



# BARK-A-BOUT IT!

February 2012

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Page 1- Letter from Michelle
- Page 1/2- Health and Hygiene
- Page 2- Dental Hygiene Facts
- Page 3- Have dog will Travel
- Page 3- Valentines Day Recipe
- Page 4- Bark of the Month: Fudge
- Page 4- Doggie and Me Swim Class
- Page 5- Calendar of Events
- Page 6- Community Board



## Dental Hygiene Month



Every year in the month of February, Bark-A-Bout celebrates **Canine Dental Hygiene Month**. This year we are holding a Dental Hygiene Seminar hosted by Bark-A-Bout's own Dennie our License Vet Tech on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. As many pet owners struggle and then ultimately give up on cleaning their dogs teeth, this might

be an opportunity to learn a few new techniques or learn about new products that can help you maintain and prevent oral disease.

I would also like to invite you to welcome our new Back Manager Shaun. Shaun has a lot of management experience and is an exciting edition to the Bark-A-Bout staff. Don't get worried, Randy isn't going anywhere. Randy has been longing to be in a position where he can work more closely with your dogs while they stay with us at Bark-A-Bout, so please congratulate Randy on his new position as Pet Care Lead Handler.

*Michelle N.*

## HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Dental care of dogs and cats is one of the most commonly over-looked areas of pet health care. In fact, a recent American Animal Health Association (AAHA) study showed that approximately two-thirds of pet owners do not provide the dental care that is recommended as essential by veterinarians. The American Veterinary Dental Society reports that 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by age 3. Cats can develop painful resorptive lesions. Studies show that about 28 percent of domestic cats develop oral disease, periodontal disease and/or painful resorptive lesions during their lifetime.

Dental disease doesn't just affect the mouth. It can lead to more serious health problems including heart, liver, lung and kidney disease, which makes it all the more important that you provide your pets with proper dental care from the start. AAHA's Dental Care Guidelines for Dogs and Cats were designed to provide veterinarians and their teams with a working framework



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for small animal dentistry practice, including dental examinations and cleaning and surgical procedures. Your pet's dental health isn't just in the hands of your veterinarian though. Pet owner education regarding treatment options for optimum dental health and the importance of home care are emphasized throughout the guidelines.

### PERIODONTAL DISEASE

Periodontal disease is an infection of the tissue surrounding the teeth that takes hold in progressive stages. It starts out as a bacterial film called plaque and attaches to the teeth. When the bacteria die they can be calcified by calcium in the saliva. This forms a hard, rough substance called tartar or calculus which allows more plaque to accumulate. Initially, plaque is soft and brushed away or removed by chewing hard food and toys. If left to spread, plaque can lead to gingivitis, an inflammation of the gums, causing them to become red, swollen, and bleed easily. As plaque and calculus develop below the gum line, professional cleaning will be needed to help manage it. If the plaque and tartar buildup continues to go unchecked, infection can form around the root of the tooth. In the final stages of Periodontal disease, the tissues surrounding the tooth are destroyed, the bony socket holding the tooth in erodes and the tooth becomes loose. This is a very painful process for your four legged friend, but these problems can be averted before they even start.

### DENTAL CARE AT THE VETERINARY PRACTICE

There are two critical components of your pet's veterinary dental care: oral examinations and dental cleaning. Veterinary dental care begins at the puppy and kitten life stage. AAHA recommends that veterinarians evaluate puppies and kittens for problems related to the deciduous (baby) teeth, missing or extra teeth, swellings and oral development. As your pet ages, your veterinarian will look for developmental anomalies, the accumulation of plaque and tartar, periodontal disease and oral tumors. Veterinarians can perform a basic oral examination on patients that are awake. However, a short lasting anesthetic is required in order to provide a complete and thorough examination as well as dental cleaning. The AAHA Dental Care Guidelines recommend regular oral examinations and dental cleaning, under general anesthesia, for all adult dogs and cats. AAHA recommends these procedures at least annually starting at one year of age for cats and small-breed dogs, and at two years of age for large-breed dogs.

### HOME DENTAL CARE

Your pet's dental care doesn't rest with your veterinarian alone. As a pet owner, you play a pivotal role in helping ensure your pet's dental health through regular home care. A complete home dental care program for your pet often will include brushing your pet's teeth at least three times weekly with specially formulated toothpaste for pets; daily is best. A special pet food that helps care for your pet's while he or she eats. Even if you aren't able to brush your pet's teeth there are



pet oral rinses which contain chlorhexidine (and not any xylitol) to reduce plaque and tartar buildup. Special dental chews and enzymatic oral hygiene chews to reduce plaque and tartar buildup. The Seal of Acceptance from the Veterinary Oral Health Council, an organization initiated by the American Veterinary Dental Society to guide consumers, appears on products that meet defined standards for plaque and tartar control in dogs and cats. For further information on the VOHC or their product standards, visit [www.vohc.org](http://www.vohc.org).

Remember . . . pets can live longer, healthier lives if oral health care is managed and maintained through their lives. Talk to your veterinarian about developing a dental care plan for your furry friend.

## DENTAL HEALTH FACTS

- Puppies have 28 temporary teeth that erupt at about 3- 4 weeks of age.
- Dogs have 42 permanent teeth that begin to emerge at about 4 months of age
- Symptoms of gums disease in dogs include yellow and brown buildup of tartar along the gums line, inflamed gums and persistent bad breath
- Broken teeth are a common problem, especially among outdoor dogs. According to veterinary dental experts, aggressive chewing on hard objects, such as commercially available cow hooves, is a primary cause of broken teeth in dogs

Bark-A-Bout is hosting a Doggie Dental Seminar on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm hosted by Dennie A. Cost of \$5.00

# HAVE DOG, WILL TRAVEL!

Vacations have gone to the dogs. From Nag's Head, NC to Bangalore India dogs are living up the posh lifestyle all over the world. When traveling anywhere there are a few things to keep in mind.

First make sure you have a health certificate. The health certificate states that your dog is up to date on all vaccinations and free from infectious disease it does not indicate that your dog is in good health, it is not a guarantee of healthiness. For most trips, a 10-day health certificate is appropriate however that depends on where you go. For instance traveling into the UK and many European countries require a lengthy quarantine period and there goes your vacation. Even individual states have further restrictions for instance Arizona requires a health screening by a veterinarian 30 days prior to a visit instead of the 10 day certificate. The cost of the health certificates is minimal and varies with each veterinary office. Lastly, make sure you have a veterinarian's hand written signature on the document to prevent any kind of problems at borders.

If you take your pet with you on the plane there are a few things to consider. Firstly, air travel for humans can be very stressful communicating the need to be on high alert to your pet. If your pet has any kind of anxiety this might not be the best choice. Secondly unless your pet is fairly small they may need to go into cargo which may add to their already heightened stress levels. However some airlines will let you keep your pet on board with you no matter what size. Check out [www.bringfido.com](http://www.bringfido.com) for a list of pet friendly travel, hotel, and vacation spots.

When traveling by air there is nothing worse than an anxious dog hopping from seat to seat and with roughly around 10 million accidents a year we want to keep our pets safe. The safest way for our pets to travel whether it's by road or by air is in a hard plastic pet carrier. Most dog owners understand the convenience of a SUV in fact my first question when car shopping is "Can I put a kennel in it"? If you can't there are some alternatives. First don't allow your dog to sit in an area with airbags, they were not made with dogs in mind and can hurt them. Second, keep your dog in the back seat, on the floor, or in the rear storage area of your vehicle (no this does not mean trunk). And lastly keeping your dog lower to the ground may actually help if your dog gets car sick. Dogs have a low center of gravity and the swaying motion of the car may upset his or her delicate tummy.

We hope you will think of us when you go on vacations with out fluffy, but remember to book ahead of time. Safe travels!



## CAROB DIPPED VALENTINES TREATS

1 egg  
1/4 cup applesauce  
1/2 cup beef or chicken broth  
1 tablespoon honey  
1 tablespoon molasses  
1/4 cup cooking oil  
2 1/4 cups whole wheat flour  
2 cups carob chips

Start by pre-heating your oven to 300 degrees. Then in a large bowl combine egg, applesauce, broth, honey, molasses, and oil. Gradually stir in flour. Dough should be stiff add flour or water to adjust.

Next on a well floured level surface roll out the dough into 1/4th of an inch thickness. Then use your favorite

cookie cutter to cut your valentines treats. After that place them on a cookie sheet and let them bake for 30 minutes.

Lastly, melt carob chips in a crock pot or the microwave and dip the cookie in half way. Let them stand on wax paper until the carob is set.



# Fudge



How can you celebrate Valentines Day with out Fudge. Fudge the Field Spaniel has been a patron of Bark-A-Bout since we opened, and if you ask any staff member about Fudge they will tell you that he is super friendly and has a ton of energy. His best friends are Quinn, Gunner, and Pandora he makes friend easily. Congratulations Fudge on being this month's Bark of the Month!



but

## Doggie and Me Swim Class

**Beginning Classes Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> 6 PM; Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> 9-10 AM**  
**Intermediate Class Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> 7PM**

You love your dog. You take him for walks. They go for car rides. Now you can take a swim class with your dog at Bark-A-Bout. Yes, that's right, you can swim with your dog! You can be on the sideline encouraging each stroke if you would rather stay dry, or your dog can take its first doggie paddle with you. If your dog is already a swimmer, we have a class to work on their conditioning.

If you have a show dog and want to tone up their muscles, a performance dog that you want to keep in top shape, a working dog that needs a break, or you just want to have fun with your dog, come jump in. (Or should I say step in, let your dog do the jumping).

### The benefits of swimming for your dog

- Aerobic conditioning
- Exercise and Muscle Toning
- Relaxation
- Offers low-impact resistance training
- Water increases circulation
- decreases stress
- Non – weight bearing form of exercise
- 15 minutes of swim is the same as a two-mile walk

**the cost is 100.00 per class**



If you have any questions about any Bark-A-Bout event call us at (586) 566-8900, or e-mail at [training@barkabout.net](mailto:training@barkabout.net). You may also Register for classes and events online at [www.barkabout.net](http://www.barkabout.net) or over the phone at (586) 566-8900.

# February 2012

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Walk that Dog 6 PM	3 Doga 5 PM  Therapy Dog Meeting 7 PM	4 Muts Minding Manners 2 PM  Air Dog Meeting 3 PM
5	6 Walk that Dog 6 PM	7	8	9 Interm. Obed. 7 PM  Walk that Dog 6 PM	10 Doga 5 PM	11 Elem. Obed. 10 AM
12 Deadline to vote for the February Photo Contest. Visit us on Facebook to place your Vote	13 Doggie Dental Seminar 6 PM  Walk that Dog 6 PM	14 Beg. Swim 6 PM  Interm. Swim 7 PM  Happy Valentines Day	15 Book Club 6 PM	16 Walk that Dog 6 PM	17	18 Beg. Swim 9 AM  Puppy 11 AM
19	20 Walk that Dog 6 PM	21 Hound Dog Party 6 PM	22 Beg. Agility 7 PM	23 Elem. Obed. 6 PM  Walk that Dog 6 PM	24 Come and Play 6 PM	25 Interm. Obed. 2 PM
26	27 Walk that Dog 6 PM	28	29			

# March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Walk that Dog 6 PM	2 Therapy Dog Meet-up 7 pm	3
4	5 Walk that Dog 6 PM	6 Air Dog Meeting 6:30 PM	7 Beg. Agility 7 PM	8 Walk that Dog 6 PM	9	10 Interm. Obed. 9 AM
11	12 Walk that Dog 6 PM	13	14 Book Club 6 PM Free Night!	15 Walk that Dog 6 PM  Elem. Obed. 8 PM	16	17

March is National Literacy Month February's book is "A Big Little Life" A Memoir of a Life by Dean Koontz



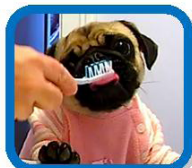
## FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CANINE DENTAL HYGIENE MONTH!

In celebration of National Canine Dental Hygiene month, Bark-A-Bout is hosting an educational seminar instructed by one of our Licensed Vet Tech's (LVT), Dennie. Dennie will be education us on what to look for and how to properly clean your dog or cat's teeth.

Did you know that poor feline and canine dental hygiene can cause heart, lung and kidney disease? Stop by Bark-A-Bout on February 13th and let's work together in maintaining wellness in our pets. Call or visit us online to sign up. Depending on class size, we may ask you to bring your dog.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

### 6PM-7PM



\*THERE IS A COST OF \$5 FOR THIS CLASS

Schedule your dog for a grooming appointment during the month of february and receive 50% off of the price of a teeth cleaning

Call Bark-A-Bout to set up your appointment today!  
(586) 566-8900

### Advertise Your Business with Bark-A-Bout

The Bark-A-Bout Newsletter reaches over 1,600 pet owners a month, and is soon to be placed in other area pet businesses.

Call us at (586) 566-8900 and talk to Gwen!

## Sharing the Luv



Go to the Bark-A-Bout Facebook page and vote for your favorite photo of pet's "Sharing the Luv"

Voting ends February 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 at midnight.

### The winner receives:

- \$100 credit at Bark-A-Bout,
- the winning picture as our profile picture on Facebook,
- and a bag of Bark-A-Bout Treats.



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