using one of the prescription flea medications such as Advantage, Advantix or Program.

All are easy to use once-a-month treatments that are effective.

Call the office at 824-4108 and we would be happy to help you find which prescription is best for your pet.

## Help support Newman's Angels

The staff of Southtowns Animal Hospital is making a calendar to help raise money for the soon to be started **Newman's Angels Fund**. You could help by sending us photos of your pet for the calendar. All photos are welcome, but Holiday themed pictures would be especially nice. We will return the photos to you if you request us to do so.



Please mail the photos to:

Southtowns Animal Hospital  
154 Orchard Park Road  
West Seneca, NY 14224

Or You can email digital pictures to:

Staff@southtownsanimalhospital.com  
Attention Michelle G. or Shannon

Space in the calendar will be limited, so get your photo in to us early.

AND...

We still would like more baby pictures of your pets for our baby album, feel free to send those along as well!

Southtowns Animal Hospital would like to thank the West Seneca East High School for having us participate in Career Day, and to South Park High School for inviting us to Community Day. Both events were well-run and all of the students were wonderful

If any other schools would like some of our staff to come and speak about careers in the field of animal health, please call 824-4108, and ask to speak with Merry or Christel.

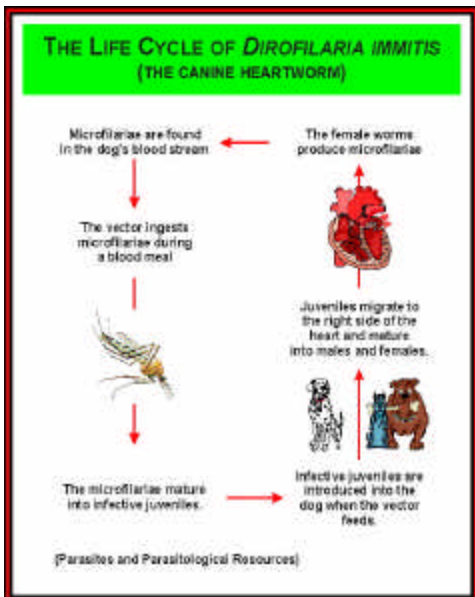
We also enjoyed the company of one of our local Boy Scout troops and a group of West Seneca Middle School students.

The staff and Doctors enjoyed giving tours of the hospital, and speaking to youngsters who might like to work in the field of animal Health when they get older.

If your class or group would like to arrange for a tour, call the office at 824-4108 and ask to speak with Pam.

## Heartworm Season is here. Is YOUR dog protected?

Many people think that heartworm isn't a concern in this area due to the harsh winters, but that is not the case. There are about 100 cases a year in Erie County. There are millions of mosquitoes around, and there is no way to know which one might have the parasite. Be sure to keep your dog safe by using Interceptor once a month heartworm preventive, or Proheart6, which is an injection given every six months



## New Doppler Technology comes to Southtowns!

Monitoring Blood pressure, is one of the ways we keep your pets safe when they are undergoing anesthesia. Southtowns Animal Hospital has recently acquired a state of the art Doppler blood pressure monitor.



Dr. Winkle and Newnan test the new Doppler blood pressure monitor

Some animals with other medical conditions such as diabetes, kidney failure or heart disease also have problems with their blood pressure that may complicate their conditions. By checking the blood pressure of such an animal, we can give all pets the highest level of care possible.



## Keep Your Pet Fit and Trim for Good Health!

Who can resist a pair of soulful, hopeful brown eyes, especially when they are asking for a treat? Little snacks and goodies make our pets so happy, but too much of a good thing can be harmful. Just like in human medicine, many of the patients we see are overweight, plump or just plain obese. In fact, so many pets are overweight that when owners are shown what a pet of proper weight looks like, they think it is too skinny.

Keeping your pets fit and trim helps to prevent many health problems like diabetes, and slim pets have an easier time with joint disorders associated with aging.

Most of our pets don't work for a living, so their caloric needs are much less than one would think. You may think that your Lab gets plenty of exercise chasing squirrels in the back yard, but in reality, that isn't much exercise at all, especially when you consider that the Labrador was bred to run, swim and fetch all day, every day. Chasing a few squirrels on potty trips doesn't burn many calories.

Our pet animals should be spayed or neutered for their health, and the lack of a reproductive system reduces the amount of calories yet again. Lots of folks think that the surgery to alter their pets is what makes them fat, but this is a coincidence. At six months, when pets are usually spayed or neutered, the animal has matured as much as a teenager, and the metabolism is beginning to slow down. Couple that with the reduced need for calories from the sterilization surgery, and you have a recipe for plumpness.

Today's pet diets are made with high quality, easy to digest ingredients, and many of the soft moist varieties are loaded with sugar and fat. One of those little kibbles has a lot of nutrition in it. And the feeding guidelines are just that, guidelines. Some dogs of a particular breed are above or below average, and the portion they need to eat is different, accordingly. It is also important to use the feeding guidelines on any food for the weight the pet should be, not how much it weights currently.

If you think you pet is overweight, and you need diet tips, call to set up a weight loss consultation. The staff will help you assess your pets body score and set you on the right track to achieving and maintain a healthy weight.

## A special word about fat cats...

Unlike dogs, cats have to lose weight slowly and carefully. If a kitty loses pounds too fast, they are prone to a serious condition called Fatty Liver Syndrome.

Before you put your plump kitty on a diet, be sure to bring the pudgeball in for an exam. We will then calculate the optimum portion for safe weight loss. Because of this we will set several target weights for your cat, and we will want to see your kitty periodically so we can adjust the portion as needed during the diet.



# SOUTHTOWNS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

154 Orchard Park Road

West Seneca, NY 14224

Visit us on the web!

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

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### Do You Have a New Puppy or Kitten?

When you call to make an appointment for your first wellness exam, ask about our puppy and kitten care packages.

They include discounts on vaccines and on spaying or neutering your new friend.

Call the office at 824-4108, and the staff would be happy to explain the benefits of the package to you.



### Please Take Note

In the best interest of all pets, pre-anesthetic blood work and IV fluids have become mandatory during all surgical procedures.

If you have any questions regarding the benefits of this for your pet, feel free to ask any of our Client Relations Specialists or Nurses.

Our Mission Statement:

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