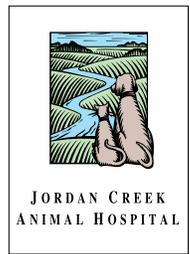




FALL 2017 Gazette

☞ newsletter for people and their pets



3401 E.P. True Parkway
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

in this issue:

Cats and Carriers

Kennel Cough

Hospital News

AAHA Accreditation

Meet the Staff

How Can I Get My Cat Into A Carrier?

Many cats are reluctant to enter a cat carrier. They likely associate it with unsettling experiences like long car trips or visits to the veterinarian. Cats' sense of security comes from a familiar environment, so leaving the secure space of home can cause anxiety.

One way to decrease the stress of a ride in the carrier is to make the carrier part of the cat's usual environment. Leaving the carrier out in an accessible space on a regular basis can remove fear of the carrier. If you have space in your home, keep the carrier out at all times, so it is a part of the cat's home base. If not, setting it out a few weeks before the next planned trip will help. Make the carrier a pleasant place, clean, doors open, with comfy bedding inside. Place treats and favorite toys in the carrier periodically. If your cat has a favorite food, you can try feeding that in the carrier. If your cat ap-

proaches the carrier offer a special treat to reward the behavior. Cats do not learn by punishment or force, and can pick up on our frustration or anxiety. Remaining calm and having patience to allow your cat to get comfortable with the carrier is an important step. Familiarizing your cat with the carrier as a kitten is the best option, but can still be done with adult cats to reduce the stress of travel.

When choosing a carrier, look for a sturdy, hard-sided model that can be secured in a level position in the back seat with a seatbelt. Those with a top and front opening allow the easiest access to move your cat in and out of the carrier. Those that snap apart to allow the top half to be removed, also allow easier access. Some cats may allow an exam while still resting in the bottom half of the carrier.

If your cat will not have time to become accustomed to the carrier before a vet visit or travel, you may have to place an unwilling cat in the carrier. Avoid feeding right before travel if possible to avoid travel sickness.

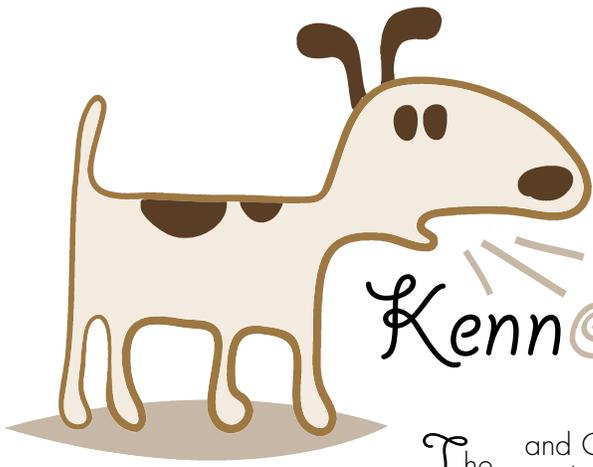
Prepare the carrier by placing soft bedding inside that smells like home. Towels, blankets or even a piece of your clothing can be used. You may want to try wiping or spraying the carrier with Feliway, a syn-



Continued on page 2

Contact us by calling 515-224-9500 or visit our website at www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jordancreekanimalhospital





Can
My Dog
Get

Kennel Cough?

The short answer is yes! Even vaccinated dogs can get kennel cough, though vaccination remains the best way to prevent or reduce the condition.

Kennel cough is a highly contagious form of tracheobronchitis (inflammation of the large airways) that causes a harsh, frequent hacking cough. It may be a mild condition that resolves on its own, or more severe requiring antibiotics and cough suppressants. Uncomplicated kennel cough lasts for a week or two, with the coughing patient feeling otherwise well. Rarely, it will progress to pneumonia. Young dogs, immune compromised dogs, and short-faced breeds such as Pugs and Bulldogs are at higher risk.

Infectious tracheobronchitis is spread very easily wherever dogs share space, such as dog parks, kennels, groomers, dog shows, obedience classes, veterinary offices, daycares, playdates, or neighborhood dogs. Infection is spread primarily through coughing, but also through sharing toys, bowls, and other items.

Kennel cough can be caused by several different organisms, and infections frequently involve more than one agent such as parainfluenza virus, adenovirus type 2, and the bacteria *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. Other viruses and bacteria can also cause the condition, including Canine Influenza virus. The incubation period ranges from a few days to a few weeks.

Vaccination is routinely done for three common viruses in puppy and adult boosters. Vaccinations for *Bordetella*

and Canine Influenza are given separately and are required for boarding at many facilities, including Jordan Creek Animal Hospital. Though no vaccine is 100% effective in protecting from disease, vaccination greatly decreases the frequency of transmission and the severity of cases. The vaccine does not protect against all causes of kennel cough so infection is still possible in vaccinated dogs.

The spread of kennel cough may be on the rise in recent years due to the increased use of daycare for dogs. Some pet owners use more than one facility, increasing the risk of transmission from one kennel setting to another. Canine Influenza virus has also become more common in the US in the last several years. There are now two strains of the virus circulating, and they may cause a more severe disease than routine kennel cough. There have been significant outbreaks of Canine Influenza in the Chicago area the last two years, and in Minnesota this summer, as well as other spots throughout the US. Dogs traveling to or from these areas may bring the virus home with them.

For these reasons, we strongly recommend that dogs who spend time in groups with other dogs receive their routine vaccinations, and vaccination against *Bordetella* and Canine Influenza. We require these vaccines at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital to protect all our boarding patients. Though no vaccine can completely eliminate the chance of kennel cough, it is the best possible way to prevent and minimize spread to your canine companion.

Using A Cat Carrier

Continued from page 1

thetic feline pheromone that can have a calming effect on your cat.

Place the carrier in a small room with few hiding places. Move slowly and calmly, and do not chase your cat toward the carrier. If your carrier has a top opening, gently cradle the cat and lower him into the carrier, closing the lid quietly but quickly. If your carrier does not open from the top, tip the carrier on end, with the door facing up, and lower your cat down into the carrier backwards, holding the back feet and the chest. Cats have a natural instinct to back away from the unfamiliar, so placing a reluctant cat in back-end first is often easier. If needed, you can also take the top half off to place the cat in the carrier, replacing the top and door as you do so. If your cat struggles, you can try quickly bundling her into a thick towel first, or gently place him into a pillowcase just long enough to get him into the carrier.

Once your cat is in the carrier, cover all or part of it with a towel so the cat feels safe and protected, making sure there is adequate ventilation. At the vet's office, avoid placing the carrier on the floor if curious dogs are present. Cats may feel more secure on an elevated surface.

While cats rarely enjoy traveling outside their familiar environment, taking time to prepare yourself, your cat and the carrier well ahead of time can ease the stress of veterinary visits and car travel.





Welcome Heather!

Heather grew up on a family farm in Olin, Iowa. She attended Iowa State University and graduated with her Bachelors of Animal Science Degree. Hobbies of hers include horseback riding, hiking, fishing, cooking, and traveling. Heather has quite an animal clan; at her family farm she has a boxer/lab named Beretta and 2 quarter horses named Rusty and Goose. She shares her Des Moines residence with her Setter/Lab mix named Stella. Heather brings previous experience as a Veterinary Assistant to JCAH, and we are excited to welcome her to the team.



Welcome Kayla!

Kayla grew up moving around frequently due to her dad serving in the US military. She was born in Texas, and when she was 11 years old she moved to Urbandale, Iowa. She graduated high school from Johnston Senior High and later received her Esthetics license from Iowa School of Beauty.

Kayla is involved with her church and grew up riding horses. Her hobbies and interests include her love for horses and dogs, swing dancing, and spending time with family, friends, and Chip, her family dog! We look forward to having Kayla as a veterinary assistant here at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital.

Monthly Meetings

The doctors and staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital think that monthly employee meetings are essential to promoting communication and educational opportunities. Because of this, we will be closed from 1:30-2:30 PM on the following Wednesdays: **October 18, November 15, and December 13.**

Congratulations to Dr. Cody Mingus and her husband Zach! They welcomed twin girls, Palmer and Vivienne, on August 22. Dr. Mingus will be busy at home with the babies until mid-November, and we look forward to her return.



Boarding Reminder

A Friendly Reminder...Our boarding reception desk is staffed Monday-Friday 7am-11am and 2pm-6pm, as well as Saturday 7am-1pm. Sunday night check out is at 7:00 p.m. excluding some holidays. We appreciate you choosing Jordan Creek Kennels for all of your boarding needs!

AAHA ACCREDITATION

Did you know that accreditation is required for human hospitals, but voluntary for animal hospitals?

The doctors and staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital passed our AAHA inspection in October this year.

As an accredited member since 1994, The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) inspects our hospital and practice standards every three years.

AAHA-accredited hospitals are recognized among the finest in the industry, but more importantly, are dedicated to providing your pet with the best health care possible. Nationwide, only 12-15% of hospitals have achieved accreditation, and we are one of them!

During the accreditation process, we are evaluated based on AAHA's Standards of Accreditation—an extensive list of more than 900 standards that directly correlate to the



care we are providing your pet. Some examples of these standards include: cleanliness and operation of hospital facilities, nursing care, surgical procedures, maintenance and operation of our pharmacy, anesthetic and pain management protocols, radiation quality and safety, medical records, emergency services, and much more.

Choosing an AAHA-accredited hospital for your pet's medical care provides you with peace of mind knowing that the hospital you've selected has the team, training, equipment, medical procedures, and facilities that AAHA believes are important for the delivery of high-quality veterinary care.

We are proud of our AAHA accreditation and hope that it is an

outward sign of our commitment to provide you and your pet the best possible care and service!

MEET THE STAFF/our editors for this issue of Pet Gazette



Dr. Leah Moore grew up in Omaha and West Des Moines with many pets including dogs, cats, horses, mice, and rabbits. She attended Iowa State University and studied Wildlife Biology before receiving her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree in 1985. From 1985 to 1999, Dr. Moore worked in small animal practice in the suburbs of Chicago. She came to Jordan Creek Animal Hospital in May 1999.

Dr. Moore has one daughter, Susanna; a dog, Sunny, and four cats, Zak, Sylvie, Lawrence, and Olive. She enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, and gardening with prairie plants.

Dr. Moore has one daughter, Susanna; a dog, Sunny, and four cats, Zak, Sylvie, Lawrence, and Olive. She enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, and gardening with prairie plants.



Amy King, RVT grew up in Milford, Iowa near Lake Okoboji. In September 1999, she received her Associate of Applied Sciences Degree in Veterinary Technology from the Medical Institute of Minnesota as well as her Minnesota Certification. She worked at Cedarview Animal Hospital in Apple Valley, Minnesota, where she

completed her collegiate internship before moving to the Des Moines area. She began work at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital and received her Iowa Certification in April 2001.

Amy, husband Rawley, daughter Elizabeth, and sons Ethan and Emmett share their home with two cats, Buzz and Ace, a dog named Ernie, and three rabbits. When she isn't busy at work or spending time with her family and pets, she enjoys biking, camping, and shopping.