

# San Antonio TailMail

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
SAN ANTONIO  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

DECEMBER 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Aging - It's more than a few gray hairs
- A Message From Dr. Mattox

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Just For Fun 3
- Gift Ideas 3
- Mac's Mews 3

## Beware Of Pets As Presents



As the holidays approach you're thinking about gifts...and perhaps about adopting a new pet or giving a pet as a gift. Bringing a new pet into your home is a huge responsibility and there is a lot to do before making this commitment. Your very first step should be to research which breeds would be appropriate for your family's needs.

Each breed has specific characteristics that may or may not blend well with your lifestyle and level of activity. Be sure that you start by identifying several breeds that will be suitable matches for you. Consider whether the holidays are the right time for a new addition. Holidays are hectic and new pets need a lot of attention. If you are not prepared, bringing a new pet into your home during this time can create additional complications.

Breed rescue groups are great

if you want a specific breed. Breed rescues are groups of volunteers devoted to helping a single breed. They typically foster the pets in homes while searching for new families. Most require an adoption application and undergo a home visit before adopting one of their rescues. Some may also require you to return the pet to them if the adoption is unsuccessful.

Animals shelters are popular places to adopt a pet. Shelters have a (continued on page 2)

## A Message From Dr. Mattox

I have a Christmas gift to share with everyone, a homemade recipe for laundry detergent that will save money and the environment (no more plastic containers). We have been using this detergent at the hospital since July with great success. The recipe was a "tip" that was published by another veterinarian in one of our industry magazines.

The "tip" has become one of the top downloads from their website.

Some of our staff have started using it at home and I made a batch to share with my family. It is very simple to make and took only 30 minutes on the stove in my kitchen. The results are a laundry soap that costs just \$2.00 per gallon.

My spare time is limited, so I just ordered everything from Amazon rather than trying to find the items in local stores. I noticed recently though that Target carries the Arm and Hammer Washing Soda and some of the old time hardware stores around town might have the Fels-Naptha soap. This detergent is (continued on page 4)

# Beware of Pets As Presents (cont'd from page 1)

large selection of ages and breeds. Many of these pets are wonderful animals who were surrendered because their owners were unable to care for them. Almost all shelters have an application process and require the pets be spayed or neutered before adoption.

**Research!**  
Wherever you get your new pet, be sure to ask about the policy for treating pre-existing conditions as well as the return policy should the relationship not be successful.

Of course, always be sure to spend some time with the animal before purchasing or adopting. Keep in mind that when you get a pet, you make a commitment to that animal for the duration of his/her life!

Giving a pet as a surprise gift can cause unnecessary problems, so be sure that all adults in the family are ready to help out and onboard with the new addition.

Talk to your vet about recommendations for food, vaccination schedules, housebreaking and other puppy/kitten issues.

The more prepared you are, the easier the transition will be for you and your new pet!



# Aging - it's more than just a few gray hairs

Is old age catching up? Has your dog or cat started to slow down as he gets older? Is he less keen to exercise? Does he pant and puff if he does? Has his appetite lessened? Does he drink more water?

These are all important signs which are often thought of as a result of old age and may seem an inevitable consequence of passing years. In most cases, these symptoms

are caused by specific problems, which, if treated, can relieve the signs of aging. As dogs and cats get older, their organs and systems become less efficient and they become more susceptible to disease. They face many of the same problems that humans develop as they age - arthritis, diabetes, kidney and liver dysfunction, heart and lung problems, hormone imbalance, cataracts, oral disease,

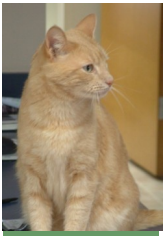
cancer and decreased brain function. They may show signs of confusion or disorientation, changes in sleeping patterns or loss of house-training.

If you've noticed any of these symptoms, bring them to the attention of your veterinarian. He/she (continued on page 4)



	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
<b>Cat</b>	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	
<b>Dog</b>	0-12 lbs	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96
	21-50 lbs	38	42	47	51	56	60	65	69	74	78	83	87	92	96	101	105
	51-90 lbs	39	45	50	56	61	66	72	77	82	88	93	99	104	109	115	120
	> 90 lbs	42	49	56	64	71	78	86	93	101	108	115	123				

# Mac's Mews.....



Mac

Humans often erroneously assume that there are other, more important activities than taking care of your immediate needs, such as conducting business, spending time with their families or even sleeping.

Though this is dreadfully inconvenient, you can make this work to your advantage by pestering your human at the moment that is the busiest. It's usually so flustered that it will do whatever you want it to do, just to get you out of its hair. For example: sitting on the newspaper.

If a human has a newspaper in front of it, chances are good that it's something they assume is more important than you. They will often offer you a snack to lure you away. Establish your supremacy over this wood pulp product at every opportunity.



This practice also works well with computer keyboards, remote controls, car keys and small children.

Until next month...

*Mac*

## What To Give A Pet Owner Who Has Everything

As the Christmas season approaches, we all struggle deciding what gifts to buy our co-workers, friends, teachers and family members. We face this dilemma because most people have all that they need and we don't want to give them another tie, fruit cake, coffee mug, candy jar or knick knack to collect dust.

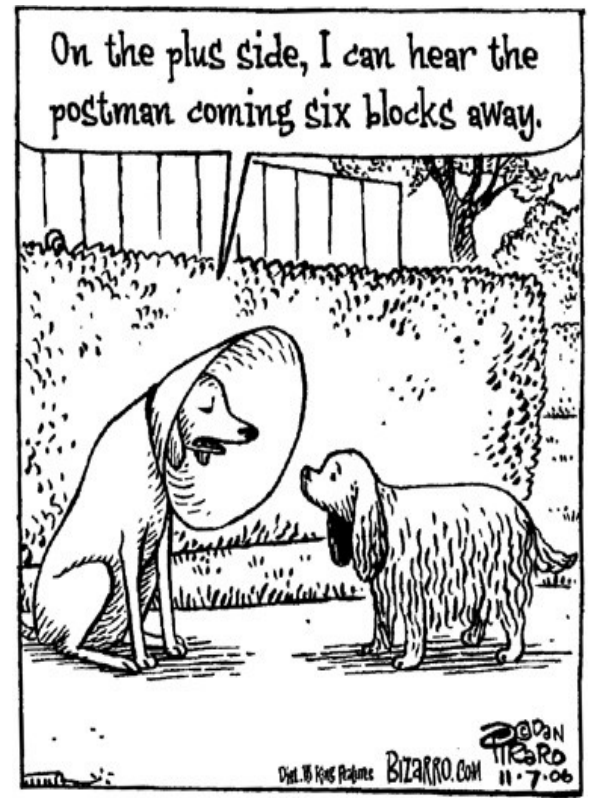


A great gift for pet owners is a gift certificate for veterinary services. Denominations are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100. Ask any of our helpful staff members for more information.

Another suggestion is charitable donations. Spay Pasco, is an organization dedicated to educating and assisting the citizens of Pasco County with the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats. Spay Pasco will accept your donation and send a Christmas card to the person for whom you are making the donation. Visit their website for more information: [www.spaypasco.com](http://www.spaypasco.com).

# Happy Holidays!

## Just For Fun



Reprinted from Funny Times / PO Box 18530 / Cleveland Hts. OH 44118  
phone: 216.371.8600 / email: [ft@funnytimes.com](mailto:ft@funnytimes.com)

San Antonio Animal Hospital  
PO Box 237  
San Antonio FL 33576  
(352) 588-2132

Visit our website:  
[www.sanantoniiovets.com](http://www.sanantoniiovets.com)

## Aging – it's more than just a few gray hairs *(cont'd from page 2)*

can check for lumps and bumps, examine his teeth and gums and perform blood tests to determine if his liver and kidneys are functioning properly.

Once we know what's causing your pet's symptoms of aging, we can offer suggestions to improve his/her quality of life. Appropriate changes of diet, exercise and medication can all help give your pet increased comfort and longevity. Your pet is a member of your family! With proper attention, care and nutrition, you can help increase the length and quality of your pet's life.

## A Message From Dr. Mattox

*(continued from page 1)*

not as sudsy as traditional laundry detergent, but it cleans just as well.

The recipe printed here is also available on our website:  
[www.sanantoniiovets.com](http://www.sanantoniiovets.com).

### Merry Christmas!

#### Ingredients:

- 1 bar of Fels-Naptha (an old-time, heavy duty laundry bar soap, but any bar soap will work)
- 1 cup of Arm & Hammer Super Washing Soda
- 1 cup of 20 Mule Team Borax

#### Directions:

Shave the bar of soap into small pieces using a cheese grater or a food processor.

In a large saucepan, heat a gallon of water to boiling. As soon as the water boils, turn the heat down and add the soap pieces. Stir occasionally until the soap dissolves, then pour the mixture into a clean 5 gallon bucket. Stir in the borax and washing soda. Fill the bucket the rest of the way with warm water and stir. Place a lid on the bucket and let it sit overnight. After 24 hours, you'll have a giant clot of detergent. Break it up with your hands to make it easier to pour out of the bucket.

Use about 3/4 cup of detergent in a regular washing machine and about 1/4 in a high-efficiency machine.