

National Pet Dental Health Month

February is National Pet Dental Health Month. In recognition we're inviting you to bring your pets into our hospital for a **free dental exam**. We believe that dental care for your pet is so important that you should try to take advantage of this free offer. During the examination we'll thoroughly look through the mouth for evidence of tooth and gum infections, oral tumors and any other abnormality we might find in your pet's oral tissues.

Unfortunately for most pets, oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed and at the same time, most frequently ignored health problem. Doggie and kitty breath is not just an annoying smell but can be signs of serious health problems. Periodontal disease can cause not only mouth pain and smell but also leads to kidney and heart disease, both very serious complications of poor oral health. Following through on a plan to control and prevent dental disease can add years to your pet's life.



If your pet does have a problem with his mouth or teeth, dental procedures scheduled during February will be discounted by 20% making it even more affordable to care for your pet's teeth.

We want your pet to give you love and companionship for a long time. Fortunately, simple preventative care and routine dental cleanings can aid us in reaching this goal. Just call us during office house to schedule your pet's appointment- or after hours leave a message with our answering service and we'll get right back to you.

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(offer good February 1st until March 15th)

The **Mid Hudson Veterinary Medical Group** is
Arlington Animal Hospital ♦ *Mid Hudson Animal Hospital*
A Cat's Place Veterinary Hospital
 Visit us online at:
<http://www.arlingtonvethospital.com>



Cat Scratch Fever

“Cat Scratch Fever” is a human disease caused by bacteria called *Bartonella*. People get it when cat saliva gets into the blood most often through bites and scratches. The infection usually appears as a painfully swollen lymph node accompanied by a fever. Less frequently this same bacteria can cause serious brain, heart, and kidney or liver disorders. Each year over 25,000 cases of human disease caused by *Bartonella* are reported in the United States, and of these 2,000 require hospitalization. The majority of these more serious cases occur in immune suppressed individuals—that’s the very young, the very old, people taking cancer drugs, people with HIV, and people with autoimmune diseases. Fortunately when diagnosed early most patients can be cured with the proper antibiotics.

Cats get infected by the bite of a flea or tick. Once infected all cats become carriers and can pass the disease to humans. A small number of cats also become sick themselves. Those cats develop symptoms of dental disease such as rapid buildup of tartar, red swollen gums, loose teeth and very bad breath. Untreated cats become reluctant to eat and lose weight. Less commonly, a few cats show signs of chronic respiratory disease as shown by long lasting nose and eye discharge.

What should you do if you suspect your cat might be infected? Not all cats with dental disease are infected with *Bartonella*. A thorough physical examination and laboratory tests will demonstrate if your pet has one of the more common causes of dental disease such as kidney disease, tooth abscess, feline leukemia and feline AIDS. If not, a small sample of blood will be sent to the lab to test for *Bartonella* infection.

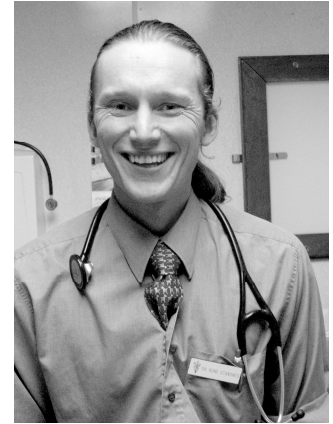
What should you do if you are concerned about a new baby in the house or immunosuppressed people in your family and want to make sure your cat isn’t a carrier who could spread the disease to them? In the same manner we can test your healthy cat’s blood to make sure that he or she doesn’t carry these bacteria.

Fun Cat Facts

- Cats can see six times better at night than humans.
- Over short distances, a domestic cat can run over 30 miles per hour.
- All small cats purr, but among the big cats, only Cougars can purr.
- Only 4 species of felines can roar; Lions, Tigers, Jaguars and Leopards.

Staff Member in the Spotlight Dr. Rune Standnes

Dr. Standnes was born and raised on a little farm called Standnes located in the picturesque fjord land on the west coast of Norway. Animals of many kinds were a part of his rural lifestyle from the very beginning and after graduating from college he packed his bags and ventured to Edinburgh, Scotland to study the art and craftsmanship of veterinary medicine and surgery.



After a few years in James Herriot’s homeland working with all creatures great and small, an opportunity of a lifetime came along when Dr Mintzer called one evening and hired him as an associate. Roots got severed, bridges burnt and off he went following his dream to settle in the Promised Land.

Destiny soon brought Stephanie into his life through her dog Trusty (the poor ol’ fellow had a bladder stone!) and less than 2 years later they tied the knot. In his spare time, when he is not at home with his lovely wife or exploring new places, odds are he is cruising around the scenic country lanes on his motorcycle or kayaking on the beautiful Hudson river. In the winter he is an avid follower of the English Premier League (soccer). Between matches he reads books and sailing magazines and spends a fair few hours honing his skills at the local firing range.

At the end of the day he snuggles up with his wife and their two cats, Oscar and Cyrus (he is the rascal by the way!), looking forward to the next day of challenges caring for perhaps YOUR pet.

Visit our websites

www.midhusonvet.com

www.arlingtonvethospital.com

www.acatsplacevet.com

- Cats often purr to show submissiveness or friendliness to another cat.
- A group of kittens is called a kindle.
- A group of adult cats is called a clowder.
- Obesity is the most common nutritional disease in cats.
- “Kneading” is an instinctual behavior left over from kittenhood when kittens kneaded their mother’s mammary glands to stimulate milk flow.

How to Make Sure Your Pet Comes

HomeAgain!

What's the latest buzz for pet owners in this advanced technological world we live in. No, it's not a robot who feeds, walks your pet and scoops the cat's litter box. And no it's still going to be a while before you can plug your pet into your PC to find out why he's sick. This is something that is as small as a grain of grain of rice and can actually save your pet's life. What is it? It's a HomeAgain microchip!

What is HomeAgain? HomeAgain is actually a tiny radio transmitter that's injected underneath your pet's skin. It's safe, doesn't irritate your pet's body and lasts a lifetime. Like the EZPass in your car the HomeAgain chip stores and transmits your pet's information to a reading device when it's scanned. Who is going to be scanning your pet you might wonder. Scanners are used throughout the veterinary community and at all local shelters. When a stray animal comes in it is standard protocol that it be scanned and if it has a chip, the owner is immediately notified. How effective has it been? More than 3 million pets have been "chipped" over the past 10 years and 275,000 have been safely reunited with their families. The database of pet information is worldwide, so that if you your pet is lost or stolen in the US or even Mexico, Canada or overseas it can be recovered. It is much more affordable and comfortable than tattooing your pet and anesthesia is not even required for administration. Any pet can be chipped. We've chipped dogs, cats, iguanas, birds and even ferrets.

Does your pet really need it? Ask yourself, how easy would it be for your pet to get lost? House cats are great escape artists. My pet dogs are kept safely in a fenced yard. A few weeks ago I had an oil delivery. After the delivery truck was gone I let my dogs out into their fenced yard. More quickly than I could react, my dogs saw the open gate that the driver had left and let out for freedom. I was lucky, four hours later they were found unharmed. As frantic as I was, I breathed easier during the whole ordeal knowing that they both had HomeAgain chips.

Administering the chip is not expensive and will be even less expensive with the a **money saving coupon** for free activation for your pet's microchip (regularly \$17.50). We promise it is a quick and painless procedure that may someday save your pet's life! Call the office today for your appointment!

Miracle Drugs

Want to hear about latest and greatest miracle drugs? Drugs that are so powerful that they offer virtually 100% protection from fatal illnesses with almost no side effects. What's more, these drugs are cheap, costing around a nickel a day. So, what are these wonder drugs? Surprise, these wonder drugs are... Vaccines!

Vaccines were the original and still are the most powerful wonder drugs we have. Seventy-five years ago the leading causes of death were not cancer and heart disease, but infectious diseases; polio, diphtheria, and measles were killing people, while distemper and rabies killed the majority of dogs and cats. These diseases have all but disappeared in vaccinated humans and pets. In more recent years vaccination has made feline leukemia a rare disease. When I began practice in 1981 I was saddened to see a cat die of leukemia each week. In 1985 a vaccine was introduced to prevent leukemia and within a year the death rate had dropped so much that months would go by before I'd see a cat afflicted with leukemia. In the early 1980's an epidemic of parvo virus killed thousands of dogs before being halted by a new vaccine.

You might wonder why your pet needs to be vaccinated if these diseases have been conquered. The sad fact is, these diseases are still out there. Stray cats carry leukemia and since it takes a few years to be fatal, they have ample time to pass it onto your indoor-outdoor kitty. Rabies is epidemic in Dutchess County and is mainly spread by bats, raccoons and foxes. Bats routinely get inside houses whether the owners are aware of them or not and can spread rabies to cats and dogs that don't ever go outside. Coyotes, foxes, raccoons and bears carry dog distemper and stray cats carry cat distemper. Two years ago a local veterinary practice had to close its doors to cat patients for one month because of an epidemic of distemper started by stray cats which were brought in to be neutered.

Most of you reading this have taken advantage of our wonder drugs and have made sure your pets are protected. Some of you haven't. If you're not sure whether your pet is up to date on these life saving vaccines, call the office and we'll be happy to review your pets' vaccine status.

Free Coupon

**Free Activation
of a
Home Again Chip**
(limited quantities)

**One Free Tube of Advantage or Advantix
or
One Free Tube of FrontLine**
with the purchase of a six pack of either

In Case of Emergency- call your pet's doctor at

Mid Hudson Animal Hospital 229-7117 Arlington Animal Hospital 473-0301
A Cat's Place Veterinary Hospital 896-7877

Ultrasound Corner

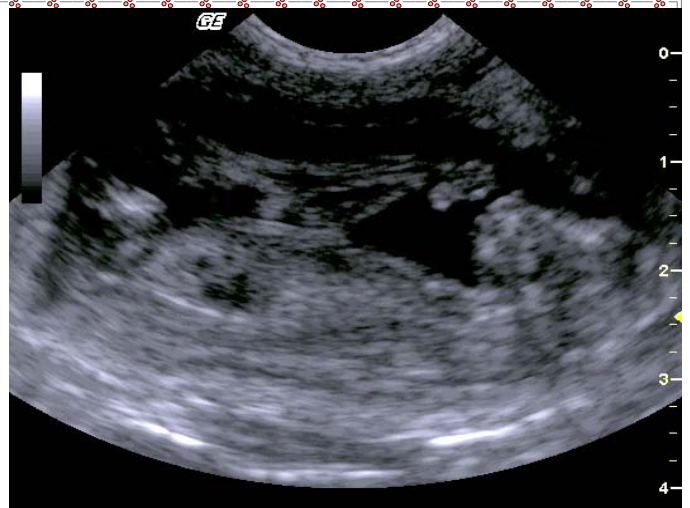
Ultrasound is a great diagnostic tool. It is non invasive (we don't have to open up and "go inside" to take a look); it's not painful and doesn't require sedation to use. We use it to look at the heart (echocardiography) so that we can diagnose and treat heart disease. We look at the abdomen (sonogram) to see how the kidneys, spleen, liver and other organs are working. And, we can use it to help take biopsies of organs in a safe manner. It is a great feeling to be able to offer these high tech services to our patients.

There are times though we just have plain old fun using the ultrasound machine. And that's when we perform a pregnancy diagnosis. Few things can brighten up a hard working day for the entire staff than watching a tiny puppy or kitten wiggle around inside mom. Looking at all those little hearts beating just makes your day.

We'd like you to share a little of the joy we get from these exams.

Look at the picture to the right. Do you know you're looking at? That's a little kitten about 2 weeks before it's going to be born. His head is on the right hand side. Can you see kitty's nose? If you look hard enough below the nose you'll see the tongue sticking out a little from the mouth. Right above the body is one of the kitten's arms. And just in front of the mouth is the paw. Can you see the little digits with very tiny nails? What do you think kitty was doing with that paw? That's right he was sitting comfortably inside mom and sucking his thumb!

Hope you enjoyed this little peek into one of the fun things we get to do working here in at the vet hospital!



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