



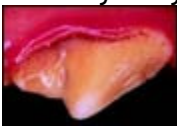
Hello everybody! Hope you enjoyed last month's newsletter on pet safety during these cold winter months. This month we are going to have an action packed newsletter celebrating National Spay Day and National Dental Health Month. Please read on for interesting facts about dental health and facts about our homeless animal population in Monongalia County.

YOUR PET'S DENTAL HEALTH:

- ✓ Dental care of dogs and cats is one of the most commonly overlooked areas of pet healthcare.
- ✓ Approximately 2/3 of owners do not provide dental care recommended by the veterinarian.
- ✓ 80% of dogs and 70% of cats show signs of oral disease by the age of 3.
- ✓ Dental disease can lead to more serious health problems like heart, lung and kidney disease.

We Recommend:

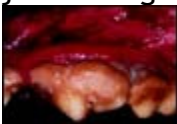
- ✓ A yearly pet oral exam- this oral exam is part of your pet's routine yearly physical. The doctor will put a grade on your pet's dental health.



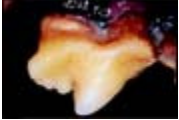
Grade 1: Dental calculi and tartar are the beginning. They are described as the yellow brownish deposit that is located on the base of the teeth at the gum line. This deposit is full of harmful bacteria.



Grade 2: Stage 2 is gingivitis. Gingivitis is the inflammation and reddening of the gums. This inflammation is caused by the bacterium that is just sitting on the gum line of your pet's teeth.



Grade 3: Stage 3 is periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is when your pet's gum line actually recedes from the tooth due to so much gingivitis and bacteria.



Grade 4: Stage 4 is severe periodontal disease. The abundance of bacteria present in the tartar moves through the gum line into the bloodstream. This then causes kidney, liver and heart disease.

- ✓ Daily/Weekly brushing- it's not as hard as you might think, and we would be happy to show you! We have toothbrushes that fit right on your finger and poultry or beef-flavored toothpaste. Yum!
- ✓ Dental Prophylaxis- this is a dental cleaning under anesthesia. We recommend having this procedure when your pet is grade 2-3. This is a good time to do a dental because it catches the dental disease before it deposits bacteria into your pet's blood stream causing kidney, heart and liver problems. It also catches the teeth before we can't save them and they have to be pulled.

MONONGALIA COUNTY SHELTER FACTS:

Due to February 23rd being National Spay Day and February being Responsible Pet Owner's Month, I am going to disclose the disheartening facts that came from the Canine Adoption Center for 2010. For those of you who don't know, the Canine Adoption Center is our local shelter that is run by the county.

Cats: 1,351 cats were taken into the shelter
239 cats left the shelter
1,112 cats were euthanized in the shelter in Monongalia County alone last year.

Dogs: 1,129 dogs were taken into the shelter
685 dogs left the shelter
444 dogs were euthanized

We think these numbers are quite depressing. These numbers come, after all the efforts of the community raising money to help assist with spay/neuter, and after all the efforts of the great staff at the Canine Adoption Center to adopt these wonderful pets. It comes down to irresponsible pet owners, which have not altered their pets. A female cat can have up to 3 litters per year. These kittens grow up and have cats of their own, and soon it gets out of hand, with stray cats running around reproducing all over the county.

If you would like to help decrease these numbers next year, get the word out to spay/neuter. If you would like to monetarily help with spay/neuter projects let us know. Non-profit organizations like M-SNAP are a good place to donate money to help fund spay/neuter projects; also our project C.A.N.S. collects aluminum cans to raise money for spay/neuter. If you have any questions about these organizations, please let us know!

Benefits of spay/neuter:

- ✓ No heat cycles- no desire to roam
- ✓ Reduces risk of spraying/markings
- ✓ Risk of mammary gland tumors, ovarian/uterine and testicular cancer is eliminated
- ✓ Decreases aggressive behavior
- ✓ Helps dogs and cats live healthier lives

ADOPTIONS:

I am extremely happy to report that both our adoptions, Boots and Marge, got adopted! I would like to thank all who were involved with finding these great cats homes.



Opal is a female longhaired black/chocolate cat. Opal is very sweet and loves other cats, dogs and children. She is the mother to the litter of kittens we adopted a couple months back.



Cato is an adorable little kitten. He is super friendly and loves to be held.

They are both altered, vaccinated, felv/fiv negative and ready to go!

CANINE ADOPTION CENTER CRITTERS:

<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/WV105.html>



Skinny is a 5 yr old Beagle; she is very shy but likes people who are gentle and move slowly. She gets along OK with other dogs and weighs about 20lbs.



Trista is a 5 yr old Pit Bull mix; she is outgoing and likes to play. She does not like cats and that is why she is here. She is not aggressive to dogs though. Other than being a little overweight she seems healthy.



Bridge and Rummy are brothers who look to be Lab, Hound, and Shepherd mix. They are about 16 wks old and are a little frightened, but will come around quickly.



Chumley is a male Beagle mix; he is 2 yrs old and likes to be around people but has never been leashed trained, so he becomes terrified when you put a leash around his neck. He will need a little TLC and some training.

If you are interested in any of these animals, please call 304-291-7267.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Hillcrest Veterinary Clinic has been participating for almost three years in the voucher program run by Mountaineer Spay Neuter Assistance Program (M-SNAP). M-SNAP is an all-volunteer, non-profit group that promotes spay/neuter as the only viable solution to the problem of pet overpopulation in Monongalia County. 1,514 animals died at our pound last year, just because there were not enough homes for them all.

Every February, animal welfare groups from all over the world are called to action to save lives through spay/neuter. SPAY Day, sponsored by the International Humane

Society and the Humane Society of the United States, is an annual event held on the last Tuesday in February, with supporting activities throughout February, which is National Spay Month.

This February, M-SNAP will be calling attention to pet overpopulation in Monongalia County through a Community Blitz. Watch for billboards, posters, radio announcements, newspaper ads, and articles in newsletters like this one.

Please visit their web site at www.m-snap.org to learn how you can make a difference to the animals living in Mon County. You will find a link to a pet photo contest, a portal to Amazon.com, a section about ReTails, the M-SNAP thrift store located in the Morgantown Mall, and lots of information about the organization itself.

Pet overpopulation is a solvable problem. The solution needs everyone's contribution. M-SNAP thanks Hillcrest Veterinary Clinic and all the other community businesses, organizations, and individuals who are already helping, and encourages those of you who don't yet understand why you are needed and why pet overpopulation is everyone's problem to "donate" a little time during National Spay Month to learn the answers.

NATIONAL PET HOLIDAYS:

- ❖ February is Responsible Pet Owners Month
- ❖ February is Dental Health Month
- ❖ Have a Heart for Chained Dogs Week is February 7-14th
- ❖ Pet Theft Awareness Day is February 14th
- ❖ Spay Day USA is February 23rd
- ❖ National Dog Biscuit Day is February 23rd

Bring your dog in for a biscuit!

That is all we have for this month. If you have any questions about dental disease or spay/neuter, please give us a call. Happy Valentines Day!