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www.indiantreeanimalhospital.com 303.420.4422

**PAWS**

*the Indian Tree Animal  
Hospital Newsletter*

## It's Dental Awareness Month at Indian Tree Animal Hospital! - 20% DISCOUNT ON DENTAL SERVICES

Without proper dental care, your pet will most likely suffer from bad breath, missing, loose, or broken teeth, inflamed gums, all of the pain these problems can cause. Dental disease can lead to systemic health problems such as heart and kidney disease in cats and dogs.

The upside is that dental disease is easily prevented by regular dental examinations, home care, and dental cleanings. At Indian Tree, we offer free dental examinations for healthy pets.



Periodontal disease is an infection caused by bacteria found in dental plaque. The first signs may be discoloration of the teeth. Plaque can build up without regular cleaning. When this occurs, it can turn into tartar. Tartar can advance under the gums, where bacteria can become trapped and cause infections.

Periodontal disease can lead to serious pain, infection, or tooth loss. The infection can result in bacteria entering the bloodstream and damaging other organs or body systems in your pet. It can complicate preexisting diseases such as diabetes.


The damage is sometimes irreversible, but can be halted with antibiotics and regular cleaning. The best option is to

prevent the disease. At one year of age, your pet should have an annual dental examination and cleaning. Your pet will need to be under general anesthesia for a thorough dental cleaning. A thorough cleaning removes plaque and tartar below and above the gum line.

The best form of home care is brushing with a soft toothbrush or finger brush. There is no better way of removing the disease-causing dental plaque. One of our veterinary nurses or assistants can show you how to do it. There are special toothpaste and oral rinses developed specifically for pets to aid in preventing the disease.

For dogs, chew bones can play a significant role in keeping the teeth clean. We recommend CET chews to reduce the incidences of fracture teeth, which may happen with other bones.

### Signs of poor dental health:

- Difficulty eating
- Swelling under the eyes
- Bad breath
- Visible tartar on the teeth
- Loose or missing teeth
- Discharge from the nose
- Drooling or excessive salivation
- Pawing at mouth
- Discoloration of teeth
- Red, swollen, bleeding gums
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite 

## Indian Tree Animal Hospital Welcomes New Doctors!

### Kristin Wells, DVM

Dr. Kristin Wells is a Denver native. She graduated from Boston University with a major in psychology. She attended Metropolitan State College prior to attending veterinary school and received a degree in biology. After graduating from Colorado State University in May of 2003, she pursued advanced training in animal behavior and behavioral medicine. She has worked with some of the top behaviorists in the area. Her other interest include internal medicine and pain management, and she is a member of the American Academy of Pain Management. In addition, she has worked with some of the experts in pain management. She also has consistently exceeded the requirements for continuing education and has been a member of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association Scholars club. She is an avid show jumper and lives with her husband, many dogs and cats as well as birds and horses.

### Michelle Reynolds, DVM

Dr. Michelle Reynolds graduated from Michigan State University in 1997. She lived and practiced in Colorado for 2 years following graduation, then moved back to Michigan to start a family with her husband, Nathan. She was very happy to return to Colorado and join Indian Tree in July 2008. Dr. Reynolds has special interests in alternative

and orthopedic medicine and is excited to integrate holistic treatments into the care of her patients. She has 3 children (2 boys and a girl), a yellow lab named Summer (who is also thrilled to be back out west) and a cat, named Itso. She enjoys skiing, hiking, and watching the Broncos with her family.

### Suzanne Tousley, DVM


Suzanne Tousley was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. After graduating from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in interior design, she moved to Denver and worked as a designer in an architectural firm for 5 years. She then returned to her interest in medicine and obtained her veterinary technician degree from Bel Rea Institute of Animal Technology and then continued on to earn her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Colorado State University in 2007. After graduating from veterinary school she was selected to participate in a yearlong rotating internship with emphasis in emergency medicine at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital. Dr. Tousley's professional interests include oncology, clinical pathology, and surgery. She lives in Golden with her husband, Tony, who will be competing in the Hawaiian Ironman Triathlon in October, and their dog, Stuka. They share a great love of the outdoors. In her free time she enjoys gardening, hiking, and running.

## Dr. Kramer Appointed to Table Mountain Animal Shelter Board



We are proud to announce our senior partner, Dr. Mitch Kramer's, recent appointment to the Table Mountain Animal Shelter Foundation board. As a Table Mountain (TMAC)

board member, Dr. Kramer will be advising and assisting the shelter in their efforts to build a new 30,000 square foot facility on the Jefferson county fair ground just adjacent to West 6th Avenue. He will also be acting as a liaison between TMAC and the veterinary community in Jefferson County.

Indian Tree Animal Hospital is excited to take this next step in our continued support of TMAC as well as our continued commitment to the welfare of all animals in our community. 

## EVENTS

*Come visit us at the Arvada Harvest Festival on September 5, 6, 7, 2008!*

*Dental Awareness Month is just around the corner in October and November 2008! The dental cleaning is discounted at 20%! Make sure to schedule your pet's dental cleaning and take advantage of the HUGE savings!*

## OUR MISSION

*To provide our patients and clients with only the highest level of quality, compassionate veterinary care,*

*To do all we can to make each animal's experience as positive, stress-free and pain free as possible,*

*To place an emphasis on team interaction, achievement of goals and support of one another,*

*To continuously educate ourselves and remain progressive in our practice of veterinary medicine,*

*To consistently surpass our clients expectations of us as a veterinary facility and member of the community, and*

*To only euthanize animals who are in pain or have terminal illness, used solely as a means of easing suffering and never for situations of convenience.*

## Indian Tree Pet Lodge and Doggy Day Camp Corner

We will have a **FALL SPECIAL - 10% DISCOUNT ON BOARDING FOR NEW CLIENTS** - beginning the middle of August. Call one of our friendly Client Care Representatives to reserve a suite at 303-421-5544.

Thanks to our clients and people in the Arvada community, our grand opening was a huge success! We also want to thank the Arvada



Chamber of Commerce and Arvada Fire Station #3 for our ribbon cutting ceremony.

Indian Tree Pet Lodge and Doggy Day Camp has been chosen by the Arvada Economic Development Association, City of Arvada, and AEDA Business Retention Committee to receive the "2008 Outstanding Arvada Business Award" on September 17, 2008.

**Boarding - Large indoor out door runs**  
**Doggy Daycamp - Outdoor artificial turf playards 7dys/wk**  
**Grooming - By Linda & Renee**  
**Training - Agility & Puppy classes**  
**Agility Park - Drop in & membership use**




## Doggy Day Camp to the Rescue!

Our ancestors would have laughed heartily at the notion, but today with our busy schedules, an increasing number of dog owners are realizing the benefits of a full or half day of supervised activity for their dogs. Imagine the relief of an owner who realizes the difficulty of potty training their puppy. Now, the owner can happily drop off Fido at day care knowing that the trained staff can further the pup understands of proper potty behavior. Those who have dogs with separation anxiety can leave their dogs at day care knowing that they will have a full, fun day with their friends, and not return to a home that is systematically being reduced to kindling.

The two top benefits of doggy day camp are: regular exercise for your dog, which promotes good manners; and the opportunity for socialization with other dogs. Both are important for a well adjusted and friendly dog.

In a well supervised day camp program, your timid companion can learn how to be a dog, and he will learn how to play well with others. Bouncing Henry, who

has spent his days at home sleeping, storing up energy to wildly greet you at the door, demanding all of your attention can now play with his fiends all day and come home just as tired as you are after a hard day at the office.


Other benefits of doggy day camp include socialization with humans, relief from boredom, prevention of destructive behavior, builds confidence preventing aggression or fearfulness, learning to share attention and toys, a chance for the dog to have fun while you are at work or out skiing, and lessening the guilt for those who feel badly about leaving their dog home alone all day. All of these help to create a strong bond between dog and owner. A relationship that is vitally important in order to insure that the dog will be a beloved family member for the rest of his life. 

## Ask Our Doctors About Routine Fecal Testing.....

Protecting your pet and the people you love from intestinal parasites can be easy as asking your veterinarian about routine fecal testing. Zoonotic parasites can be transferred from animals to humans, and can affect you and your pet's health.

To control internal parasites, Parasitology Experts recommend the following fecal testing schedule:

- 2-4 times per year for puppies and kittens,
- 1-2 times per year in adult dogs and cats receiving broad-spectrum heartworm prevention medication,
- 2-4 times per year in adult dogs and cats not receiving broad-spectrum heartworm prevention medication,

More frequent testing may be necessary depending on the lifestyle factors and your pet's health.. 



## What Every Pet Owner Should Know About Roundworms & Hookworms

***Worms that infect pets... can infect people too.***

### What are roundworms & hookworms?

You may already have heard that worms often infect puppies and kittens as well as older pets. The most common types of these parasitic worms are roundworms and hookworms. They are both intestinal parasites. They live and grow inside the intestine of your pet. Roundworms and hookworms develop from eggs into larvae (immature worms). The larvae later mature in adult worms.

Most pets show no sign of infection. However, some do. Signs may include diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite, or severe weight loss. Heavy infections in young puppies and kittens may be fatal.

**How do pets get worms?** Dogs and cats of any age may get roundworms and hookworms, but they are most vulnerable when they are very young. In fact, it is not unusual for puppies of only 2-3 weeks of age to harbor a significant number of worms. That's because these worms are often passed from a mother to her puppies before birth. Sometimes they are passed shortly after birth, through her milk. They can also be infected by contaminated soil.

### Can roundworms and hookworms infect people?

Yes. These infections, like others acquired from animals, are called zoonotic (zoe-oNOT-ick) infections or zoonoses (zoe-o-NO-see). You owe it to yourself and your family to find out about these zoonotic infections. Learn how to prevent them.

### How do these worms infect people?

Dogs and cats infected with these worms contaminate their surroundings by passing eggs or larvae in their feces (waste). Because pets will pass feces anywhere, they may contaminate a large area quickly. These eggs and larvae are resilient and can survive in areas such as parks, playgrounds, and yards. Even inside homes.

People get roundworm and hookworm infections through direct contact with infected feces. This usually happens by chance ingestion of contaminated soil, and or plant life.

Hookworm larvae penetrate the skin. Children are more vulnerable to infection than adults, perhaps because they play on the ground with dirt that may be contaminated. Maybe it's because kids are more likely

to put dirty objects into their mouths, Some children pass through a stage in which they eat dirt (pica). Thus, they are more prone to get these infections.

### How do roundworms harm people?

Roundworms enter the body when ingested as eggs that soon hatch in larvae. These larvae travel through the liver, lungs and other organs. In most cases, these "wandering worms" cause no symptoms or apparent damage. However, in some cases they produce a condition known as visceral larva migrans. The larvae may cause damage to tissue and sometimes affect the nerves or even lodge in the eye, ocular larval migrans. In some cases, they may cause permanent nerve or eye damage, even blindness.

### How do hookworms harm people?

Hookworm larvae typically move about within the skin, causing inflammation in the affected skin. This is called cutaneous (skin) larva migrans. One type of hookworm can penetrate into deeper tissues and cause more serious damage to the intestine and other organs.

### How can I protect my pets-and myself against worm infections?

Your veterinarian can recommend treatments to eliminate and help prevent these worm infections. Since these products are available in many forms, you and your vet can choose which one works best for your dog or cat. Ask for the product that is most effective against the worms to which pets in your area are likely to be exposed.

### Take steps to prevent roundworm & hookworm infection.

Semi-annual fecal testing is recommended.

Have puppies and kittens dewormed by your vet at an early age.

Start or keep your pets on a preventive drug program that treats and controls these worms

Learn to recognize and avoid possibly contaminated soil, sand plants and other objects. Teach children to do the same.

Keep play areas, lawns and gardens around your home free of animal waste.

Bag and dispose of pet feces

Cover sandboxes when not in use.

Obey leash laws. 