

LOCAL EVENTS

CALENDAR

Olympic Torch Relay Route in PG

Friday January 29th 5:09pm to 6:00pm
Van Bien to the Exhibition Park
Torch Celebration 6:00pm to 8:00pm
www.vancouver2010.com

Mr. PG Pageant

Friday February 5th 6:30pm
Coast Inn of the North
564.3737

Exploration Place Chinese New Year

Saturday February 6th 5:30pm
The Exploration Place
Sherry 562.1612 ext 242

Sweetheart Bridal Extravaganza

Sunday February 7th 11:00am to 5:00pm
PG Civic Centre
www.pgentertainmentgroup.net

Over The Line Snowball

Friday Feb 12th to Sunday Feb 14th
Dillman Farm
www.snowdaze.ca

Curling Funspiel

Saturday February 20th
PG Golf & Curling Club
www.snowdaze.ca

Free Swim

Sunday February 21st 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Four Seasons Pool
561.7636

Friday Nights at Café Voltaire

Live music every Friday night
Books & Company 1685 3rd Ave
563.6637

THE IMPORTANCE OF DENTAL HEALTH

Plaque: a usually colorless biofilm that builds up on teeth, leading to dental cavities

Tartar: also known as calculus, hardened dental plaque that can't be removed with a toothbrush

Periodontal disease: disease affecting one or more tooth supporting structures

Gingiva: gums **Halitosis:** bad breath

The mouth is host to several bacteria. Although most are harmless, many are associated with periodontal disease and responsible for tooth decay. When these bacteria mix with food debris and saliva, plaque begins to form. As bacteria grow and calcium salts are deposited, the plaque turns to tartar.

Tartar may form along the gumline or between the teeth and under the gums, causing irritation/redness. The gingiva may become so irritated they lose their connective tissue fibres attaching them to the teeth and surrounding bone.

Like humans, individual canines/felines and prone breeds are susceptible to plaque/tartar due to the composition of their saliva. Halitosis is usually the first sign of oral disease but may also be accompanied by a change in eating or chewing habits, weight loss, drooling, facial swelling etc.

70% of cats and 80% of dogs begin to show signs of oral disease by age 3.

We can attribute this to a combination of factors including age/health, poor diet (low quality pet food), chewing habits, breed genetics, home environment, mouth environment and grooming habits.

The most common feline oral disease, affecting up to two thirds of domestic cats, is feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions (FORL). These lesions cause severe pain, loss of tooth function and appear as erosions of the tooth surface. Symptoms include dehydration, weight loss, anorexia and tooth fractures.

The most common canine oral disease is periodontal disease, which causes bad breath, inflammation, pain, gingivitis, abscesses, infections, loose teeth and bone loss.

Periodontal disease results from a build up of tartar and is usually responsible for tooth loss and systemic complications with the heart, liver & kidneys. Bacteria can enter the bloodstream via the gums to cause ulcers, infections and in some cases, heart disease.

Hard objects such as rocks, sticks and certain chew toys can also cause serious problems. Aggressive chewers may break teeth, which can expose roots and lead to eventual rotting of the tooth and nearby gums. A happy pet is a healthy pet and a healthy pet doesn't have bad breath ☺

BITS OF THIS & THAT... HERE AND THERE & EVERYWHERE

- Don't forget to enter our monthly draw next time you come into the clinic (we give away equine dewormer, canine/feline treats, pet beds etc)
- Keep an eye out for our special monthly promotions in February, September and November
- Did you know that calving season is here already?
- Did you know that all horses are considered to have a birth date of January 1st (northern hemisphere)?
- No word in the English language rhymes with "month" or "silver"

THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY IS...

- Responsible Pet Owner's month
- National Snack Food month
- Black History month
- International Friendship month
- Children's Dental Health month

THIS DAY IN FEBRUARY IS...

- Feb 2 - Groundhog day
- Feb 11 - Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk day
- Feb 14 - Valentine's day
- Feb 16 - Canadian Heritage day
- Feb 20 - Love Your Pet day

What's Happenin at Murdoch Vet Clinic...

February is... SMALL ANIMAL DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!

Book a FREE dental exam during the month of February and receive 15% off of our dental services! You will also receive:

- ❑ FREE bag of MediCal Dental food
- ❑ FREE bag of Hill's t/d food
- ❑ FREE toothbrush
- ❑ Photo in our monthly newsletter
- ❑ A Dental Report Card for your pet
- ❑ and... Enter to win our grand prize ☺

Manager's Message...

Photo: Murdoch Vet Clinic Murder Mystery 2009
Christmas Party at The Exploration Place

We decided to do something a little different this year for our annual Christmas Party. Instead of a traditional dinner in December, we hosted a 1920's Juice Joint Murder Mystery in January! Many thanks to Sassafras for their wonderful food and to The Exploration Place for their excellent venue and incredible service!! The staff were in great spirits all night and more than accommodating! If you haven't had the opportunity to wander through The Exploration Place, don't wait any longer! It is truly a hidden gem nestled along the river in Fort George Park ☺ We all had such a blast investigating, scheming, sleuthing, conniving... and playing in the beautiful museum of course!!



What you might like to know about "PYOMETRA"

Pyometra is a medical emergency for both dogs and cats. It is a bacterial disease (infection) of the uterus most commonly seen in older, unspayed females but may occur as soon after a first heat. Open pyometra (cervix is open, draining from vagina) is more common than closed pyometra where the cervix is closed, no discharge is present and clinical symptoms are more difficult to diagnose. Spaying completely prevents this disease. Pyometra occurs as a result of changes in the uterine lining. Symptoms include vomiting, lethargy, dehydration, increased thirst and urination, vulvar discharge (with open pyometras) and abdominal enlargement. Steps taken to diagnose pyometra include x-rays/ultrasound to verify pregnancy if thought to be pregnant; blood work to help reveal functions of other internal

organs, the degree of infection in the body and how aggressive treatment needs to be. A culture may be collected if the owner elects medical (as opposed to surgical) treatment; however it is not recommended and usually futile. The most viable treatment for Pyometra is removal of the uterus by means of spaying. Depending on the severity of the illness, the animal may require stabilization via IV fluids and antibiotics. Early diagnosis is vital for the health of those females with the disease. The mortality rate in medically (non-surgical) treated cases is as high as 25% and risk of reoccurrence can be up to 80%. The mortality rate associated with surgical treatment (spaying) of pyometra is 8% with zero risk of reoccurrence. Remember, pyometra is a preventable disease. Spay your pets ☺

COME IN AND SEE OUR NEWLY OVERHAULED RETAIL SECTION...

Oatmeal and Aloe Shampoo great for dogs and horses
Stain & Odor Remover remove those tough smells & spots
Pill Poppers and Pill Pockets ease the administration of medication
Small Animal Emergency Kits for safe travelling with your pet
Horse Dewormer Quest Plus, Quest, Equalan, Panacur & more
Leashes and Seat Belts for your pet's safety

MediCal Royal Canin and Hill's Prescription Diets
Pawguard effective lanolin rub for dry, cracked paws & elbows ☺
Hypoallergenic Dog Treats
Toothbrushes, Toothpaste & Breathalyser
Ear Cleaning Solution for those avid swimmers
Toe Nail Trimmers & Bloodstop powder for those 'oops' trims



...IF WE DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU NEED - JUST ASK!

Closed: Friday April 2nd ~ Monday May 24th ~ Thursday July 1st

DR. CHRISTINE MURDOCH, Owner & Veterinarian
KELLY M, Registered Animal Health Technician
KACIE H, Veterinary Assistant
KAYDEN H, Kennel Attendant

DR. JODYNE GREEN, Associate Veterinarian
KRISTY J, Registered Animal Health Technician
CHANDRA M, Administrative Assistant
SHELDON G, Volunteer

KELLY-ANNE H, Office Manager
NAVKARAN B, Veterinary & Technician Assistant
SHANNON C, Administrative Assistant

DID YOU KNOW . . . THE ORCA (AKA KILLER WHALE, TOP OCEAN PREDATOR) IS THE LARGEST MEMBER OF THE DOLPHIN FAMILY ☺