

**Poulsbo Animal Clinic is proud
to be participating in our second annual**

**KITSAP SPAY DAY
February 22, 2011**

Please contact our front desk
for more information about this event.

**20% Off
Spays & Neuters**
Feb. 21 - Mar. 4



**See our
SPECIAL OFFERS
inside!**



19494 F 7th Avenue NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370
360-779-4640




Halloween Costume Contest Results

Canine Winner: Tori Tindal • Feline Winner: Rufio and Tiger James

We would like to dedicate this issue of our newsletter to Tori, who passed away this December. We offer our deepest condolences to Tori's family. She was a very special dog and we will miss her.



We are now on Facebook! 
Visit our website at poulsboanimalclinic.com.

We would like to thank Intervet Schering-Plough for contributing to our newsletter and for producing quality vaccinations for our patients.



Poulsbo Veterinary News

Drs. Craig & Beth Adams

Poulsbo Animal Clinic
(360) 779-4640
PoulsboAnimalClinic.com



Special Offers:

**During the month
of March!**

-All kitty vaccines
are **50% off** with a
scheduled appointment.

-**Free** heartworm test
when you purchase a
12-month supply of
Revolution!
(a \$43 value)

**Call or visit our website
to make an appointment!**

Canine Influenza

A case of canine influenza was recently diagnosed in a dog at the Kitsap Humane Society. As a result, Poulsbo Animal Clinic is now recommending that all dogs considered to be "high-risk" be vaccinated against canine influenza virus.

Canine influenza is a highly contagious respiratory infection of dogs caused by an influenza virus that was first discovered in 2004. Canine influenza virus (CIV) causes an acute respiratory infection in dogs and results in flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, and nasal discharge.

Nearly all dogs that are exposed become infected, although only 80% actually develop symptoms. Dogs actively shed virus in respiratory secretions for 7-10 days after becoming infected. Most dogs recover from the infection within 2 weeks without any lasting effects. However, some dogs progress to develop pneumonia, most often due to secondary bacterial infection. The mortality rate of CIV is low (5-8%), but secondary pneumonia can be life-threatening.

Canine influenza is a new infection and most dogs lack pre-existing immunity to the virus. Dogs of any breed, age, or health status are susceptible to infection. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with infected dogs, aerosolized virus from coughing and sneezing, and from contaminated surfaces such as water/food bowls, dog toys, and the hands and clothing of

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The Case of the Missing Magnets

Cyrus, a 2-year-old English bulldog, presented to Dr. Craig because “he was not acting right.” He had eaten a small frog toy earlier in the week. Dr. Craig examined Cyrus and found him to be quieter than normal. His vitals were normal, but he had intense abdominal pain when his belly was palpated. Based on Cyrus’ history of foreign body ingestion and abdominal pain, Dr. Craig performed diagnostic testing to further investigate Cyrus’ condition.

Bloodwork showed that he was stable, but abdominal radiographs revealed a metallic foreign body in the stomach, possibly a magnet from the toy. The magnet was small, but due to the danger of magnet ingestion and his current clinical condition, Dr. Craig recommended exploratory surgery for Cyrus.

During surgery, Dr. Craig found that Cyrus had peritonitis: an infection of the abdominal cavity. Two cylindrical magnets were attached to the outside of the stomach wall and 1 magnet was later found on the inside of the stomach wall. A magnet-sized hole was found in the colon. The hole in the colon was repaired. A section of the stomach wall (with the attached magnets) was removed and the remaining defect was repaired, which was made more difficult by the steel instruments sticking to the powerful magnets! The abdominal cavity was flushed to remove as much bacterial contamination as possible. Antibiotics were given throughout Cyrus’ surgical procedure. After Cyrus had recovered from anesthesia, further evaluation of the magnets gave Dr. Craig more clues about what happened in Cyrus’ belly. Here is our theory:

Cyrus ate 3 magnets. Two magnets made it to the colon. One magnet remained in the stomach. The 2

magnets in the colon found the magnet in the stomach and stuck together. The magnets put heavy pressure on the tissue (stomach and colon) between the magnets. As a result, the colon and stomach walls lost

their blood supply and started to die. The two magnets in the colon tore through the dead section of colon and stayed with the stomach. A hole was left in the colon, which allowed bacterial contamination of the abdomen.

Cyrus ended up being a very lucky dog in the end. He recovered well from his ordeal and continues

to be a happy, energetic dog today.

abdominal radiographs revealed a metallic foreign body in the stomach



Feline Health Recommendations

Over the last decade, cats have become the most popular pet in the United States. However, recent studies have shown that pet owners are more than twice as likely to seek veterinary care for their canine friends than for their feline counterparts.

It is unclear why pet owners are more reluctant to seek regular veterinary care for their cats. Most cat owners are very attached to their feline friends and strongly feel that their cats are important members of their family. It is theorized that pet owners may feel that cats simply require less medical care. This misconception may be due to the perceived self-sufficient nature of cats and cats’ ability to “hide” states of illness. Some cat owners may also feel that a trip to the veterinary office is too stressful or difficult. It is important to establish a regular health care plan for cats to optimize their health and to detect early disease.

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) recommend annual wellness examinations and consultations for all cats. When cats are sick or geriatric, they may require more frequent veterinary visits. Wellness visits are necessary to establish preventive health care plans for cats. Commonly covered

topics at wellness visits include nutrition, vaccination recommendations, dental health, and parasite prevention programs. Additionally, the visits allow opportunities for important communication between pet owners and veterinarians. Any changes in a cat’s health, behavior, and quality of life can be discussed and proper recommendations can be made. Cats are masters at disguising illness and regular screening is essential to identifying early disease and initiating proper treatment.

For the month of March, we are offering

**50% off
ALL Feline Vaccines!!**

(A savings of up to \$34.50)

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Canine Influenza

people who have handled infected dogs. Once a dog has become infected, it is unclear how long their immunity lasts. CIV is extremely contagious and is most likely to spread in facilities where there is a high turnover of dogs in and out of the facility. Shelters, boarding/training facilities, day care centers, dog shows, vet clinics, pet stores, grooming parlors, and dog parks are all considered to be higher risk sites, especially in areas where the virus is prevalent. Dogs that exclusively stay home or are just leash-walked around the neighborhood may be at lower risk.

Canine influenza virus cannot be diagnosed based on clinical symptoms alone because there are many respiratory pathogens that cause similar signs of cough-

ing, sneezing, and nasal discharge. For dogs that have been ill for less than 4 days, veterinarians can collect nasal or throat swabs to be submitted for PCR testing to confirm infection. Blood testing can also be performed within the first week of illness and then 10-14 days later.

Treatment of canine influenza involves supportive care measures such as humidification of the home environment, cough suppression, and hydration maintenance. Antibiotics are usually not indicated unless secondary bacterial infection is present. Pneumonia is a serious condition that often requires hospitalization for antibiotics, intensive care, and monitoring.

A CIV vaccine was approved by the USDA in 2009. The vaccine has undergone safety trials and there have

been no significant side effects or safety issues. Although the CIV vaccine does not always prevent infection, it significantly reduces the severity and duration of disease, the shedding of the virus, and secondary damage to the lungs. The vaccine is recommended for dogs that are at higher risk for contracting the virus. Dogs that are considered to be at risk for being exposed to Bordetella, are thought to be at similar risk of being exposed to CIV. An initial vaccine is given, followed by a booster vaccine 2-4 weeks later. Annual vaccination is then recommended to maintain immunity.

Please visit poulsboanimalclinic.com or contact our office at 779-4640 for more information on CIV and our current vaccination recommendations.