

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Office Hours : Mon, Tues, Thurs - 8:30-5:00 211 McQuay Rd., RR#3 Yarker, On. K0K 3N0

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

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

Farm Emergency Service by App't

Three Tips for Healthy Dogs and Cats: **1. Annual Wellness Exams** are an important part of providing the best health care for the lifetime of your animal companions. Dogs and cats age quickly and they are unable to tell us if they are feeling a little "off". In fact, they are very good at hiding illness. Realize that a year for you is comparable to about 4 to 7 years to your dog/cat's life. Things can change in 12 months so bring your pet in for a physical exam and required blood/urine/fecal tests and vaccinations yearly! **2. Healthy Diet** - A healthy well balanced diet is critical. There have been a lot of advances in canine/feline nutrition. Ask us about what food and/or treats are best for your pet. **3. Play with your dog/cat!** Play is not something dogs/cats outgrow but rather an activity they keenly pursue throughout their lives. Daily walks/exercise is good for people, too! Unhealthy dog/cats do not want to play and should be checked promptly by the doctor for an illness. **Tug Toys - Ok or Not Ok:** Tugging is often viewed as cute, but if it is not **trained** properly, it can develop into biting and aggression. Obedience training to correct aggression is best done in the first year of age. Also not all tug toys are safe: some are too big for your dog, some have strings that can be swallowed and some can be bad for their teeth and jaws. **A Daily Winter Problem:** Due to the winter weather your dogs/cats will pick up rock salt and other chemicals on their paws from the sidewalk, driveway and road. Licking the salt off of the paws can cause soreness and also inflammation in the digestive tract. Please towel dry your dogs/cats paws thoroughly when they come inside, and watch out for ice/snow balls stuck between the toes. Dry their ears, too! **Joint Pain:** Most older dogs & cats develop arthritis. Do not give up on them without trying our amazing products for improved joint health. Their senior years can be longer and more enjoyable! **A Weird Emergency:** An eighth month old pup arrived here with a history of vomiting and inactivity. It was decided to do an exploratory abdominal surgery and a plastic bread bag tie was found within the intestine - causing two feet of intestine to go inside itself. Later the owner recalled that two weeks ago the pup had got into a loaf of bread when they were bringing in the grocery! **When pets talk - what do they say?** Pets communicate with anyone/anything that may respond to them. That could be another animal, a noise, a machine, etc but mostly it is to a person. For example, if a dog growls and the owner says something good or bad, it is taken as an acknowledgement of his communication. He will growl again, because you said it was okay to growl. **The best way to handle a growl is no eye contact and silence.** If there is no response then the growling usually stops quickly. This also applies to barking! Pets also tell us when they are hungry, thirsty or need to go out. Listen to them! **February/March Special – 5%off Dental Cleaning & Polishing How Many Teeth do Dogs and Cats Have?** Puppies /kittens have 26 baby teeth. After 6 months: dogs have 42 and cats have 30 adult teeth. **How kissable is your dog?** Dogs' mouths harbour millions of bacteria from chewing/eating various items, licking their privates, drinking out of puddles/lakes, from dental infections, etc. If you are going to allow your dog to lick your face make sure you wash thoroughly afterwards! Unfortunately, 9 out of 10 pet owners ignore their pet's dental care. If the teeth are very bad a dental cleaning/polishing with tooth extractions can be done here at the clinic. **Brushing your dogs/cats teeth daily will prevent gum disease, as it does for people!**

Did you know? A cat has four rows of whiskers!

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www.lanevetservices.ca and email: info@lanevetservices.ca

Attention RR# clients: Please call or email us with your fire number. Thank you!

Importance of Colostrum to Newborn Calves: Supplying a new born calf with its mother's first milk boosts the immune system! Newborn calves should receive at least 3 quarts (3.2 litres) of colostrum soon after birth, and an additional 2 quarts (2.5 litres) by 5 hours old. The sooner the antibodies are introduced to the calf the better. Only 50% antibodies are absorbed after 6 hours and 0% after 24 hours. An esophageal tube feeder is an ideal way to get colostrum into the calf, especially if it is weak and it will not suck. ***Types of Colostrum:** **1)** milk directly from the cow post calving. **2)** Fresh Colostrum from another cow – refrigerate for 7 days or treated sour colostrum can be kept longer. **3)** Frozen colostrum – should be used in an emergency, but freezing kills the white blood cells that reduce infections in the gut. **4)** Commercial Colostrum is a good alternative as a last resort. **Watch for Mastitis in Sheep and Goats!** **During lactation:** It is ideal to check each ewe/doe daily for any signs of mastitis. Udder flare ups can occur after stress: lambs not nursing enough or swipers stealing milk; and also increased protein in the feed (i.e. grain or high legume forage) can trigger a flush of milk production which starts the mastitis problem. It is seen suddenly as a hot hard udder and it will be extremely painful. The udder needs to be milked out to get rid of the infection. It is best to give pain medication 1 hr before milking. Oxytocin works fast (5 minutes) to get milk letdown, so make sure that the lambs/kids nurse first, then strip the rest out into a jar. The use of antibiotics, pain medication and oxytocin together treat mastitis. However, timing is crucial to success, so do not expect a miracle! **Gangrenous mastitis** usually occurs on pasture and is also very painful. The ewe will be seen fine one day then suddenly lame on a hind leg. It is life threatening if not treated immediately. Even when treated quickly part of the udder may die and come off, but the animal should live. **Weaning Time:** Take the grain away from the moms 14 days prior to weaning, but leave the creep feed in for the young to eat. At weaning move the moms to a new smaller area to reduce udder damage from running and feed old 1st cut grass hay. **Give no water for 24 hrs.** Leave the lambs/kids where they were, which should be out of view and hearing distance of their moms. This will reduce the stress on the young ones. The ewes/does that can hear their offspring bleat will take longer to dry up. The udders should be checked every other day for heat and swellings for about 2 weeks. At this time the ewes/does with udder problems should be marked to cull. The ones with softer supple udders can be returned to better feed, while the ones with fuller udders should remain longer on the grass hay. This should prevent mastitis at weaning.

***Did you know? Microwaving** colostrum will destroy the good antibodies and proteins needed to protect the newborn from disease. Warm up fresh/frozen colostrum in warm to hot water slowly.

Farm Animal Facts: Normal Body Temperatures (+ or - 0.5°C) ...

Cow	38.5	Chicken	42.0	Pig	39.0	Lamb	39.0 –
Calf	38.5	Sheep	38.0 – 40.0	Goat	39.5	Horse	38.0
Donkey	38.2						
Llama	38.0	Dog	38.0 - 39.0	Cat	38.0 - 39.0		

“Congratulations to the winners!” New Patients of the Month... September - “Puppies” Doyle, Tamworth
October - “Rocky” Lutz, Yarker
November - “Buck” Sager, Yarker
December - “Arthur” Courtney
Birthing of the Month... September - None
October - Randy McCullough, Parham
November - Willis Morgan, Roblin
December - Donald Embury, Newburgh

“Prevention is the best medicine!”