



## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2012

# PET DENTAL MONTH

DR. SEAT

DR. YOHLER

### ANTONIO ANIMAL HOSPITAL

22461 Antonio Pkwy  
A120

Rancho Santa Margarita,  
CA 92679

TEL: 949-858-0949

FAX: 949-858-0501

### HOURS OF BUSINESS:

Monday- Friday

7am-6pm

Closed Weekends

### Doctor's

### APPOINTMENTS:

9-11:30 AM & 3-5:30PM

### TECHNICIAN HOURS:

9-11 AM & 3-5 PM

## Receptionist Point of View

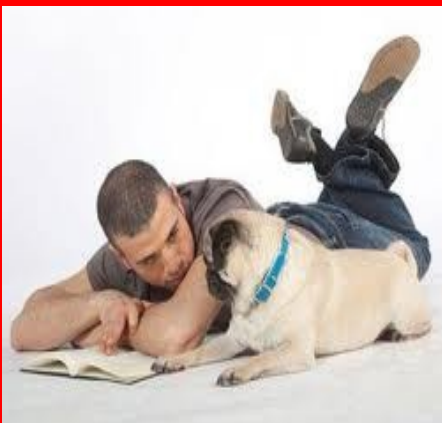
Our receptionists here at Antonio Animal Hospital enjoy their job. Its really more than a job for us because we love our clients and treat our patients as if they were our own. Our job as receptionists is to make sure that you, our client, are informed about common tests, procedures and flea/ tick/ heartworm/ common parasite preventatives out there to keep your family and pet safe and healthy. Please don't ever feel as if you are taking too much of our time. We will be more than glad to help you with any pet-related concerns. If we can not answer a question right away, please be patient while we ask our technicians and Doctor on staff for their knowledge on whatever the subject may be. Any time that our clients walk into our hospital we do our best to make sure that you walk out with more knowledge regarding your pets health and well being. At Antonio Animal Hospital we strive to make certain our clients know that we care and will always go above and beyond to make your pet as comfortable as possible. Since the receptionists at the front desk don't do any treatments to your pet, we get to reap most, if not all, the loving rewards from your pet. Kisses, hugs and giving them treats are a few of our favorite parts of our job.

Remember that some of our pets have problems as well and we can relate to what you or your pet might be going through. We understand that finances are also on your mind when you walk through the door. If you have any financial concerns, please let us know ahead of time so that any costs for treatments don't surprise you. We will do our very best to give you estimates when you ask. We have nothing to hide and will gladly let you know the cost of treatments, medications and over the counter products that we carry. Don't forget to pick up some treats, joint supplements or dental products for your loved one. They sure will appreciate it. Perhaps the treats more than anything else, but at least you know it's the little things that make them happy!

## Technician Corner (Doctor's Assistant)

This is someone trained in the care of animals who performs clinical work under the supervision of a veterinarian in private practice, although some of them work in research. They carry out different tests to diagnose and treat animals. Some of their duties include:

- Taking blood samples
- Preparing tissue samples
- Assisting with dental care
- Performing such laboratory tests as blood counts and urinalysis
- Recording animal case histories
- Developing X-rays
- Providing specialized nursing care
- Providing post operative care
- Sterilizing surgical and other laboratory equipment
- Vaccinating animals , expressing anal glands and performing nail trims



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## DR. YOHLER PRESENTS: ORAL NEOPLASMS

A discussion of oral tumors or any tumor in general, is often the most difficult condition to discuss with a pet owner. As soon as the word cancer comes up everyone hits the panic button and the conversation often becomes a doom and gloom subject. Hopefully this article will educate you about cancers to assist you in making proper decisions about your pet's future and realize that with early diagnosis and treatment all is not lost.

First a few general concepts and definitions: A neoplasia is an abnormal proliferation of cells. Neoplasms are divided into three broad categories. 1) Benign (no malignant or metastatic potential) 2) Pre-malignant (cells early in development that have the potential to develop into a malignancy) and 3) Malignant (cancerous cells that can invade other tissue or metastasize or spread to other areas. A tumor was originally defined as any swelling. The current medical definition of a tumor is synonymous with neoplasia. A carcinoma in situ is an early cancer with no invasion of tumor cells into surrounding tissue but it is considered to be a precursor to or an incipient form of cancer.

A cancer cell is a mutation of a normal cell that begins to divide and develop at a rate faster than normal cells. Every division of the abnormal cells doubles the number of cells. At approximately twenty-two cell doublings the tumor is about the size of a pea. This is at the recognition threshold for a mass. A tumor in the lungs smaller than a pea may not be identifiable on X-ray. A tumor of the skin smaller than a pea may be difficult to locate. The significance is that at the next cell division all the cells double and the mass is now the size of two peas, then four peas, etc. This exponential growth makes the tumor appear to be growing remarkably fast when in reality the growth is constant. It might take twenty-two days, weeks or months for the cell number to double. In general the faster the growth the more aggressive and dangerous the tumor is and therefore the prognosis is more guarded.

Oral tumors represent the fourth most common malignancy in dogs and cats. They are difficult to find since they originate from the gums, inside of the lips, back of the throat, under the tongue or other hard to examine locations. Thus the importance of a thorough oral exam both while the pet is awake and while anesthetized. Many tumors of the mouth are discovered while a dental cleaning is being performed.

A pet owner should be aware of the presence of any fleshy oral masses, halitosis, hemorrhage, change in appetite, drooling, loss of teeth, facial swelling, thickening or swelling of the jaw, sneezing especially one sided discharge, pain, change in voice, pawing at the mouth, or weight loss. These are general signs but they should prompt you to get your pet examined immediately. Any unusual mass in the oral cavity should be removed and biopsied as soon as possible. Early diagnosis and treatment is the best medicine.

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The following is a brief description of the most common malignant neoplasms of the oral cavity. Oral malignant melanoma is the most common cancerous mass of the dog. They usually occur in older pets (mean age of 11 years) and are more common in Cocker Spaniels, German Shepherds or any breed with heavily pigmented oral tissue. The tumors are usually black in color although an amelanotic melanoma is just as dangerous but lacks the black pigment. They are rapidly growing tumors which produce large masses prior to therapy. They have a strong tendency to re-grow locally if removed surgically and can spread rapidly to regional lymph nodes and to the lungs. Treatment is aggressive surgery possibly chemotherapy and or radiation therapy and the results can be less than successful.

Oral fibrosarcomas are malignant tumors that occur primarily in young (4-5 years) large breed dogs or older (8 years or older) small breed dogs. These tumors are invasive and have a strong tendency to re-grow after surgery. They seldom metastasize (spread). Prognosis is variable depending upon histopathologic staging. Treatment is aggressive surgery with wide margins including removal of bone and radiation may be necessary after surgery.

Squamous cell carcinoma is the most common oral malignancy in the cat and the second most common in the dog. These neoplasms are locally aggressive with metastasis to lymph nodes and lungs commonly. In general the further back into the mouth the more dangerous the tumor is. Wide surgical margins are required to remove the masses or radiation may be used for palliative control if radical surgery is not possible.

Oral osteosarcomas are not found as frequently as the ones described above. Medium to large sized breeds, middle age to older, with females slightly more commonly affected. Osteosarcomas are much less common in the cat. The lesion appears as a gross, fleshy mass in early stages and local bone invasion can cause significant facial swelling. Aggressive surgical resection of the mass is needed and even with this survival time might only be 5-7 months. Radiation therapy might be indicated after surgery or as a palliative measure instead of aggressive surgery. A diagnosis of cancer is

always a heart wrenching problem with our pets. The key to success is early diagnosis and treatment. This is especially true of the oral cavity but also of any mass anywhere on your pet's body. If you wait for something to happen it usually will. It's like throwing a pass in football. Three things can happen and two of them are bad!

**GET YOUR PET EXAMINED NOW!!**



Figure 3: The same type of oral cancer that frequently occurs in man, is also the most common type in the dog

### ANNUAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to keep your pet healthy, we strongly advise our clients to consider doing these following annual recommendations and preventatives. Examinations once a year and every 6 months for senior pets. Fecal checks to make sure there are no intestinal parasites that could potentially harm your pet or family. Blood work to make sure their internal organs are closely monitored. Depending on the age of your pet and if they are on a certain medication, blood work should be done at least once a year if not every 6 months. Heartworm tests to make certain they do not have lyme/ tick born diseases or heartworms. Lastly, vaccinations to prevent the spread of diseases. Please call to speak to our receptionists so that they may be able to inform you if your pet is due to have any of these tests performed.

### ANTONIO ANIMAL HOSPITAL'S ONLINE PHARMACY

We have an online pharmacy where you can easily order over the counter medications for your pet. You may also order shampoos, food and treats. We are able to fill most medications online as well. All you need to do is visit our website [antonioanimalhospital.com](http://antonioanimalhospital.com) and click on the link on our home page to get started. You need to create your own account and password. Then one of our receptionist will be contacting you by e-mail to confirm your account. After that is done just look for what it is you might need for your beloved pet and order! Normal delivery time is 5 business days, however, if you need your products sooner, please feel free to contact our office for a rush delivery. When calling our office first if you need to rush an order we might just have that certain item in stock.

### ANTONIO ANIMAL HOSPITAL'S NEWEST EMPLOYEE



Our newest addition to our staff is a young lady named Norah Spooner. She came to us in September., after recently moving from Oregon. Lucky for her we were the first job she applied to and the last. We snatched up the military wife with political background. The fact that she is very friendly and witty meant that we couldn't pass her up! She has almost 3 years experience in the veterinary field. Norah has two dogs named Bailey (10 yr old Labrador Mix) and Zeke (2 yr old Shepherd Mix). She loves taking her energetic dogs running and to the beach. Norah enjoys learning to cook, reading and watching witty television shows. She loves animals and hasn't been able to live without them— ever! Norah is married to a Marine Sgt. named Steve. He is thankfully here with her and his family, not in Afghanistan. We are very appreciative of the fact that he had enlisted himself to serve our country. Thank you Steve!

### IMPORTANCE OF MICROCHIPPING



Here is a picture of one of our technicians, Jennifer. In her arms is a very thankful pet that was brought into our office by a good samaritan. He was found wandering the neighborhood, running across Antonio Pkwy wearing a collar with an ID tag. Unfortunately, the telephone number on the ID tag he was wearing was unreadable. We used our microchip scanner and luckily, he had a microchip implanted! SUCCESS!! We were then able to obtain the information to lead to Boomer's return to his grateful family.

Each year thousands of lost animals are taken in by shelters and humane societies across North America. Some of these animals never make it home because they can't be identified. Although collars and tags are useful, they can be removed or get lost and tattooing can become illegible over time.

Microchips are the only truly permanent method of identifying your dog or cat. It lasts for the lifetime of your pet. Our microchips are about the size of a grain of rice and are implanted just beneath the surface of the skin between the shoulder blades. The process is similar to receiving a vaccination through a needle and is painless to pets. Once implanted the microchip remains between the shoulder blades just beneath the skin for the rest of the animal's lifetime, becoming a permanent form of identification.

No surgery or general anesthesia is required. A microchip can be implanted during a routine veterinary office visit. A local anesthetic is applied just prior to the implantation. If your pet is already under anesthesia for a procedure, such as neutering or spaying, the microchip can be implanted while they're still under anesthesia. You can call us during our office hours to schedule an appointment to have your pet microchipped.



### NATIONAL PET DENTAL MONTH

MAKE A DENTAL APPOINTMENT FOR THE  
MONTH OF FEBRUARY

**RECEIVE \$50 OFF A  
DENTAL PROCEDURE**

FREE DENTAL KIT THAT INCLUDES:

- \*CET Chew
  - \*Toothbrush
  - \*Toothpaste
  - \*Oral Rinse
  - \*Dental tips for home care
- (EXPIRES END OF FEBRAURY)