



August 2011 NEWSLETTER

Order Your Pet's Prescriptions Safely from Antonio Animal Hospital!

Both the FDA and CVMA have recently issued warnings to pet owners regarding ordering prescription pet medications and pet foods through online pharmacies. The CVMA went so far as to call it potentially hazardous to every pet's health, and advises pet owners to be aware of the risks associated with animal medications purchased from online pharmacies.

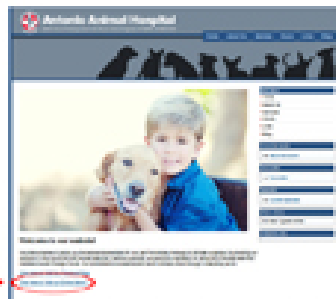
While some online pharmacies are FDA certified and sell legal medications supplied from reputable sources, an overwhelming number of online pharmacies sell diluted or counterfeit medications. Because pet medications can be expensive, it is understandable that many pet owners are looking for affordable alternatives.

Most veterinarians have struggled for years to find a way to provide more affordable pet medications with the same ease that comes with ordering online. Recently, Antonio Animal Hospital opened our own online store. By partnering with MWI Proxy, one of our trusted medical suppliers, we are able to provide affordable, safe prescription medications and pet foods.

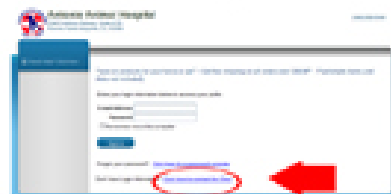
To order your pets medications or prescription pet food online, simply visit our website at www.antonioanimalhospital.com. Follow the link at the bottom of our webpage and register your client information with our store. Rest assured, your information is kept private and not shared with any other companies. Once you have registered you may browse our store and request your pets medications or foods. If you have any problems, call our office and a staff member will assist you.

How Do You Order?

Visit our website at www.antonioanimalhospital.com. Click on the link at the bottom of the page to be directed to our store log in.



You will be directed to our log-in page. If this is your first time shopping with us, you will need to follow the link at the bottom to register. Once you have registered, you can log in using your email address and password.



Once you have registered, ordering your pets prescription medications and pet foods is a quick and easy process!

Antonio Animal Hospital
22461 Antonio Parkway, Suite A120
Rancho Santa Margarita, Ca 92688
(949) 858-0949 Phone
(949) 858-0501 Fax
www.antonioanimalhospital.com



Norman Seat, DVM
William Yohler, DVM

"People don't care how much you know,
until they know how much you care."

Crown Fractures

by William Yohler, DVM

One of the more common dental abnormalities in veterinary medicine are crown fractures. Tooth fractures commonly result from trauma, excessive biting forces or stresses applied to the tooth in a non-physiological direction. There are two categories of crown fractures, uncomplicated (closed crown fractures) and complicated (open crown fractures). Both fractures will look similar upon presentation and can only be properly diagnosed with a thorough oral exam (awake and anesthetized) and dental X-rays.



An uncomplicated crown fracture is a fracture of the enamel with no pulp exposure. You may recall from the earlier anatomy article that the enamel is the hard outer covering of the tooth crown. It is hard, smooth, and naturally (to a certain extent) resists the buildup of bacteria and plaque. When the enamel is damaged the underlying dentine is exposed. You may also recall that the softer dentine has thousands of dentinal tubules that connect to the pulp. The hydrostatic pressure applied to the tubules includes a pain response from the pulp of the tooth.

Uncomplicated crown fractures of the canine teeth or incisors commonly result from striking forces applied to the tooth, as in running into a wall or furniture, fights with other animals, chewing on fences or transport cages, etc. Fractures of the premolars and molars usually result from biting forces applied to hard objects like rocks, bones, hard chew toys, even chewing on softer raw hide can result in a fractured crown. Cats typically don't chew on items as dogs do, so they rarely fracture teeth through biting on objects.

Once the crown fractures, biting forces on the exposed dentine will induce pain. The softer dentine will allow faster build up of bacteria and plaque that may eventually result in infection of the tooth and necrosis (cell death).

Any fractured tooth should be examined carefully. Small chips out of the enamel may or may not require medical or surgical intervention. If there is dentine exposure the tooth should be thoroughly cleaned, any rough edges can be filed down, and a bonding agent can be applied to seal the dentinal tubules. This stops the tooth pain and protects the tooth from continued injury and infection.

A complicated or open crown fracture is defined as a crown fracture resulting in direct exposure of the pulp cavity. Initially the fractured tooth is quite painful depending upon the amount of pulp exposure. Over time the dog or cat learns to deal with the pain. It just doesn't go away! Crown fractures commonly are transverse (across the tooth) but can be longitudinal (parallel to the tooth edge) and extend below the gingiva and gum line. Complicated crown fractures are commonly the result of trauma, i.e. hit by car, contact with inanimate objects (ball bats, golf clubs, or other accidental trauma), and fights, catching rocks or other very hard objects. The maxillary (upper) canine teeth of cats extend below the upper lip. Falls and strikes to the head will easily fracture a canine tooth of a cat. The enamel is thinner in felines and a 1st degree or less chip can expose the pulp cavity.

Crown Fractures, cont.

Crown fractures of the upper fourth premolar and lower first molar commonly occur by applying excessive biting forces down on hard objects, bones, rocks, etc. There may also be lateral forces applied to the tooth (not parallel to the tooth edge) resulting in a slab fracture. A slab fracture is a crown fracture running from the front to the rear of the tooth. This slab of enamel typically remains attached to the gingiva and thus moves with every bite the pet takes. It may be uncomplicated or complicated, so pain is induced by the hydrostatic pressure on the dentinal tubules, by movement of the slab at the gingival border, and by direct pulp exposure.

The pulp exposed in a complicated crown fracture may appear as a pink area on the fractured surface, or may even bleed when the fracture first occurs. Reparative dentine may develop over the exposed pulp resulting in a brown discoloration or the pulp may die (necrosis) and turn black. An open pulp chamber exposes the inside of the tooth to saliva, food and bacteria and can result in an apical abscess as infection travels down the pulp chamber to the bone at the root tip.

A complicated fracture on a young dog is considered a dental emergency. A vital direct pulp cap procedure may be able to preserve the integrity of the tooth and allow continued tooth development. The same procedure can be performed on an adult patient to preserve the tooth. Once the tooth is infected or necrotic the only options are root canal therapy or extraction. Root canal therapy is typically performed by a board certified dental specialist since this procedure requires specialized training and equipment. As might be expected, root canal therapy carries with it a high price tag. A root canal done properly might require two hours or more under anesthetic. Some teeth, after the root canal procedure, may require the placement of a crown for ultimate protection of the tooth, which is even more expensive.

Most complicated crown fractures are treated by extraction. A more detailed description of extractions will follow in a later article. Preserving the integrity of a tooth and the whole oral cavity is always the first goal, but so is controlling and preventing pain. The dog or cat is better off without a tooth than living with constant pain. Those of you that have had root canal therapy on yourself can attest to the level of pain you have endured.

In summary, there are two types of crown fractures: uncomplicated and complicated. Uncomplicated fractures can be repaired with a comparatively simple bonding procedure, while complicated fractures require root canal therapy or extraction. I will reemphasize that oral pain is not obvious. The absence of vocalization and the ability to still eat are not sufficient parameters to judge the severity of the injury. A dog or cat with a broken jaw will still try to eat! The pain that develops from a fractured tooth is a slow, insidious process that your pet just learns to tolerate. They cannot complain the way we do! Any unusual appearing tooth or tooth surface should be examined and appropriate care initiated.

Teach Your Children to be Pet-Responsible

Children can learn invaluable lessons from caring for pets. Studies have shown that children who grow up with pets are more compassionate, caring, and thoughtful than children who did not grow up with pets. Some studies even point out that children who grow up with pets learn to be better communicators. Pets offer children unconditional love and support, especially in times of stress.

Teaching children to be responsible for their pets is vital. It can lay the foundation for your children growing up to be disciplined, responsible adults. It is important to start teaching your children to care for their pets from a very young age.

Begin with teaching infants and toddlers to respect their pets personal space. Give your pet their own area in the house, whether it is a crate, bed or inside a closet, where your child is not allowed to bother them. Teach your child to leave your pets toys alone. Never allow your child to approach your pet while they are eating, resting, chewing on a toy or treat.

Using role play to teach young children is a great way to demonstrate being "gentle". Have your child pretend to be the puppy, and you carefully pet and play with them. Take turns allowing your child to treat you as a puppy. Remember that children learn by imitating adults, so always be gentle and kind to your pets.

Teach your child to wash their hands after handling their pets. The most important rule is to never leave your child unattended with a pet. Children are by nature impulsive and curious, and leaving them unsupervised can result in catastrophe.

Toddlers and young children can help care for pets. With careful adult supervision, children can begin to clean and fill water bowls regularly, as well as help with feeding times. Have your child accompany you when taking your dog for a walk, although young children are too small to hold the leash on their own. If the dog becomes suddenly excited or scared, they can run from a young child easily. Even small dogs can dart away quickly, so make sure an adult holds the leash at all times.

As your children grow, you can expand their responsibilities. Teach your children about hazardous items that can harm your pet, such as toxic plants, foods such as grapes and raisins, and small household items that can be harmful if swallowed. Teach your children to keep your pet safe from these items. Older children can learn to walk your dog on a leash, and help with cleaning up pet waste.

Please remember that children are not adults, and should not be given more responsibility than is appropriate for their age. It is important that parents closely supervise their children when caring for their pets at any age.



Training Tips by Dan Cicio

Many people have asked me what is the first or most important thing they should teach their dog. While there is no perfect answer to that question, in most cases, I say "eye contact". I'm sure you were expecting "sit", but bear with me!

There are a few reasons why eye contact is so useful to start with. First (and possibly most important), it is relatively easy to teach. Relatedly, it is easy for your dog to do, even when a bit distracted or at a distance. The last reason is that it helps your dog focus on you with a simple command or gesture.

Have you ever tried to ask someone a question while they were watching television? We all know how that goes: if they did not turn away from the screen and look at you, odds are good that your request did not even get processed. While dogs are not quite that bad, when they do make eye contact with you, you know for sure that they are listening. Since dogs are notoriously bad at focusing on multiple things at once, it is incredibly useful to be able to tell them when they need to focus on you. A dog holding your gaze might as well be alone on an island with you; nothing else is important to them at that moment!

To teach this command, you will need a small treat of some kind, something you know your dog likes. If your dog is particularly food motivated (I'm speaking primarily to lab owners here!), you can use kibble. Otherwise, a very small treat is the way to go.

If your dog knows how to sit, it will be easiest to have them do so. Next, get close to your dog, on their level. Hold the treat between your thumb and first finger and let your dog see it. Slowly move it from side to side, so that their eyes follow it. If your dog's gaze breaks off from the treat, immediately put your hand behind your back and look away for 5-10 seconds before trying again. After your dog has begun following the treat, bring it up to the bridge of your nose. This will cause your dog to look into your eyes incidentally. The moment his eyes hit yours, give him the treat!

Over time, you will be able to teach your dog to hold your gaze longer, but at step one, we just want to get him used to looking in your eyes. The reason this step is necessary is that dogs do not naturally make eye contact. For this reason, I would not recommend this exercise if your dog has a history of dominant behavior towards people. In that case, contact a trainer before trying this.

With a little practice, you will be able to get--and hold--your dog's attention at any time. In my mind, that is at least as valuable a tool as anything else we can teach. If you have any questions about this or other training issues, feel free to contact me at (949) 709-4600 or DanCicio@gmail.com.





Group Training Workshops

September & October Calendar

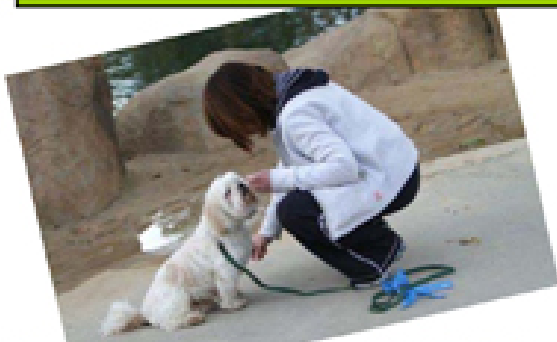
Dogs of all ages and sizes are welcome!

Workshops will be conducted by our Certified Dog Trainer:
Dan Ciclo

Sign up
today!
709-4600

Each Workshop
\$25.00

Location: At the RSM lake
(Meet at the RSM Lake Amphitheatre off Avenida De Las Flores)



Leash Manners

"Let's stop going for a drag!"
Learn how to get your dog calm
and to walk without dragging

Dan - Sat, Sept 10 & Oct 8
10:30am - 12:00pm

Recall

"No, really, get over here!"
Teaching the basics of
the come command

Dan - Sat, Sept 17 & Oct 15
10:30am - 12:00pm

Self-Control

"Go To Your Place!"
Gives him a place to settle, especially
helpful when visitors come over

Dan - Sat, Sept. 24 & Oct 22
10:30am - 12:00pm

Focus

*"Attention is the foundation of
all future training"*

When a dog is focusing on you,
there is a greater likelihood that
he will listen to you as well

Dan - Sat, Oct 1 & 29
10:30am - 12:00pm



Antonio

Animal Hospital

22461 Antonio Parkway, #A120
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA
(949) 858-0949 Phone
(949) 858-0941 Fax
www.antonioanimalhospital.com

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
7am to 6pm

Doctors Hours are
by Appointment

Technician Hours:

Monday through Friday
9am to 12pm
&
3pm to 5pm

Veterinary Assistants:

Ryan
Analia
Chelsea
Cathie

Receptionists:

Amanda
Katie
Oakley

For questions or

information

regarding this

publication, contact:

[katie@antonioanimal](mailto:katie@antonioanimalhospital.com)

[hospital.com](http://antonioanimalhospital.com)

A Letter From Dr. Seal

"People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

I am very pleased with the launch of our very own online store. So many of our clients have already ordered items, including flea control such as Comfortis.

There were several reasons for developing our own store. The main reason was to control inventory costs while offering a variety of products. Typically our office carries just a few flea and tick prevention products. In the last few years there have been quite a few new products introduced that fit the needs of several of our patients. Unfortunately, carrying a wide variety of products can also mean increasing the cost to our clients.

By partnering with MWI, we have managed to keep the product costs significantly lower than if we carried the same products here in our office. In most cases our online prices are the same as retailers such as PetMeds.com. Unlike other online retailers, products purchased through our online store are backed by the manufacturers guarantee.

For the month of August you will find that the price of our most popular item, Comfortis, is \$5 less than other major online retailers. Comfortis is a flea prevention tablet given just once a month. Although we still carry and recommend Frontline Plus for flea and tick prevention, many of our clients have found that Comfortis is a great product to use when just preventing fleas.

I hope that our online store provides my clients with both selection and savings. If you have any questions or need help navigating the store, call our office at (949) 858-0949.

Free Nail Trim &
Anal Gland Expression
with the purchase of a
Bath & Bath Special



Expires 9/30/11

Coupon must be presented to receive discount.
Cannot be combined with other offers.
Limit one coupon per household. No cash value.
Some restrictions may apply.

\$25 Off One
Anesthetic Dentistry
for One Pet



Expires 9/30/11

Coupon must be presented to receive discount.
Cannot be combined with other offers.
Limit one coupon per household. No cash value.
Some restrictions may apply.

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