

Fall 2009 Newsletter

Office Hours - Mon, Tues, Thurs - 8:30-5:00

Wed - 8:30-7, Fri - 8:30-4, Sat - 10-1:00

(613) 358-2833 or 1-888-832-1904 (toll free)

Farm Emergency Service by App't

ANIMAL HEALTH TIPS ! Explore our New Website at www.lanevetservices.ca :

First time users need to do the following in order to re-visit the website, add pet photos, or just browse through **Pet Health** - interesting articles and videos. Video examples: puppy or kitten care, how to get a urine sample, how to give pills, nutrition, behaviour, ear problems, anal glands, allergies, dental cleaning, seizures, plus any topic you want to explore. **Client login** - grey box on the top right.

- Next box: *New to our Website* (red) and go to create your clinic profile. - Next screen – clinic password is '**lane**' click login.- Enter client and pet information – answer the questions.

- The next screen asks you to login with your email address & password.

Chronic Allergies, Allergy Testing and Shots: Pets can have allergies to food, fleas, plants, or inhalants (such as air fresheners, perfume, smoke). Symptoms range from a generalized red skin, scratching, licking (especially the paws), red watery eyes, gas and/or diarrhea, to sudden ear infections. Allergy testing followed by monthly inoculations can give your pet a new life!

TO CATTLE PRODUCERS - Should I vaccinate my calves? Ask the buyers what they want!**Vaccines to consider:** a 4 or 5-way respiratory vaccine, Haemophilus Somnus, Pasteurella and Blackleg vaccine. Vaccine protocols will vary from farm to farm, so call us if you have any questions! To place a vaccine order call us at least 5 days in advance!

Cattle Pregnancy Check Special 5% OFF from October 1 to December 31. These are done at > 40 days, after bull is removed. There is a 5% chance that a pregnant cow will show a heat. Feeding open cows is costly.

TO SHEEP, GOAT & HORSE OWNERS - What kind of worms could they have?

Parasites like wet conditions! Bring a manure sample in for parasite identification before deworming. **Thin animals could also have teeth problems.**

Good feed cannot be properly processed, if the teeth need to be **filed!**

Note: A current Rabies vaccine (within 3 yrs.) is required by law for all dogs and cats.

Antifreeze poisoning: a very small amount of antifreeze is fatal within 12-24 hours, if not treated within 1 hr after ingesting it.

Please email us at info@lanevetservices.ca to receive reminders/newsletters by email! If you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list call 1-888-832-1904

LIVING WITH YOUR OLDER PET

As your pet ages, changes will occur. In order to maintain the quality of your pet's life, it is important to recognize and manage "aging" problems.

1. **A slower metabolic rate and activity level** - Your pet will burn its food at a slower rate and produce less energy - change to Senior Food. He/she will be less active resulting in **an increase in body fat (obesity) and a decrease in muscle mass**. Also **arthritis** in the hips and other joints is common and good treatments are available at the clinic. Daily exercise loosens the joints, too!
2. **Declining vision** - Eye changes begin around 7 years of age and cataract formation is common in pets older than 10. These changes may be an indication of disease elsewhere in the body such as high blood pressure and diabetes.
3. **Hearing loss** - Loss of this sense tends to be very gradual. It is important to be aware of it and modify your behaviour in ways that will help your pet cope. For example, don't startle your pet and warn others to stay away from a sleeping dog/cat. Wait until the pet is awake before you approach him/her. **Know where your pet is before moving your vehicles!**
4. **Skin and Coat changes** - As your pet ages, his/her coat may become dull and lack luster. Larger dogs can develop calluses on their elbows while others have nails that become brittle and break easily. **Lumps** are common and should be examined to determine if it is as simple as a fat lump or more serious.
5. **Heart and Lungs** - Aging pets are more likely to develop heart murmurs and lung problems. Signs of this are: coughing, wheezing, panting, shortness of breath during periods of activity and sleeping longer. **Diagnose with an X-ray.**
6. **Urinary Problems** - Signs are a significant increase in drinking and urinating. There may be loss of weight & appetite, vomiting and sleeping often. **Kidney, Diabetes and Cushing disease** have similar symptoms; therefore blood and urine tests are needed for a diagnosis. Also some female dogs develop **urinary incontinence**. Male cats often develop **urinary crystals / stones** and can not urinate – a very serious condition.
7. **Constipation** - Older animals tend to become less active and are more prone to constipation, especially overweight cats. More fiber in the diet and daily exercise can help to keep your pet regular. Daily fresh water, too! Many of the above conditions can be detected and successfully treated by having a yearly physical exam with blood and urine analysis.

Your pet can have enjoyable senior years! “ **Prevention is the best medicine !”**