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Centreville Animal Hospital Newsletter

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“Helping you Experience the Unconditional Love”

Centreville Animal Hospital

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News and Views

Infrared Light Therapy Now Available I witnessed some remarkable recoveries recently in dogs with arthritis, ear infections, slow healing sores and other chronic inflammatory situations. Human physical therapy clinics have been using this technology for years. Our horse veterinarians have found this technique to be very effective in chronic leg issues. Only recently has this technology been available for widespread usage in dogs and cats. The procedure is to evaluate where the pet’s body is injured and to what extent. Part of the healing process is to introduce this light therapy over a short course of treatments, usually six to begin. The several dogs with chronic artistic pain have been remarkably improved.

There are two general technologies available to us to use on your pet. Laser light therapy is classified as class III-B and Class IV. The higher the class number, the shorter the time period of exposure of the pet to the light energy that is necessary to see positive responses. The Class IV while being demonstrated to us burned the hair coat of a dog and the need for protective eye glasses for all around the pet at the time of treatment was necessary. The Class III-B unit takes longer time (30 seconds vs: 6 seconds) and does not require the special eye protection for people. The extra time and safety with this unit allow us to administer the energy to the injured body part with no known side

adverse effects. Let us show you what this instrument can do to help pain, discomfort and increase ease of motion.

Dr. Ilana Schafer Centreville Dr. Schafer will join our professional staff in late August to assist all of us in providing better care for your pets. Dr. Schafer is a graduate of the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University 15 months ago and she attended and graduated from the University of Maryland prior to her studies in New York. She has been an Intern at the Veterinary Referral Center in Gaithersburg, Maryland for the past year learning advanced skills and being associated with specialists in all fields of veterinary medicine there.

Early Detection Of Osteoarthritis In Dogs Could Open Doors For A Cure ***ScienceDaily (June 11, 2009)*** **—** Osteoarthritis is commonly diagnosed in the late and irreversible stages, when treatment can only be expected to decrease pain and slow progression of disease. Because osteoarthritis is a widespread problem in dogs, horses and humans, doctors and veterinarians need a precise way to diagnose the disease early and accurately. Now, University of Missouri researchers are investigating potential biomarkers in dogs for early diagnosis of osteoarthritis, which could help identify patients at increased risk of developing osteoarthritis.

"By developing methods for earlier diagnosis of osteoarthritis, prevention or even curative treatment strategies to manage the disease become more realistic," said James Cook, professor of veterinary medicine and surgery, and the William & Kathryn Allen Distinguished Professor in Orthopedic Surgery. "Biomarkers could detect the disease before pain and swelling occurs, and owners could take preventative measures, such as modifying activities or diet, helping their pets lose weight and strengthen their joints, to reduce the likelihood of their dogs developing osteoarthritis."

In the study, researchers examined potential biomarkers in synovial fluid. Synovial fluid, which is fluid that lubricates the joints, is known to have sensitive and rapid responses to joint injury. Taking samples from dogs, researchers found that synovial fluid quantity and quality were altered in injured stifle joints (the joint in the hind limbs of dogs that is the equivalent joint to the human knee).

"At the MU Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory, we are particularly interested in identification and validation of biomarkers that can detect early stages of osteoarthritis to provide accurate diagnostic and prognostic information prior to the onset of clinical disease for people and for pets," Cook said. "Our team, led by Drs. Kuroki, Stoker and Garner, is making tremendous progress in developing simple tests on blood, urine and

synovial fluid that show great promise for helping us diagnose impending osteoarthritis before it is too late to help the patient in the most effective manner."

Osteoarthritis causes degradation of articular cartilage, leading to pain, inflammation and loss of motion in the joint. Veterinarians predict that 20 percent of middle-aged dogs and 90 percent of older dogs have osteoarthritis in one or more joints and the percentages are even higher for the human population.

Once-a-month Pill For Both Fleas And Ticks In Dogs And Cats

ScienceDaily (June 29, 2009) — Scientists in New Jersey are describing discovery and successful tests of the first once-a-month pill for controlling both fleas and ticks in domestic dogs and cats.

Peter Meinke and colleagues at Merck Research Laboratories note the need for better ways of controlling fleas and ticks, driven in part by increases in pet ownership. Estimates suggest that there were 71 million pet dogs and 81 million pet cats in the United States alone in 2007 — up from 61 million and 70 million in 2001.

Although many powders, sprays and other topical agents are on the market, many pet owners prefer the convenience of pills. Products given orally can reach more parts of an animal's body, do not wash off in rain or bath water, and don't transfer from pets to people. At least one existing pill fights fleas in pets, but does not appear effective for ticks.

In tests on fleas and ticks in dogs and cats, a single dose of the new pill was 100 percent effective in protecting against both fleas and ticks for a month. There were no signs of toxic effects on the animals. Scientists obtained the flea and tick fighter from a substance first found in a fungus that "has the potential to usher in a new era in the treatment of ecoparasitic [ticks and fleas, for instance] infestations in companion animals." (Ed. Note: This is still in the experimental stage and if effective, as first considered to be, will be a long time coming for us to use on our pets!)

Journal reference**:**

1. Meinke et al. **Discovery of the Development Candidate N-tert-Butyl Nodulisporamide: A Safe and Efficacious Once Monthly Oral Agent for the Control of Fleas and Ticks on Companion Animals**. *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 2009; 52 (11): 3505 DOI: 10.1021/jm801334v

ANIMAL MAGNETISM
MIT techies' dog-collar device aims to fetch new friends. BY JASON SCHWART

Somewhere between the digital pet craze (remember Tamagotchis?) and Facebook mania, you knew it had to come to this. Yes, thanks to a few canine-loving graduates of the MIT Media Lab, social networking has gone to the dogs. After three years of development, this fall Noah Paessel, Phil Liang, and Jon Gips will launch the Snif Tag, a rectangular device that attaches to your dog's collar and—in theory, at least—results in your heightened popularity at the park.

Here's how it works: Each pup gets a profile on sniftag.com, and whenever two dogs wearing a tag walk near each other, a signal zips between the tags and is then beamed to the Snif Tag site. There, owners can see which dogs they strolled by on a given day and, if they so choose, "friend" a particular dog for full access to its profile, which offers information like breed, gender, age, and weight (thankfully, just for the dog) and Facebook-style status updates. Voilà—new friends, both canine and human.

Snif Tag CEO Paessel says the invention was inspired by the old premise that there's no better wingman than a dog. "Before Zoe, I wouldn't talk to anybody," the now-married Paessel says, referring to an Italian greyhound he lived with in his bachelor days in Somerville. "But with her, I talked to people all the time. Not just girls, but certainly that was helpful."

The benefits of the $300 tag, sold via the website, go beyond the social. Research revealed that office jockeys wanted a better way to keep tabs on their pets while at work, so the device includes sensors that detect what its wearer is doing (walking, running, resting). That data, too, is relayed to the Snif Tag website, where owners can check to see if their pooch is at home snoozing or out on a stroll—especially useful for those who hire dog walkers.

Next up, we hope: social networking for cats. Now, *that's* when the claws will come out! (Thanks to Dr. David McGrath at Wignall Animal Hospital in Dracut, MA for this article).

Acupuncture Dr. Sara Monahan is certified in Veterinary Acupuncture. She works Mondays and Thursdays. Her skills and her skillful application of this ancient art are a great asset that we want more pets and clients to realize will benefit them. The pets that have experienced acupuncture speak volumes about the ability of a misunderstood practice help. If animals feel better based upon what their owners see in the relief from arthritis, stiffness and pain, then it works. See what you think. Give Dr. Monahan a call and see for yourself.

We welcome your comments and concerns because, in the end, we share a common goal: Happy and contented pets that are members of your family for a very long time.