

# For Fidors & Felines

## And other household pets

Fidors & Felines, LLC  
 816-824-4735  
 www.fidorsandfelinesllc.com

### Natural Abilities Channeled Into The Sport Of Feline Agility

#### Inside this issue:

Dental Care and Your Pets	2
Dangers of Excess Food	3
Bye-Bye to By-Products	3
Welcome New Pet Clients	3
Recent Issue with E-mail	4
Policy Updates	4

It's 4 a.m. and that darn cat is at it again. He is walking across the papers carelessly thrown on the desk the night before, playing with a rogue pencil that just missed the pencil holder. Then the real fun begins; he's over the chair, under the bed, down the stairs, and across the wood floor, sounding like a thousand pound elephant thumping around. It is hard to believe all this noise comes from a thirteen pound cat. He is probably a great candidate for Feline Agility.



#### Our mission:

To provide exceptional, trustworthy services to clients and their pets, treating their pets as we would our own and providing clients with peace of mind when away.

Feline Agility was first seen at the Cat Fancier's Association (CFA) competition in 2005. Attendees and participants raved about the competition

where cats and kittens ran the course. What was most entertaining about this event was the effort put forth by both owner and cat, sometimes successfully completing the course, sometimes not. It all depends on how the cat felt about competing that day.

The course for felines looks very much like a scaled down canine course. It consists of jumps, hoops, weave poles, ladders, tunnels, and other obstacles for cats to maneuver over, under, around, and through. Owners use a toy to lure their cats through the course.

There are many advantages to Feline Agility. It is fun for the owner, the cat, and the audience. These events build a public awareness of how beautiful, intelligent, and trainable cats are. Cat owners, through training, develop an closer bond with their feline friends, and develop skills that can be



applied to their own fitness and training programs.

Agility training is done in a small space inside the house and is inexpensive to set up. A visit to the Web site of the International Cat Agility Tournaments (ICAT) group, [www.catagility.com](http://www.catagility.com), will help prospective trainers get started. Additional information is available from CFA at [www.cfa.org](http://www.cfa.org).



## Dental Care and Your Pets By Warren Jones, DVM

The old adage that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" definitely applies when it comes to dental care and dental disease. As veterinarians we try to instill good habits from puppy-hood such as brushing and proper diet, but nothing is fail proof. Many options are available, the biggest key is to pick one that is best suited for your lifestyle, one that you can and will actually do.

**Brushing.** Tooth brush and finger brush kits are available with flavored dentifrice. The key is to start young and get your pet used to your fingers in their mouth. Start slowly, maybe brushing a few teeth and gradually work up to the entire dental arcade. To be most effective teeth need to be brushed daily. If you won't be able to brush daily then it is best to pick another method or a combination of methods.

**Water additives.** There are multiple water additives that are intended to disinfect your pet's mouth as they drink water such as C.E.T.

**Aquadent.** To use, simply mix in proper amounts of water and additive, making this the sole source of drinking water, the chlorhexidine in the product helps to remove the bacteria that lead to calculus formation.

**Chews/Treats.** A book could be written on the different treats and chews available that are intended to help our pets' teeth or breath. The physical act of chewing causes the pet to salivate more, helping to flush the mouth as well the chewing of the treat "scratches" off the plaque that will form tartar. Examples of these products include C.E.T. Hextra chews, Greenies, Nylabones, and many others. Pet preference will help you decide which one is appropriate, but remember, if your pet has allergies, anything that goes in the mouth can effect them.

**Diet.** Kibble is preferred to canned or semi-moist diets. As with the treats or bones, the physical act of chewing helps to scrape off the

plaque that forms tartar. Science diet makes a food called T/D, its porous structure acts like sand paper when the dog eats. I personally prefer this diet be used as a treat, not as a sole diet.

**Vaccine.** Pfizer Animal Health introduced Porphyromonas Denticans-Gulae-Salivosa Bacterin vaccine approximately three years ago, simply referred to as "dental vaccine." The intent of this vaccine is not to prevent dental tartar accumulation, but to prevent that tartar from weakening the gingiva and climbing up the roots of the teeth causing periodontal disease and tooth loss. It cannot be used as a single method for dental health, but is another weapon in the fight to keep your pet's mouth healthy.

**Dental prophylaxis.** A dental prophylaxis is very similar to your going to the dental office and the hygienist "doing a cleaning." Our technology is a little different, we employ Piezo

scalers that will also get tartar off from under the gum. Dental prophylaxis in pets require general anesthesia and with that comes increased risk to your pet. Although a necessary evil, sometimes this is the best option to get things under control, then a good discussion on what else is available to help increase the time-span before another prophylaxis is needed for the safety of your pet.

As you can see, many options are available. A good, honest discussion about your needs and desires as a pet owner is critical to success. Pick a plan that you will stick to and be honest when asked, that helps us determine if we need to go a different route. The key to success is knowledge, after reading this article go lift your pet's lip and look at the teeth, if you don't like what you see give us a call and we can go over the options available and get a plan of action to get you on the right track.

**Warren B. Jones D.V.M.** is a 1999 graduate of the University of Missouri-College of Veterinary Medicine. After practicing in the Lee's Summit and Blue Spring area the past ten years, Dr. Jones opened Strothertowne Pet Hospital with an emphasis on high quality pet care on an individual basis and client communication. He lives in Lee's Summit with his wife Julie, their four children, and a host of four legged creatures.



## Excess Food Nearly Got This Dog The Death Sentence

On January 31st I received a call from one of my clients that works at Wayside Waifs. He decided to foster a beautiful, six year old black Lab named Kelli. She was recently returned to the shelter and was about to be labeled "unadoptable", meaning she would be euthanized. She weighed in at 107 pounds or about 40–50 pounds overweight. No one knows what was happening in her previous home, but one thing was certain, she was eating too

much and not getting enough exercise. Her foster dad asked for our help in getting her back in shape so she can be "adoptable" again.

I met Kelli on February 1st when she was at her top weight. She could hardly get up to go outside. We walked half way down the driveway and back for her first outing and that was a struggle for her. She was panting and drooling when she got back inside. We have been gradually

increasing the length of her walks and her foster dad has been closely monitoring her food, and as of last week, she has lost 18 pounds!

While she has a way to go, she is making great progress on her weight reduction plan. It seems she has some painful joints because of hauling around so much weight, but getting around is much easier for her now. With the right incentive, i.e., a low calorie treat or a fish from the nearby pond, she

To see pictures and a video of Kelli, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/chazzeroonie#p/a/u/0/j57Bvbys1kA>

can even trot along a bit. We are looking forward to the day she is adopted and on her way to her forever home. Meanwhile we continue to walk two times each day, adding a little distance on each week until she has lost the weight she needs to lose.

## Say Bye-Bye to By-Products

Proper nutrition is as important to our pets as it is to us. Unfortunately, many of the pet foods available in groceries, discount stores, and even some pet stores contain products that can cause health problems in our dogs. Health problems can lead to stress, which can lead to behavior problems.

With high quality food, your dog will get what he/she needs with a lesser quantity of food, so the cost of

feeding your pet will likely remain the same, or even be a little less. So don't freak out when you see the price tag; calculate the cost per serving, and the economy of the high quality food will become obvious.

### What should you look for?

High-quality animal protein and whole grains and vegetables

Baked food is better than pressure-cooked food

### What should you avoid?

Byproducts, artificial colors, flavors, or preservatives, and added sweeteners.

Does your dog need to lose a few pounds? Then he/she needs more exercise and fewer calories. Take him/her for an extra walk or a game of fetch. Also, whatever you do, DO NOT FREE FEED. You can also supplement food with carrots or green beans for extra fiber, or small and

a limited number of pieces of roast chicken as a treat.

## Recommended High Quality Dog Food

- Innova Evo by NaturaPet
- Innova by NaturaPet
- Premium Edge and Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul
- Wellness by Old Mother Hubbard
- Natural Choice ULTRA
- Solid Gold
- Merrick; Blue Buffalo; Eagle Pack

## Welcome to Our New Pet Clients

Sadie—Golden Retriever Mix  
 Sherlock—Miniature Schnauzer  
 Kelli—Black Lab  
 Whitney—Dachshund Mix  
 Magee—Miniature Schnauzer  
 Zena—Lab/Chow Mix  
 Layla—Golden Retriever Mix

We love all of our pet clients and enjoy caring for them. Please give them a hug and kiss from Larry & Jayne!

## Beau's New Home

Thanks to our many wonderful clients, there was a lot of networking going on and Beau, the 10 month old English Mastiff, is in his new home. He will soon be on his way to becoming a therapy dog, but for now he's enjoying lots of love and affection from his new family. His previous owners miss him and are very happy that he has such a great place to call home.

Adopt a homeless pet

Are you looking for a pet? We suggest you try shelters/rescue groups first!

[www.furrykidsrefuge.org](http://www.furrykidsrefuge.org) (you can also see their pets at the PetCo in Lee's Summit on Saturdays)

[mogsadoptions@yahoo.com](mailto:mogsadoptions@yahoo.com) (not a web site, but contact them if you are interested in German shepherd rescues)

[www.waysidewaifs.org](http://www.waysidewaifs.org) (nearby in Grandview—we adopted three of our pets from there)



Phone: 816-824-4735  
Fax: 816-246-1198  
E-mail: fidosandfelinesllc@gmail.com

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.fidosandfelinesllc.com](http://www.fidosandfelinesllc.com)**

**The best place for your pet is  
in your own home.**

If you haven't visited our web site in a while, you might want to take a look. We have a new partnership with fetchdog, where you can purchase high quality dog supplies. Just scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Shop Now!" It's easy, convenient and you can have your purchase delivered right to your door! [www.fidosandfelinesLLC.com](http://www.fidosandfelinesLLC.com)

**All the best for your dog.**  
Find the highest quality dog supplies backed by a  
100% guarantee plus expert information on dogs.

**Shop Now!**  
fetchdog™

## Our Recent Issues With E-mail

Thank you to our clients who notified us of the recent hacking of our e-mail account. This has caused us to take even more actions to ensure that your contact and location information is secure. In our address book at the gmail account, we include just your name and e-mail address, but no other information that would indicate where you are located. We do not want someone accessing our e-mail to find your note telling us you are out-of-town and then access your address or phone number in our address book. As always, when we send out a group e-mail,

it will be addressed to our e-mail account with a blind copy to all of our clients, just as this newsletter was sent. This is done, not because we don't want our clients to talk with each other, but to protect the privacy of our clients from someone who might want to use the contact for other purposes.

**We take the protection  
of your privacy very  
seriously.**

## Policy Update

We find it necessary to occasionally revisit our policies and update them based on business conditions and protection of both our clients and our business. Here are a couple of updates you may want to note for future pet-sits.

**1. Calling to let us know you have returned home.** We have many clients who do this regularly and others who don't. If we do not hear from our clients, we will attempt to call you. If we do not connect with you, we will continue to visit your pets until otherwise instructed. These additional

visits will be at our normal rate. If we do a drive-by and discover that you are home, there will be a \$10.00 charge to cover our time and mileage.

**2. Fees for returned checks** have been increased to \$35 to match what the bank is charging us.

Also, just as a reminder, if I have your key in the file and you are relocating, please let me know. I will make every effort to get that back to you before you move on.

