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Where caring for your animals is our top priority

Important Dates:

- Jan 16 - National Nothing Day
- Jan 21 - National Squirrel Day
- Jan 23 - National Pie Day
- Jan 26 - Spouses Day
- Jan 28 - Fun at Work Day
- Feb 2 - Ground Hog Day
- Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb 15 - President's Day
- Feb 17 - Random Acts of Kindness Day
- Feb 20 - Love Your Pet Day
- Feb 22 - Walking the Dog Day

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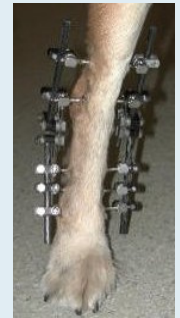
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Bruiser Success by Dr. Shane B. Pedersen

Bruiser was a 2 month old St. Bernard when he presented to us in the fall. A car hit Bruiser and in his accident he broke his tibia and femur in one back leg. In another leg he had a greenstick fracture of his femur. A greenstick fracture is one where the bone is stressed slowly until it breaks, but like a stick, it doesn't break into two separate pieces. This case was complicated because

Bruiser was completely unable to walk. We needed to repair Bruiser's legs, but we also needed him stabilized enough to get around. Not to mention, he was growing fast at that age, so he needed a fixation that could be adjusted with his growth. I decided to go with what we call an external skeletal fixation. We have talked about these before, but it is an area I love to talk about and I feel

this way of fixing legs has saved many dogs and cats. With external skeletal fixation, stainless steel pins are placed into the bone and are long enough



(Continued on page 2)

Calving Supplies by Kris Nelsen

Calving Season will be arriving soon.....

I know that a lot of us have either just gotten done with harvest or are still trying to complete that task. Then we think about getting those cows preg checked and out to stocks; so with everything running together, it is important to think about calving.

I will make this short as I know that you are busy, so here goes.

If you have any questions about calving, please give us a call at any time.

Items to have on hand....

- Spotlight
- Bottle and Nipple (clean)
- Tuber
- Colostrum or Colostrum replacement (Aquire)
- Calf Claim or O-no-mo
- Broad Spectrum antibiotic
- Needles & Syringes (clean)
- Tags and Tagger
- Bands (if you band at birth)
- Record Book

Items that you will need if you have to assist the cow during labor....

- Calf puller (one in working condition)
- OB chains (clean in boiling water, air dry and store in dry clean place)
- OB Lube
- OB sleeves
- OB handles

Bruiser Success



(Continued from page 1)
that they stick out of the skin. Then those pins are connected with a bar made out of carbon fiber. With apparatus, the weight of the dog is transferred through the pins to the bar, which is on the outside of the dog. This allows most dogs to bear weight on their limbs almost immediately after surgery. This was the case for Bruiser. The day after

surgery Bruiser was able to walk. Because of Bruiser's young age, we knew that he had a great chance to heal fast. With young calves we often see them heal a properly fixed leg within 2 weeks. With Bruiser, we began to take off his apparatus after two weeks. We usually only take off parts of the apparatus at a time, so not to rely on the bone too much too fast.

Today, Bruiser is almost 5 months of age. And today, he is a normal looking and acting puppy. We expect him to make a 100% recovery with no problems in the future related to his previously broken legs.

Worms by Nicole Koehler

So we all know cats and dogs can get worms, they are so common its no big deal right? Actually worms are a BIG deal. Not only can they harm your precious pet but your kids or even yourself! The most common worms that your cat or dog can get around here in Nebraska are roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, and whipworms. The roundworms in pets are normally found in the intestines. A few problems roundworms cause are:

1. malnutrition from large amounts of worms ingesting your pet's nutrition.
2. The worms can also carry diseases with them as they are transmitted from pet to pet.
3. Roundworms have a complex life cycle.
4. Humans can become infected! The worse part is since humans are not the "common host" the worms can't detect the correct path and cause lots of damage or infection. One example is roundworm infestation in the human eye! Hookworms are also found in the intestine, but they attach themselves to the intestinal wall and feed off the pet's blood. Large infestation can cause life-threatening anemia with bloody diarrhea. Hookworms can penetrate the pet's skin and migrate their way to the trachea where they are coughed-up and swallow or larvae



are swallowed by eating things

contaminated with feces. Humans can be infected by hookworms by touching hookworm larvae and then the larvae migrate through the skin causing damage. Tapeworms also like to live in the intestines. As they grow, they form "segments" which contain the tapeworm eggs. Tapeworm segments look like white or brown rice found in the feces or stuck in your pet's hair. Infestation occurs by eating infected fleas, rabbits, or birds. Humans rarely are infected, but sometimes children can accidentally eat the eggs or fleas. Most commonly in the human body the tapeworm will grow normally but sometimes the tapeworms can infect the liver and cause cysts. The whipworm lives in the intestine also and cannot infect humans. Whipworms are hard to treat for and cause extreme diarrhea, weightloss, and sometimes vomiting. The best way to protect you and your pet is regular deworming. Usually every 6 months is recommended for

roundworms and hookworms. Tapeworms are usually only treated for when segments are found in your pet's feces. Whipworms are also only treated when diagnosed since regular dewormer can't kill them. If your pet shows symptoms of worms such as vomiting, depression, or most commonly bloody stools diarrhea; a fecal exam should be performed so the correct deworming medication can be dispensed. As mentioned before, regular (over-the-counter) dewormer cannot kill whipworms or tapeworms. Always wash your hands and even cleaning-up your pet's messes in the lawn can decrease contamination.



Cold Weather Aches & Pains

Cold, damp weather seems to exacerbate arthritis in senior pets. Signs of arthritis include stiffness on rising, lameness, and reluctance to exercise or go outside. If your pet shows these signs, talk to us about the new anti-inflammatory medications that are now available.

Seniors also have more difficulty maintaining their body temperature, so warmth is very important. Keep elderly pets inside in cold weather and consider using pet sweaters when outside on cold days.



Spaying & Neutering

True or False: A dog must go through at least one heat cycle before she's spayed.

False - The fact is that spaying a dog before she's fully grown has no effect on her physical or mental maturity. Also, the more heat cycles or pregnancies a dog has, the more likely she is to develop breast cancer.

True or False: Spaying or neutering makes a dog or cat get fat.

False - While some animals do gain weight after surgery, this has less to do with hormones and metabolism than with decreased activity, since the animals are less likely to be roaming. The important thing is to provide a good, balanced diet, limit treats, and encourage regular exercise.

True or False: A neutered dog won't be a good watchdog.

False - Neutering a dog has no effect on how protective he is, but does tend to make them less aggressive toward other dogs and people. He'll still "sound the alarm," but is less likely to go out of his way to attack something or someone outside his own territory.

True or False: Spaying and neutering my pets can actually save me money.

TRUE! - By neutering your dogs and cats, you can save yourself money over the long run in vet bills. Since they're less likely to be getting into fights, you're less likely to be paying for stitches, antibiotics, abscess draining, etc., not to mention the emotional cost of losing a beloved pet who gets lost or hit in the highway. A Caesarean section costs much more than a simple spay procedure, and don't forget about having to feed, vaccinate and find homes for all those puppies and kittens! Also, many communities require a higher licensing fee for unaltered pets.

True or False: Spaying and neutering makes dogs and cats better pets.

TRUE! - Neutered dogs and cats are much less likely to urinate in the house to mark territory. Non-neutered tomcats have a very pungent odor to their urine, whether they use a litter box or not. When pets are spayed, you eliminate the heat cycle, with all its annoyances (spotting blood on the carpet, attracting all the neighborhood male dogs into the yard, and yowling all night in the case of cats).

So there you have it. There are lots of advantages, and few, if any, disadvantages, to spaying or neutering your pets. This area has a tremendous problem with pet over-population. Remember that spaying and neutering are the only foolproof methods of birth control.

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February is Spay Neuter Month

During the month of February, receive a 10% Cash
Discount on spays and neuters.

As a bonus—your pet will be able to receive a rabies
vaccination at no cost.

Set Up Your Appointment Soon

Famous Quotes

"A cat is a puzzle for which there is no solution."
- Hazel Nicholson

"Dogs have owners, cats have staff." - Anonymous

Save a Life - Adopt a Pet

"Save a Life – Adopt a Pet" This is the theme the American Veterinary Medical Association Auxiliary Group has adopted for the 2011 National Pet Week. The goals of National Pet Week are to promote responsible pet ownership, celebrate the human-animal bond, and promote public awareness of veterinary medicine. To promote this theme and further public awareness the group is sponsoring two contests.

children, art and college students, or professional artists. There is no age restriction. The poster must be original artwork, no photos or magazine cutouts. The national winner will receive a \$300.00 cash prize and the poster will be featured on the cover of the 2011 AVMA Pet Week magazine, which veterinarians nationwide subscribe to. Please contact our office for an entry form or go to <http://www.avmaaux.org/postercontest.html>.

The Creative Writing Contest is open to students in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th

grades. Entries should be stories or poems based on the "Save a Life-Adopt a Pet". Entries must be no less than 20 words and no more the 200 words. The winner will receive a \$300.00 cash prize and be featured in the 2011 National Pet Week promotions. Please contact our office for an entry form or go to <http://www.avmaaux.org/npwcontest.html>.

We would be happy to mail your entries for you. Please have them to the office by March 1, 2010 .



The National Pet Week Poster contest is open to