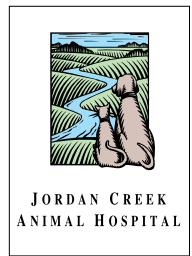




# FALL 2011 Gazette

☞ newsletter for people and their pets



JORDAN CREEK  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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



in this issue:

- Dog Flu
- Pet Portal
- Laser Therapy
- Pets and Vomiting
- Parasite Control
- Boarding Reservations
- Mission Statement

## Dog Flu in Des Moines Area??

Recently in a northern suburb of the Des Moines area, an outbreak of respiratory disease occurred involving several dozen dogs. Canine influenza, while not confirmed, is a top suspect in these cases due to the nature of the outbreak and the large number of dogs affected. Canine influenza is highly contagious, and most dogs lack any natural immunity. It is not the same as "kennel cough".

Canine influenza is caused by a virus similar to human flu virus. Its main symptoms are cough, fever, lethargy, and a runny nose in dogs. People cannot get the virus, but it spreads easily among dogs. Virus is transmitted by direct contact with infected dogs, surfaces contaminated with secretions, and through the air by coughing. Infected dogs can remain contagious for up to 14 days, and some dogs can act and look healthy while still shedding the virus.

Though most dogs will recover, and 20 to 50 % may be able to fight off the virus on their own, 50 to 80 % will become infected and some of those may require treatment or hospitalization. 5 to 8 % mortality is possible due to complications of respiratory disease/pneumonia.

Testing for the virus is possible, though some tests require several days or a few weeks to confirm. False negatives are possible, and do not rule out the possibility of the disease.

Vaccination against canine influenza can prevent or greatly lessen symptoms, and requires 2 doses given a few weeks apart and a few weeks BEFORE any possible exposure is anticipated.

Your dog may be a candidate for canine influenza vaccination if he or she visits dog parks, dog shows, groomers, doggie day care, classes and kennels. Our recent brush with a local highly infectious respiratory disease is an excellent reminder. Do not let your dog socialize with coughing dogs, take any cough seriously, and vaccinate for dog flu if your dog is at risk.

If you plan to board your dog over the holidays, now is the time to schedule an appointment to get your dog vaccinated.

**\*Some information provided  
by VeterinaryPartner.com**



Contact us by calling 515-224-9500 or visit our website at [www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com](http://www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com)

Have you activated your Pet Portal yet?



Don't wait one more day – your portal is waiting for you. What's more, it's already loaded with all the pet information you need. Log on and here's what you'll find:

**Pet Pages:** You can request appointments and refills, set up automatic reminders to alert you when it's time to give your pet medications, post your pet's photo, and review healthcare history, medications, and diets. Each pet will have his or her own page, allowing you to keep track of your furry family easily, all from one website.

**Care Guides:** You can access a comprehensive collection of answers to the most common and pressing animal health questions. You can get these answers when you need them, by clicking on the convenient links in your pet health history or going to the Care Guides section. Topics cover all of your pets, including dogs, cats, horses, birds, reptiles, pocket pets, and many others.

**Other Tools and Features:** Your Pet Portal allows you to take a survey and share your opinion of our services. You can also store detailed information about your pet for easy printing or emailing when you travel or board your pet. The Mail feature allows you to send messages or questions to our staff. Your Pet Portal even includes a community page where you can share a funny or heartwarming story about your pet.

Now that you know what your Pet Portal has to offer, we hope you'll use it soon and often. If you have any questions about the Pet Portal, or would like some help in setting yours up, please call us 224-9500. We'll be glad to help you get started!

**Get a Pet Portal and stay connected with us---ANYWHERE, ANYTIME. Access is fast, easy and secure.**

## NEW at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital: LASER THERAPY

We are excited to announce the addition of new technology to help treat pain and speed healing.

Our new companion animal therapy laser is a non-surgical, non-pharmaceutical form of treatment for painful conditions, injury, wound healing and more.

The laser is designed to penetrate into tissue at multiple specific wavelengths that reduce inflammation, promote analgesic action, reduce swelling and improve local blood circulation. This stimulation produces a safe, non-painful treatment option for many different conditions. It helps reduce healing time after injury or surgery, as well as promoting improvement in existing conditions such as arthritis.

The laser treatment can be used as a single treatment, for instance at the time of surgery to reduce post operative pain and promote faster healing. Or for chronic conditions such orthopedic injuries, arthritis, non-healing wounds and others, a series of treatments can be used.

Laser Therapy can be performed as an outpatient visit, is quick and comfortable for the patient, requires no sedation and is extremely safe. It can be combined with other treatments, such as medication, with no side effects. Most treated pets feel better within 12 to 24 hours after treatment.



Therapy laser treatment is used most frequently for the following conditions:

- Arthritis
- Acute and Chronic Pain
- Back and Neck Injuries
- Sprains and Strains
- Muscle and Tendon Injuries
- Inflammation and Edema
- Wound Healing and Superficial Ulcers

If your four-legged family member is experiencing these conditions or related causes of pain and discomfort, ask your veterinarian if Laser Therapy could be an option. It's a safe and painless therapy now available to help improve quality of life for your pets.

## Pet owners often wonder what to do when their pet vomits

# When is it time to get concerned?

### **What should you do if your dog or cat vomits and, more importantly, when should you worry?**

Sometimes common symptoms like vomiting and diarrhea are overlooked because pet owners think there's nothing to worry about. Much of the time this is true... but sometimes it isn't.

Many dogs and cats vomit occasionally. If a pet vomits once or twice but still seems to behave normally, has normal stools and is able to resume eating and drinking within a few hours, concern is lessened. In this case, it is acceptable to continue monitoring your pet to ensure that the problem has resolved itself. Watch for any additional signs such as lethargy, diarrhea, weakness, lack of appetite, or return of vomiting.

### **What else can you do?**

Keep your pet nearby to check for any other abnormalities. Observe your pet's habits inside, and when going out to urinate or defecate, so you will not miss episodes of vomiting or diarrhea outside. Keep indoor/outdoor animals inside until you are sure they are well. A sick pet may not be able to care for itself or defend itself, and cats may tend to hide or disappear when feeling ill.

Take up your pet's food for the first few hours. If there is no further vomiting, and appetite has returned, a small amount of food can be offered. If your pet is able to tolerate a small meal, the next meal amount can be increased.

### **When to be concerned:**

- Your pet continues to vomit or acts unwell
- Vomiting continues for more than a day without keeping food down
- Water cannot be kept down—this can lead to dehydration
- Lethargy or other symptoms occur with the vomiting
- There is blood or an unknown substance/object in the vomit
- Diarrhea is frequent or bloody along with vomiting
- You're unsure how long the problem has been present, and your pet acts unwell.
- Your pet attempts to vomit frequently but does not produce anything.

**If in doubt, it's always best to check with your veterinarian. We'd much rather see your favorite furry friend before he or she gets too sick.**

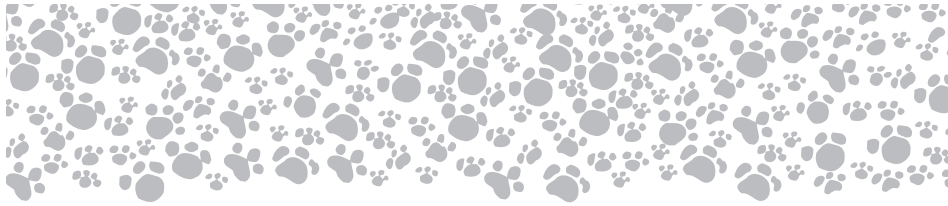
*information provided by Dr. Nikki Eaton, Animal Hospital of Polaris, Lewis Center OH*

## Parasite Prevention Reminder

Did you purchase fewer than the recommended 12 doses of heartworm/parasite prevention? If you did, it is very important to call us for a refill of medication. Intestinal parasites live year-round – rain, sun, snow, and ice. Missed doses of preventatives could put your pet's health at risk. Responsible pet parasite control can reduce the risks associated with the transmission of parasitic diseases from pets to people. In addition to administering monthly parasite preventative, please be sure to clean up after your pet when taking walks, visiting dog parks or wherever else your pet may travel. For more information on how parasites affect your dog or cat, the health risks to people and prevention tips, please visit [www.petsandparasites.org](http://www.petsandparasites.org)

## Your Pets Home Away from Home

The holidays are quickly approaching, so don't forget to make boarding reservations for your 4-legged family members. We are committed to providing a quality boarding experience and pride ourselves in caring for your pet just as we would our own. The hospital will be closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd, therefore there will be no Sunday or Monday pickups on those weekends. Please keep this in mind when planning for your pet's stay with us. If you have any questions or would like to make a reservation, please call us at 224-9500.



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT AND COVENANT

We believe in the importance and value of companion animals in the lives of our clients and the community.

We are dedicated to providing service beyond expectation by offering the highest quality medicine in a compassionate and caring way.

We stress client education, preventive medicine, and the personal and professional growth of our staff.

## OUR CORE VALUES

*Honesty*... to our clients and each other

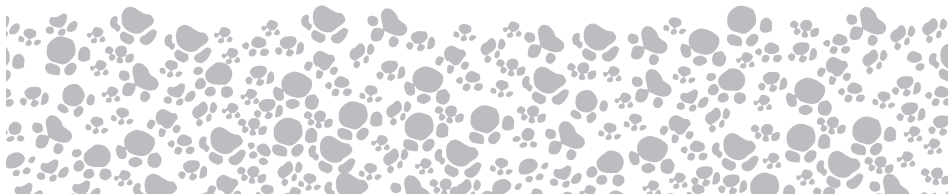
*Dedication*... to our practice and our mission

*Respect*... to others and their concerns

*Compassion*... to our patients and their owners

*Teamwork*... to provide the best patient care

*Excellence*... to maintain the highest standards of service



## Monthly Meetings

The doctors and staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital feel 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 12, November 9 and December 7.**

**facebook**

Jordan Creek Animal Hospital now has our own Facebook page. Please look us up at [www.facebook.com/jordancreekanimalhospital](http://www.facebook.com/jordancreekanimalhospital) and "LIKE" our page. We are just getting started with it, but have a lot of fun things planned and information and updates to share. Make sure to check out our latest photos of our Boarders of the Week!

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



**Dr. Leah Moore** grew up in West Des Moines before studying Animal Ecology at Iowa State University. She went on to receive her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from ISU in 1985. Before joining the staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital in May 1999, she practiced in a small animal hospital in the suburbs of Chicago.

Dr. Moore and her daughter share their home with four cats, Zak, Sylvie, Lawrence, and Olive, and dog, Sunny. In her spare time, she enjoys wilderness travel, gardening with native plant species, reading, and bicycling.



**Amy King**, RVT grew up in Milford, Iowa near Lake Okoboji. In September 1999, she received her Associate of Applied Sciences degree from the Medical Institute of Minnesota. She moved to the Des Moines area shortly after and began working at Jordan Creek in April 2001.

Amy, husband Rawley, daughter Elizabeth, and sons Ethan and Emmett share their home with their "3 Felines" – Rudy, Buzz, and Ace. When she isn't busy at work or spending time with her family, she enjoys biking, swimming, and shopping.