



THE SOUTHTOWNS JOURNAL

A Quarterly Newsletter

Prepared by the staff of the Southtowns Animal Hospital

Newman, Editor-in-Chief

Volume I, Number 1

SUMMER, 2001

MEET OUR DOCTORS



Doctor Ted Winkle, is a graduate of the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and has been the principal practitioner of the hospital since 1993.

Doctor Winkle grew up in Kenmore, New York, and always had dogs as pets, as well as several other little creatures, including whatever he brought home, like anoles, rabbits and mice. He is an alumnus of Kenmore West High School.

He graduated from Ohio State in 1986 and spent two years in Rochester before returning to Buffalo. Two local animal clinics enjoyed his expertise before he came to Southtowns in 1993.

Presently, Doctor Winkle has two cats, Max and Stanley. He is on the Board of Directors of the West Seneca Kiwanis Club. Doctor Winkle enjoys camping and fishing, he also likes gardening, and he spends his free time working around his house or his cabin in Allegheny County.

Charles Edinger, DVM earned his degree at the Cornell University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1981. He joined our team in 1999.



Doctor Edinger knew he wanted to be a veterinarian at the age of six, after an adventure with two beagles and a collie mix. He grew up on a farm in western Pennsylvania, and had practiced large animal medicine before coming to Southtowns Animal Hospital.

He likes puppy breath and cats with lots of personality. He hates dirty ears, fleas and intestinal worms. His words to live by include: "never let them put the muzzle on you!" and "Brush that mutt's teeth."

Doctor Edinger has a cat of his own, named Dusty, and will soon be adopting a Labrador, just as soon as he can decide which color hair won't show up on his sofa.



Would you know what to do...

If your pet were stung by a bee?

As summer approaches our pets will be spending time outside and may have an encounter with a bee, hornet or wasp. Here are a few first aid tips:

First, remove the stinger. Try using the edge of a credit card to scrape the stinger out of your pet's skin. Don't use tweezers. They will squeeze the poison gland on the sting, introducing even more venom into the wound.

You can apply a paste of meat tenderizer to the affected area to help reduce inflammation. If your pet is still uncomfortable, call our hospital at **824-4108** and we can direct you to the appropriate medication to relieve the pain.

If your pet has difficulty breathing or swallowing after an insect sting, this is an **EMERGENCY! Call us at once!**



IT'S ABOUT TIME!

Some of you may have noticed that we have changed the way we book your appointments here at the Southtowns Animal Hospital. We have changed to give you and your pet more time with our Doctors.

To give you the best service possible, and out of courtesy to all our patients, we ask you to be on time for your appointments. While we understand that 'things happen' that can cause any one to run late, we want all of our clients to receive care on a timely basis. If you think you will have trouble keeping an appointment, don't hesitate to call us and reschedule. We would be happy to accommodate you.

Of course, there will be emergencies which demand our Doctors' immediate attention, and we know you will be understanding of such times when they occur. Our cheerful Reception Team will do their best to inform you when such delays occur, and they will be glad to reschedule your appointment at the earliest time possible.

We understand that this can be inconvenient for you, but remember, it could be your pet that needs critical, immediate, care one day.

WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR LICENSED TECHNICAL STAFF

DARLENE

Darlene earned her A.A.S. degree at S.U.N.Y. at Farmingdale, NY and has been with the practice for 13 years. Darlene and her husband share their home with Skyy, who is a German Shepherd, and two lovable cats, Baileys and Niles. Darlene enjoys attending informative continuing education classes to keep abreast of new and exciting procedures to help all her patients.

DEBBIE

After teaching for the Diocese of Buffalo for 6 years, Debbie made a career change and was a member of the first graduating class (1990) of Licensed Vet Technicians at Medaille College. She enjoys all sports and nature. Debbie has a Beagle named Howie, and a Lab named Sam. She also has two cats, Perry and Eddie.. She joined Southtowns in 1996.

DAWN

Dawn attended Medaille College and graduated in 1997 with a degree in Veterinary Technology. She has been with the hospital since 1993, working as part of the kennel staff while she sat classes. She loves all animals, but best for her is to watch the babies grow and to be with them throughout their lives. Dawn currently owns two wonderful cats and a dog.



FLEAS DEAD!

BUY A SIX
PACK OF
ADVANTAGE
AND GET A
TUBE FREE!!!!

CLIP AND SAVE \$



Hi!

**YOU CAN ALWAYS
EXPECT A WARM
WELCOME FROM OUR
RECEPTION TEAM!**

We always have a friendly greeting for you and a crunchy treat for your friend. Our receptionists would like to say, "Hello!"...



PAM, our Office Manager, has been with us since 1988. Pam is very understanding of our client's needs and is always ready to help our patients. She has two pets of her own, Zoe and R.C..



MARSHA has been with the hospital for five years and really enjoys her work. Hers is one of the first voices you hear when you call and she is always ready to answer your questions, or direct you to someone who can.



MARY, the most recent addition to our staff, has been an animal lover all her life, and finds working at Southtowns animal Hospital very fulfilling. She loves the clients and the staff and she recently applied to G.R.R.O.W.L.S. to adopt a golden retriever



SHANNON studied animal care at Medaille College. She is especially interested in "pocket pets" like ferrets. She joined our staff in 2000. Right now Shannon has three dogs (big ones) and three cats, and she is always ready to love your pet too.

OUR NURSES LOVE TO GIVE "PRACTICAL" ADVICE

BMERRY has been an animal husbandry professional since 1988, and joined the Southtowns team two years ago. She enjoys caring for animals and the endless variety of pets she gets to meet doing her job as Outpatient Nurse.

ECELESTE is currently studying Zoo Biology and Animal Behavior at Canisius College. She likes Outpatient Nursing here at the hospital since it allows her to put her studies into practice. Celeste wants to work with primates.

VKRISTEN, our newest Outpatient Nurse has just completed her first year of study at Medaille College. She plans on becoming a veterinary technician when she graduates. She loves working with animals of all kinds.

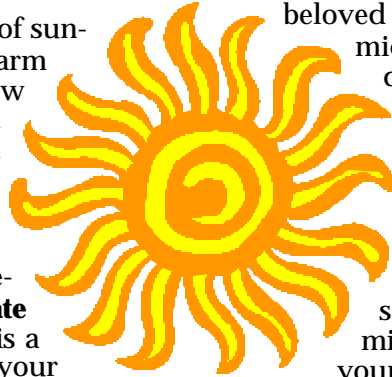
SUMMERTIME TIPS

With the arrival of sunshine and warm weather, a few preparations will keep our special friends safe and healthy.

First and foremost, **vaccinate your pets!** There is a greater chance of your pet having an encounter with someone else's pet or with wildlife during the warmer months, and a simple vaccine can prevent a serious illness such as **Rabies** of which is transmissible to humans.

Exercise is great for your dog, but, as with humans, any change in activity level should happen gradually. After a winter of imitating a spud, don't take your dog on a fifteen mile hike through the park. Thanks to the gym, you are probably up to it, but not your dog. Gently increase his workouts, and be sure to carry water for both of you. Untreated water from lakes and streams may be polluted and can transmit diseases like giardia and E. coli. Pet stores sell lightweight folding bowls for your companion.

Identify your pet! This is the time of year when doors are propped open and gates left ajar. Just a few seconds of inattention and your beloved friend could be gone. Collars with tags are a great way to identify your pet, but they do have drawbacks. Many people don't like to collar their cats for fear they will get caught on something and strangle. Even with safety collars, when the collar performs and sets your cat free, they are left without identification. Dogs, too, can slip a collar and wander off, and they have no way to tell anyone who finds them how to get them home. Here at Southtowns Animal Hospital we can permanently identify your



beloved companion with a microchip. The procedure is no worse for your pet than a vaccine, and it only takes seconds. Most veterinarians and all animal shelters across the United States have scanners to read the microchip and get your pet back to you. Call us today at 824-4108 for more information. A microchip could save your pet's life.

We're sure you have heard this before, but we are going to repeat it.

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET ALONE IN A CAR IN SUMMER!

No, not even to just "run in" a store. Even with the windows "cracked" the temperature can soar dangerously high in minutes. Many pets die needlessly this way every year.

Warm weather brings out fleas! Get an early start on fleas this year and you just might stop a few skin problems in their tracks. Many cats and dogs are allergic to the saliva of the flea, but unlike humans, itching skin and flaking coat problems are the major symptoms. We recommend **Advantage**, an easy to apply topical medication which kills fleas on contact or **Program**, a flea medication in tablet form that sterilizes fleas' eggs and prevents them from reproducing. Remember, the worst part of flea season is at the end of summer and into early fall. Prevention is worth a pound of cure, and a lot less expensive. Spare your pet late season discomfort by treating him with **Advantage** or **Program** now. Just call us at 824-4108 for more information on these medications.

KNICK
KNACK
PADDY-
WACK
DON'T
GIVE
YOUR
DOG A
BONE!

*Dogs love bones, everybody knows that. You should never give a dog chicken or turkey bones, they can splinter and choke your pet, or worse, cut up his insides; everybody knows that too. Beef soup bones or steak bones are fine though, that's what everybody says, isn't it? Would you be surprised to know that **no** real bones, not even cleaned, baked, flavored and sterilized bones from pet stores are safe for dogs? Its true, and here's why...*



Bones are damaging to a dogs' system in many ways. They are abrasive and can wear the enamel from teeth, or if your dog is an exceptionally vigorous player he can even crack a tooth on the bone

As every one knows, poultry bones are the worst type of bone a dog can get into. They are fragile and splinter when chewed, causing lacerations of the tongue, esophagus, stomach or intestines.

The very large "soup" bones that most people perceive as safe do the most insidious kind of damage. It is hard to see how the tiny bits of bone they wear away could be harmful. Many assume that they just pass through a dog's system. While it is true that bone is indigestible, the water reclaiming action of the large intestine collects and concentrates the tiny bone fragments into a hard blockage, which can be fatal without prompt (and expensive) surgery. Even dogs who have had bones for years with no problems are still subject to this condition.

Do your dog a favor and only treat him to safe, approved chews. His toys can still be shaped like bones, event if they aren't actual ones.

**SOUTHTOWNS ANIMAL
HOSPITAL**
154 Orchard Park Road



EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!
Don't miss the big first issue!



THE SOUTHTOWNS JOURNAL



We love to treat your pets!