

2009



FAIN AND SMATHERS VETERINARY HOSPITAL, INC.

# Spring/Summer Edition

## BOARDING

To provide better service to you and your pet, we provide indoor heated and air-conditioned runs and cages for your pets' comfort. While staying with us, your pet is given all the comforts of home....a warm bed, a full tummy, and lots of love and care.

We have a full-time kennel staff that spends their day with your pet. All pets entering our boarding kennels are up-to-date on their vaccinations, on a heartworm preventative, and tested for internal parasites (intestinal parasites, as well as heartworms) within the past year to ensure your pets' health and safety. Pets with external parasites such as fleas or ticks must be treated before entering our boarding facilities.

Unlike a lot of boarding facilities, we take special care to make sure that your pet is in clean, dry, and deodorized runs or cages at all times.

Remember, that boarding is not only for when you go out of town, but also for when the temperature is too hot or cold for your pet to safely stay outside.

If you have any questions about our boarding facility, would like a tour, or would just like to know how your pets does while boarding, please feel free to talk with one of our kennel staff at anytime.

**Please remember to reserve boarding times with our receptionists in advance (especially during holidays). Thank you!!!**



*DON'T FORGET TO RESERVE VACATION BOARDING!*

## OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY FROM 8-12 AND 1-5 CLOSED FOR LUNCH

SATURDAY FROM 8-11:30

CLOSED ON ALL MAJOR HOLIDAYS

*We offer a 24-hour emergency service to our clients. After-hours emergencies please call (409) 384-8731. The answering machine will give you a phone number to contact one of our on-call veterinarians.*

Fain & Smathers Veterinary Hospital, Inc

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(409) 384-8731

[www.fainandsmathersvet.com](http://www.fainandsmathersvet.com)

Dr. David C. Fain  
Dr. Royce D. Smathers  
Dr. Lindsay R. Syler

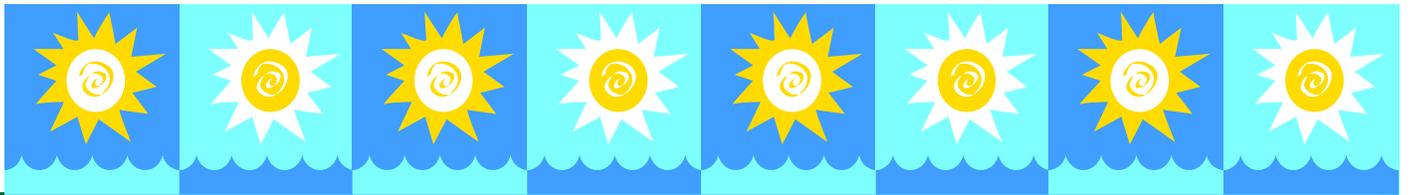
### Special points of interest:

- 24-hour emergency service
- Walk-ins Welcome
- Covered large animal facility
- Indoor heat/air-conditioned runs
- Up-to-date anesthesia
- Blood profiles for your pets health and safety
- ECG and Ultrasound capabilities
- Radiograph capabilities
- Equine Center

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## ***It's HOT out there!!***

This is the time of year we start seeing pets in our hospital with heat stroke. Be sure to keep fresh cool water and a shady area for your pet to stay cool. Some dogs would even enjoy a kiddie pool to lay in during the dog days of summer. If your pet has a long, thick hair coat, take them to the groomer and have some of their coat shaved to help cool them off. Enjoy the summer and remember....if planning a vacation, board your pet here in our indoor, air-conditioned boarding facility and give him/her a vacation from the heat



**Please make sure your pet is up-to-date on his/her vaccinations.  
We are seeing a lot of patients with Parvovirus!!!**



## **Controlling FLEAS this summer.....**

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We now have Comfortis beef flavored chewable flea tablets.

Comfortis is a monthly flea tablet for dogs only that kills the adult fleas before they can lay their eggs.

The active ingredient starts killing fleas within 30 minutes and lasts for 1 month. We recommend giving this product along with your monthly heartworm preventative.

Dogs and puppies must be 5 pounds in weight to take Comfortis, and puppies must be at least 14 weeks of age.

Comfortis does not kill ticks. However, Comfortis can be given along with topicals such as Frontline which do help control tick infestations.

Flea populations in cats can be managed by our topical products such as Revolution, Frontline, or Advantage.

## Traveling With Your Pet

As the heat index rises, so do the number of families going out of town. For those owners who opt to bring their pets along for the trip, here is some helpful advice and information.

**Belongings:** Always remember to bring your pet's normal food. Abrupt changes in diet can cause mild to severe gastrointestinal distress/upset. Bringing water from home is also important. Horses and cats can be picky about new water sources. A collapsible water bucket or bowl is a compact, easy way to provide water to your pet while on the road. NEVER forget your pet's medications. If you plan to be gone during the time you would normally give your heartworm preventative or flea control, pack it! If your pet takes daily medication, make sure you have plenty for the duration of the trip. Also, strange surroundings may cause your pet to become anxious, so having a comfortable pet bed, blanket, or toys can be comforting. These items usually smell like home and reduce anxiety.

**Health Certificates:** When traveling across state lines or flying, most states and airlines require a health certificate. Your veterinarian can provide this certificate for you. For large animals, the health certificate states that your animal has been examined by a veterinarian, is current on testing such as Coggins, Brucellosis, or Tuberculosis, and is free of contagious or infectious diseases. Some may require proof of vaccinations such as VEWT and/or West Nile. Small animal certificates usually require proof of vaccinations for Rabies and Distemper/Parvo as well as confirming the pet being negative for internal parasites. Each state has different protocols for animals entering and exiting the state and we will happily call the states agency to ensure you pet meets the qualifications.—*Dr. Lindsay Syler*

*Have a safe and furry family vacation this summer!*



## Equine Viral Diseases



The summer and early fall is the time we see an increase in equine viral diseases. This is true especially for our Encephalitis and West Nile cases.

The most common encephalitis we see is Eastern Equine Encephalitis. This viral disease is spread from our bird population to horses via the bite of mosquitoes. Symptoms include high fever, sweating, and neurological signs such as uncoordinated walking or stumbling. The horse may appear as if they do not know where they are in space. The disease then progresses to the horse being unable to stand, paddling, coma, and death. Very seldom are we able to save these animals. The best treatment is prevention by vaccinating early.

West Nile is also spread from birds to horses to man via mosquitoes. If you see dead crows or blue jays, then there is a good possibility that West Nile is around. These two birds are most susceptible to the disease. Symptoms vary from mild (mild temperature and colic like) to very severe (high temperature, sweating, and laying down). Like Eastern Encephalitis, vaccinations are the best prevention. Remember, it only takes one dead horse to pay for several years of vaccinating all of your horses yearly. Please vaccinate yearly! —*Dr. David Fain.*

## Think Blackleg

This is an old subject that most cowmen have a pretty good comprehension of, but it is also a potential sneaky problem that can cost a lot of money if overlooked. The disease known as Blackleg and is a bacterial infection caused by the organism *Clostridium chauvoei*.

The disease attacks and kills your best doing calves. The disease hits mostly in the summer. You find the calves dead. They have bloated legs, full of gas and if cut into will be black.

Now for the sneaky parts—the bacteria can kill or affect calves 2 months old. You may just see an unknown lameness. Because the calf may look sick and may be running a fever, pneumonia may be assumed. You may not see the muscles in the legs affected; one of the first places that I look on a post mortem exam is in the back strap muscle. It may be just a small spot that may lead you to think about a gunshot. You may see this disease on a place that has never had it before. The spores can be carried by a cow for years and not break out until the conditions are right.

VACCINATION of calves is a very cheap and effective way of preventing blackleg. The best time to vaccinate is around weaning. If you have a problem in the herd, vaccinate everything over 2 months of age including cows. If you have problems in your best calves, especially death loss, and they are not vaccinated for Blackleg, THINK BLACKLEG AND VACCINATE! —*Dr. Royce Smathers*

