

The PAW Print

News for the families of our animal friends



Pets thrive with healthy mouths

by Dr. Amy Lutgen

Every time I go to the dentist, I'm amazed at how much tartar the hygienists have to scrape off my teeth, and I brush my teeth twice a day! Now, think of a dog or cat that hasn't had dental care in years. The majority of pets six years and older have significant periodontal disease, with layers of plaque building up over time. Underneath that plaque live bacteria that produces toxins, which can lead to inflammation of the gums, also known as gingivitis. If left untreated, gingivitis can



Shazooka Thompson offers a smile after getting her full dental health assessment and teeth cleaning.

progress to periodontal disease – **a very painful condition** for pets. It is easy to underestimate the extent of periodontal disease because our furry friends often still eat and do not outwardly appear to be in pain. However, dogs and cats have a very strong survival instinct. They keep eating because their bodies need food to continue living. By the time an animal stops eating, it means the pain is more severe than is the will to survive and eat.

The good news is that there is a lot that you can do to help prevent dental disease:

- **Daily brushing of teeth** is the gold standard for home care plaque control in dogs and cats. Ideally, the daily routine should be introduced when your pet is young and healthy. A child-sized, soft-bristled toothbrush and dog/cat toothpaste in the desired flavor is all you need to start. Introduce your pet to this process slowly, and make it a very positive experience. Your pet will be happier! (PLEASE NOTE: do not start brushing the teeth of an animal with existing dental disease, as it can be very painful.)
- Eastside performs a **dental health assessment** during **wellness exams** on all patients. These assessments are a must because many cases of dental disease can be diagnosed on a non-sedated patient. And, like most diseases, early intervention means a better outcome!
- **Regular veterinary dental cleanings** help prevent dental disease. The importance of an oral exam on an anesthetized patient can't be emphasized enough. A lot of dental disease happens below the gum line,

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Top 10 reasons to bring your cat to Eastside

By Jonna Farnsley, our "Advo-cat"

1. Cats keep secrets!

Your cat will not show signs of serious illness until he or she just can't hide it any longer. Many medical problems, such as kidney disease, thyroid disease, bladder conditions, etc., can be found early and treated through **annual wellness exams**.

2. Eastside is a "feline-friendly" practice.

We are certified as a feline-friendly hospital, and work hard every day to make your kitty (and you) more comfortable when you visit.

3. Nobody wants Rabies.

Cats are just as susceptible to rabies as any other mammal, and annual vaccinations are required by law (even for 100 percent indoor cats). There is no treatment for rabies in pets; only prevention.

4. Your bed is not a litter box.

Cats don't pee on things because they're mad at you. Inappropriate urination can be a symptom of a medical problem, such as urinary tract infection, bladder stones, or crystals.

5. Cats keep secrets!

See #1.

6. Your cat's kisses smell like dead fish.

Bad breath just isn't a "normal thing" for cats. Mouth odor can be an indicator of dental disease or other treatable medical issues.

7. Vomit doesn't match your décor.

Are you finding vomit all over the carpet? It could be chronic hairballs or a

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Jonna Farnsley and her cat, Papaya



On My Mind

I've been worried about ticks for a long time. Let's be honest, those grape-sized, mushy hitchhikers hanging off of our canine or feline friends are disgusting, and the sneaky, creepy-crawly, little spidery rascals that crawl into their fur, often undetected, are no better!! The horrible news about ticks is that they can **cause serious disease** in both pets and people. No human or companion animal wants to be afflicted with the life-long consequences of **chronic Lyme Disease** or other **vector borne diseases**.

Dr. Strong and Miles

However, I have some good news. Through scientific advances, detection and screening for tick-borne disease in dogs has never been easier. In November of 2015, Eastside began using the **Accuplex 4 test** through Antech Diagnostic Labs as our routine **heartworm/vector borne disease-screening tool** for canine patients. This test has the advantage of screening for three diseases carried by ticks: **Lyme Disease, Ehrlichiosis, and Anaplasmosis**. Much to our surprise, we have had a number of positive cases from Southern Indiana. We are more passionate than ever about tick control and the prevention of diseases caused by ticks.

Along with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), we recommend the following:

- Use tick control products consistently for ALL dogs and cats. For maximum protection, **high-risk pets may need more than one type of product**. Ask us for details.
- Check your pets daily for ticks, especially after pets spend time outdoors.
- Remove ticks immediately. Watch Dr. Lisa Powell give a demonstration on **YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKGZXbeVu3Q** (or search for "Eastside Animal Hospital tick removal").
- Restrict access to tick habitats in your yard (including warm, shady tree areas or areas with tall grass).

For more information on how to control ticks and their transmissible disease please visit the following sites: www.cdc.gov/ticks and www.capcvet.org.

With Kind Regards,

Dr. Laura Strong

Hospital Owner/Director Eastside Animal Hospital

Additional Note: We now recommend the Lyme Vaccine for all dogs who hike, spend time in the woods, or travel. The initial inoculation series for Lyme Disease prevention is two injections, 2-4 weeks apart, followed by annual boosters. If you are interested in having your dog vaccinated against Lyme Disease, please call us as soon as possible.

Professional Spotlight

In each issue, we feature one of our 40 dedicated Eastside team members. This summer, we're throwing the spotlight on **Dr. Andrea Crum**:

Eastside has a 45-year history of providing Southern Indiana with a team of outstanding veterinarians. We only want the best of the best serving you and your pets. Therefore, it is with great enthusiasm that we announce that Dr. Andrea Crum has returned to the Clark County area and rejoined the Eastside Animal Hospital team!

Dr. Crum shares Eastside Animal's vision for excellence. She appreciates being able to work in a clean, trusting environment, where team members treat clients and pets the way each of us would want to be treated. She said her desire to be part of something she's passionate about and live somewhere that she can make a difference led her to move back to the region and rejoin our team. We are thrilled for her return!

Whenever she's away from her work here, Dr. Crum enjoys spending time with her husband, Ryan, children, Claire and Malcolm, and fur family, including Terrier friend Emmit, and Milhouse, the "big dog trapped in a Yorkie's body."



Dr. Andrea Crum and her family are glad to be back in Southern Indiana.

A Home Away from Home

In addition to a full range of veterinary and wellness services, Eastside also offers an exceptional **home away from home** for your dog or cat. We have experienced and dedicated **kennel/boarding, training and grooming** staff that truly cares about your pet's experience.



Boarding, Exercise, Training, and Grooming Services

For additional details and pricing information, please visit our website at www.eastsideanimal.com.

- **Small dog hotel** – for dogs under 25 lbs.
- **Standard dog accommodations** – for larger dogs up to 100 lbs.
- **Deluxe dog accommodations** – for extra-large guests or multi-pets. Area provides 50% more space than our standard run.
- **Kitty Condo** – offers standard 2+’ x 2+’ room with resting bench.
- Movies are available for viewing and fleece blankets provided.
- **Kitty Penthouse** – deluxe, 5 x 5ft, room-with-a-view accommodations
- **Strolls** – one-on-one leash exercise
- **Playtime** – individually-tailored time/can include pool time (weather permitting)
- **Manners Matter** – one-on-one training for puppy and adult guests
- **Fitness Fun Package** – one-on-one athletic romps through our canine playground with vet health assessment
- **Grooming** – bath, brush out, and pedicure, as well as professional/breed-specific clipping services

Veterinary & Medical Services

Wellness Services – include complete examination, puppy/kitten/senior wellness programs, nutritional counseling, and weight loss programs

Internal Medicine – includes trauma and critical care, diagnostic testing, radiology, ultrasonography, and screening for hypertension and glaucoma

Surgical Services – include elective sterilization procedures (spay/neuter is recommended), tumor removal/biopsies, declawing, urinary tract (removal of bladder stones/biopsies), orthopedic (fracture and ligament injury repairs), and reproductive tract (c-sections, prostate) *Many surgical services are performed with state-of-the-art laser equipment. Usage of this technology minimizes pain and bleeding and quickens recovery time.*

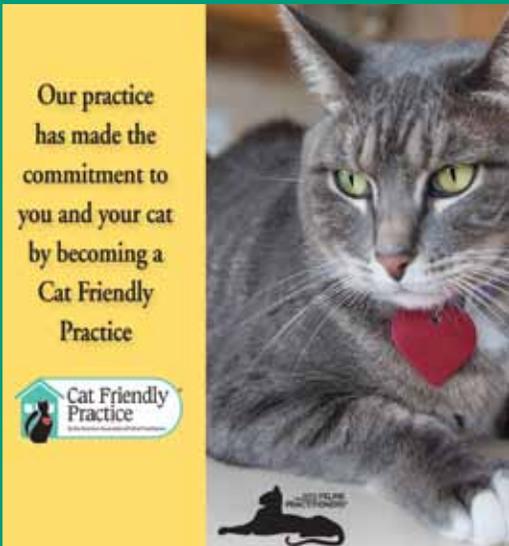
Dental Services – include dental cleanings and wellness programs, dental surgical procedures, and digital dental radiology



AAHA accreditation – Eastside Animal Hospital is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association (since 1988). AAHA accreditation means that we voluntarily adhere to more rigorous standards, set by a board of peers, and are reviewed on a regular basis. Eastside is one of only three practices in all of metro Louisville and the only one in southern Indiana accredited by AAHA.

Whether a routine check-up or a special visit, Eastside is committed to ensuring that cats get the best care possible, and so we implemented the **Cat Friendly Practice (CFP)** program. We took a fresh look at our hospital to determine what could be done to make the visit more positive for cats AND their owners. The **American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP)** pioneered the CFP program to create a positive environment for felines and provide

medical care that supports the cat's unique needs, such as knowledgeable staff members who understand feline-friendly handling. Our goal is to provide you and your kitty with a welcoming, comfortable place that will ultimately lead to the improved health of each and all of our feline patients.



"Pets Thrive with heathy mouths" cont. from page 1

where it is difficult to see without probing and X-rays, and these diagnostic procedures require sedation. Frequently, disease can be identified and treated during the process of an assessment procedure.

Your pet thrives with a healthy mouth! Many clients report that their cats and dogs feel so much better after receiving good dental care. We also hear that those slobbery kisses and hot, breathy smiles are much more pleasant and welcome after a good cleaning. Regular dental care, however, is about much more than better breath and a peppy step; good dental hygiene and regular care adds years to your pet's life. Please don't let them live in pain. Call us to schedule a check up.

"Top 10 reasons to bring your cat" cont. from page 1

symptom of something more serious. Either way, Eastside can help.

8. Worms are for gardens and fishing – not your cat!

Even if your cat stays strictly indoors, there is still a risk of parasites. Many cats have them for years with no symptoms. All cats, and especially kittens, need monthly parasite control.

9. Cats keep secrets! See #5.

10. Cats don't know how to use the phone.

Please lend a paw, and call us at **812-282-3855** or visit www.eastsideanimal.com. We'd love to see you and your friend (...the one who can keep a secret!).

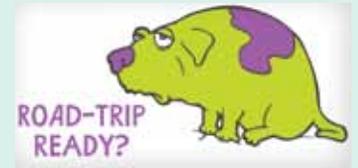
What's everyone BARKING about at Eastside?



For the Love of Safety – Because we care so deeply about your pet’s safety, we are continuing our offer for a FREE HomeAgain microchip. Any Eastside patient (up-to-date on wellness services) is eligible for a FREE implant. Please help us help your pets find their way home. Microchips ensure that the bond with your pet lasts a lifetime. (This offer does not include the one-time national enrollment fee from HomeAgain of \$19.99).

Going on a Road Trip? –

Eastside wants travel time with your canine pal to be FUN! Whether your pooch is hopping in the car for a play date at Jeffersonville’s Highland Dog Park, coming in for an office visit here, or road tripping across the country, we want Ralph to be “road trip ready.” Motion sickness can affect as much as 20 percent of our patients. If dry heaves, vomiting, drooling, and pacing are getting in the way of your dog’s fun, ask us about **Cerenia** – the only veterinary-approved drug that helps prevent motion sickness in dogs.



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Creature Feature



Baby Anna with her TV-watching friend, Todd

Todd is a one-of-a-kind cat, says his human, Sandy. He is the only cat that Sandy has ever known who returns affection with hugs, and, in his spare time, likes to kick back and watch TV, she said. Todd’s such an endearing friend that when he developed an urgent medical condition, Todd’s family rushed him to Eastside for an immediate diagnosis, treatment, and subsequent surgery.

However, Sandy and Josh Gardner’s nervous excitement for the week didn’t stop with Todd’s visit to Eastside. The very next day, Sandy, who was pregnant with her first child, was unexpectedly sent to the (human) hospital, too. After a week of hospitalization for Sandy (and Todd, simultaneously), the Gardners welcomed a healthy baby girl into the world. While Todd was recuperating at Eastside, the team here was thrilled to be able to “tell” him that he was a *purrr*-fectly fabulous big brother to a very special little human, named Anna.

Sandy says her mind was at ease, knowing Todd was in good hands, while she was having medical issues of her own. The Gardners said they appreciated the twice-daily updates on their kitty’s progress, and sincerely appreciated the friendly helpfulness of the entire Eastside team. “The kindness shown to Todd and our family warmed our hearts,” Sandy said.

Todd healed nicely after his surgery, and is excited to be on the loose in the house again with his other two feline friends, Mittens and Itsy Bitsy, and canine pals, Molly and Copper. We are pleased to report that humans Sandy, Josh and sweet Anna are doing very well, too!!



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