

Tails from the Dog House

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Sardis Animal Hospital



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So Somebody Cloned a Dog!

And an Afghan no less! Oh what are we doing? Is this really progressive science or are we just in love with technology? So does the successful cloning of a dog mean that soon we can take our aging or recently deceased beloved pet to a facility that can make us a carbon copy of Rover or Fluffy? That's what was done in the Arnold Swartzenegger movie "The 6th Day" which was filmed in Vancouver by the way. The movie has the cloning of the family dog as a sidebar to the main story which fictionalizes the cloning of people, mostly for criminal intent. Well it makes for exciting on-screen entertainment but that's not the intent of the scientists who dabble in this technology.

The real point of such work is to gain the knowledge and skills in cellular genetics to manipulate genes and tissue development to cure genetic and metabolic disorders and even be able to grow organs like kidneys and spinal chords that can replace failing ones. And whether the vehicle used is clones or stem cells, its all part of the same work. We will no doubt, debate the morality and social implications of this until the (cloned) cows come home.

Of course, there is always going to be those who will misuse this technology to try to make a buck, feeding off the emotional weaknesses of people who have more money than common sense. A California (where else?) based company is offering the cloning of your cat for a mere \$50,000. Give it a rest and get a life I say! Use your skills and money to give a diabetic kid a new pancreas instead of cloning Fluffy! Turn those stem cells into spinal nerve fibres so the paraplegic can walk again instead of making an army of identical Rotties to guard your grow op!





Staff News

Hilda moves on, Melissa joins staff

A new Face at the Counter

We are pleased to welcome Melissa Burroughs to our staff. Melissa replaces Hilda deRidder at reception. We are sad to see Hilda go and thank her for four years of service. Hilda returns to the serenity of home, hubby and her dog after life at the Sardis Animal Hospital Zoo.



Melissa is a BC native and is an alumna of Tweedsmuir Senior Secondary in Cloverdale. She has just recently moved to Chilliwack from Abbotsford. Melissa has had horses and pets since she was little. "I've always loved being around animals and finally have a job where I can enjoy them every day" says she. Melissa shares her life with her fiance Bruce, her cat Sparco and her dog Riley. One of the reasons she moved here was to be closer to mountains and lakes where she can enjoy hikes with Riley, a bouncy Yellow Labrador Retriever.

Lady Vet delivers a litter!

Dr Kim Delivers Twin Girls !!!

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Kim Corfield and her husband Scott who are now the proud parents of TWIN GIRLS!!! The beautiful babes, named Alexandra and Gabrielle made their appearance in July at Chilliwack General Hospital. Dr Kim has been on maternity leave since May in preparation for the big event.

The babes are healthy, happy little gems and have turned Kim and Scott's life on its ear. Sleep is a rare commodity right now, but worth the effort. Life will never be the same again.

Way to go Kim and Scott!!!

CHANGE IN HOURS

NOTICE REGARDING CHANGE IN HOURS

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE WE ARE DISCONTINUING THURSDAY EVENING HOURS. DR. ENGLE WILL STILL HAVE OFFICE HOURS ON FRIDAYS DURING THE DAY.



Kitty Capers Elimination Problems in Cats

Kitty Litter Problems

Place litter boxes where cats have easy access to them. If possible one on each floor of your house.

If you have several cats you need more than one litter box

Use a fine grained substrate, change/clean daily

Litter boxes should be 1.5 times the length of a cat's body

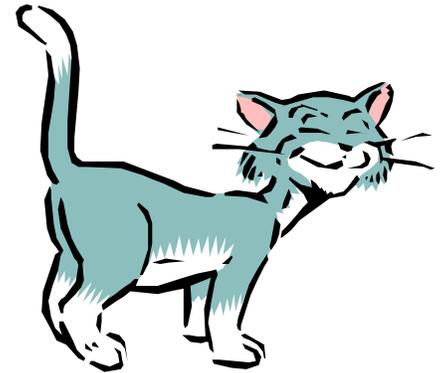
Spraying is most likely to happen if you have an intact male or a female in heat

Stray cats in your yard can trigger household spraying in an indoor cat.

Spraying is most likely to happen in multiple cat households.

One of the most frustrating problems we are consulted on is inappropriate house-hold elimination by cats. Sometimes this is triggered by a legitimate medical problem, but more often it is not. The following information is taken from the Journal of the American Vet Med Assoc. July 2005. We hope those of you who share your home with a cat will find it useful.

"Cats choose their elimination sites within their territory based on social interactions, previous site use, and surface preference or aversion. High-ranking, free-ranging cats may control access to preferred elimination sites; this pattern may also play a role for indoor cats in situations in which social systems are stressful. Easy access to litter boxes in places where cats will use them will help prevent inappropriate elimination in multi-cat households.



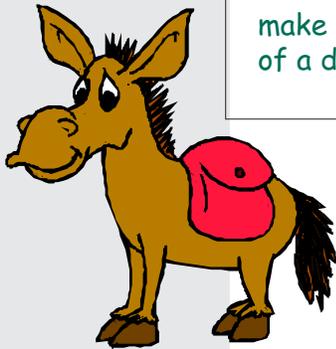
Most cats prefer a fine-grained substrate. For indoor cats, the cleanliness of the litter box correlates with a return to litter box usage in cats with elimination problems. Research indicates that house cats without elimination problems will dig in their litter boxes longer before eliminations, whereas cats that dig for 4 seconds or less prior to elimination may be candidates for elimination problems. Awareness of this can help identify a potential problem with litter box aversion so that owners can change to a litter that cats prefer (ie., dig in for longer than 4 seconds). Cats also spend more time in litter boxes that are at least 1.5 times the length of a cat's body. Commercial litter boxes are often too small, but there are a number of options that can be used instead.

Although squat urination is the method by which most cats empty the bladder, cats may start in a squatting position and finish in a standing position. Some cats also eliminate urine in a standing posture called spraying. Spraying is a normal feline behavior, although humans find it objectionable. Spraying is not a primary means of urine elimination in most cats; feline communication may be it's main function. Both male and female cats spray, although intact males and females in heat spray more often. The cat does not dig before spraying, nor try to cover the affected area afterwards. When spraying, the cat usually voids small volumes of urine onto vertical surfaces. The cat may also posture to spray without releasing urine.

Spraying can be viewed as a passive form of aggression and as a method by which an intact resident male advertises it's presence and activity. Cats from multiple cat households are more likely to spray than those from single-cat households.

Animal Crackers

A place for
animal humour



Mad Cow Humour



Irish Proverbs

"Put silk on a goat,
and it's still a goat!"

"It's the good horse
that draws his own
cart."

"It's a bad hen that
doesn't scratch
herself"

"The world will not
make a racehorse out
of a donkey."

How to Forecast the Weather

Go to the back door and look for the dog.

If the dog is at the door and he is wet....
It's raining.

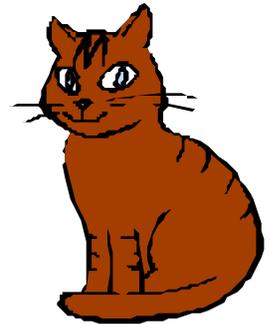
If the dog is really soaking wet..
It's raining really hard.

If the dog's fur looks like its been rubbed the wrong way...
It's windy.

If the dog has snow on his back....
It's snowing.

Of course, to be able to tell the weather like this, you have to
leave the dog outside all the time..... especially if you expect
bad weather.

**Sincerely,
The Cat**



Quote from American Funny man George Carlin:

"Is it just me, or does anyone else find it amazing that our
government(USA) can track a cow born in Canada almost three years ago,
right to the stall where she sleeps in the state of Washington, and then
track her calves to their stalls but they are unable to locate 11 million
illegal aliens wandering around our country. Maybe we should give them all
a cow"



Questions and Answers

Having puppies is a lot of work for both dog and owner

Problems and complications can cost you plenty

Bitches that have heats and puppies are at higher risk for mammary cancer

Having puppies does not make her a "better dog"

Question: "We have a new female puppy and were thinking of letting her have a litter so the kids can see a live birth. Is that a good idea or should we just have her spayed?"

Answer: There are few questions that make us squirm more than this one. The question actually has several variations; "I want her to have a litter so she will be a better dog" and the clincher "I paid so much money for her that I want to get my money back!"

ARRRRGHH!! Have a heart!! A multiple birth pregnancy is no simple task for any mom. Ask any woman who has been through a pregnancy with one baby, let alone twins or more. Dog pregnancy may look simple to you, but I'm here to tell you on behalf of dogs everywhere it's not always simple and is a lot of work, not just for the dog but the owner too.

Added strain and wear and tear on the body, risk of complications, especially if the owner has no experience or knowledge in managing a canine pregnancy and whelping, increased risk of future medical problems, finding homes for the pups, managing increased vet bills, especially if the dog needs a Cesarean section in the middle of the night. Most one time novice breeders that have been through this experience have told me it wasn't worth it and would not do it again.

The educational value for kids is marginal in my opinion. Whelpings may happen at night or when kids are at school. Children vary in their interest in whelpings, some are curious and interested, but many find it "gross" and just turn away. Some even find it upsetting or frightening. If you are doing this as a substitute for having the "birds and bees talk" with your kids, get some help, and don't put your dog through this just because you can't come up with another way to bring up the subject. If you want to teach them some biology, get a video for pete's sake, kids now-a-days seem to pay more attention to videos than real life anyway!

Consider this: The risk of mammary tumors (breast cancer) in dogs is directly related to the number of heat cycles and pregnancies the dog has had. Puppies spayed before their first heat have a very low incidence of mammary tumors. However, the risk increases dramatically with heats and pregnancies. Do you really want to risk your pet's health or life to teach your kids something they can learn just as well elsewhere or because you think you need a return on your investment. And she won't be a "better dog" just because she has had a litter. That's just a figment of the imagination of a hillbilly hound breeder. *(In the interest of being politically correct, the term "old wives tale" is no longer acceptable as it may offend old wives -ed)*

Veterinary Classified Ads

Dr. E. Kwine - Practice restricted to Horses

Doctor Bob's Veterinary Clinic and Taxidermy - Either way you get your pet back

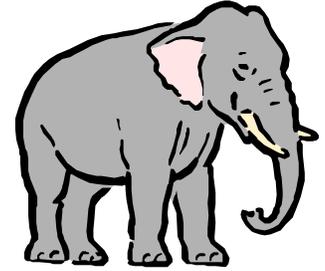


Animal Trivia



A Holstein's spots are like a fingerprint - no two cows have exactly the same pattern

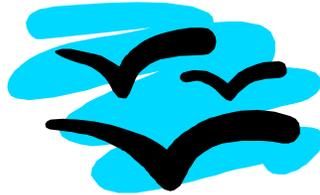
Animal Gestation periods:
Shortest is the opossum; 12-13 days
Longest is the Asian Elephant - 608 days



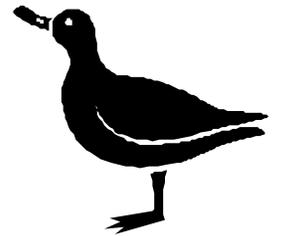
An electric eel can produce a shock of up to 650 volts!!



A woodpecker can peck at a rate of 20 pecks per second (try saying that three times fast - ed)



An albatross can sleep while it flies. It apparently dozes while cruising at 25mph



A 1200 pound horse eats about 7 times its own weight each year.



A rat can last longer without water than a camel can.





Feature Photo

International Travel has changed in our post 9/11 world



Dog Truths

"There is no Psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face." - Ben Williams

"The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue." - anonymous

"Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful." - Ann Landers

"Whoever said you can't buy happiness forgot about puppies."
- Gene Hill