



# TANGLEWILDE TAILS



“Your Pet Is Our Priority”

Spring 2016

## Ask the Doctor



Jessica Parkerson, DVM

**Q:** Sometimes my dog seems to breathe in and snort really hard. It's not a cough, and he otherwise seems normal and healthy. These episodes are usually a few seconds long, up to a minute. Should I be concerned?

**A:** It is possible that what you are describing could be reverse sneezing, a canine phenomenon. Dogs may close off their airways and snort vigorously in response to irritants in the nose, allergies, or for no good reason. It can be more common for short-faced (brachycephalic) dogs, but any pooch, large or small, can reverse sneeze.

If it happens occasionally, there is probably nothing to worry about. More serious problems can cause reverse sneeze, although it's uncommon. If it increases in frequency or you suspect there is more to it, please bring your pet in for a check-up.

**Q:** My cat has really oily hair and dandruff. What does this mean, and what should I do?

**A:** Dandruff can be a condition of its own, much the way some people have flakes. Bathing and topical treatments prescribed by a veterinarian may be effective. Tar shampoos are toxic to cats, however, so please don't use dandruff shampoos made for humans.

Less commonly, dandruff can be a sign of ringworm, mites or other skin diseases, which require testing and treatment. We'd like to help you with this concern. Your cat deserves pretty hair and skin, just like you.

**Q:** I have a super healthy and active dog, so I'm not worried he'll become overweight. Can I feed him some of my foods?

**A:** Sure, with some areas of caution. Dogs are omnivorous, like humans, so it makes sense your dog may really like what you have on your plate. Foremost, carefully consider that just a little more calorie intake can result in a lot more insulation on your furry friend. Be observant about his weight if you opt to share snacks with your dog.

Additionally, fatty foods are associated with a serious disease: pancreatitis, especially in Schnauzers. So, hold back the bacon and pare down the pizza when it comes to eating for two.

A short list of No-No Foods includes chocolate, caffeinated beverages, foods with xylitol sweetener, grapes, raisins, garlic and onion. These can all cause serious problems. Avoid macadamia nuts, avocados, bones and raw meats, eggs and yeast breads (cooked versions are okay). Lastly, don't leave your beer or cocktail unattended, as alcohol is also toxic to dogs.

Be aware that the signs of illness associated with exposure to these foods may not be immediate, and early intervention can help your dog avoid serious illness or death.

Call ASPCA Animal Poison Control at (888) 426-4435 any time you need advice. The toxicologists can help determine a state of emergency or give you peace of mind.



## Ick! A Tick!

These nasty little parasites are common everywhere, and each year, animals become infected with the serious diseases they transmit. Ticks feed by biting into your pet's skin and ingesting blood. They typically live on three different animal hosts within their life cycles, which can be as long as three years.

Although ticks can cause many diseases, Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever are the most well known. These diseases can cause fever, anemia, painful joint swelling and lameness. Although rare, some species can even cause paralysis.

How can you protect your pet? Treat dogs and outdoor cats with flea and tick preventatives year-round. Be sure to make a tick check part of your daily routine; the sooner they are removed, the less likely the chance of infection. To remove ticks safely, commercial tick removers are available. Be sure to let us know on your visit if you have removed ticks from your dog or cat.

## Niles Knows

### Creating a Purr-fect Home

Greetings, my devoted cat-loving humans!



The doctors here at Tanglewilde tell me that cats that are kept indoors like me lead healthier, happier lives. Still, wonderful houses like yours are not our natural environment. This can create anxiety. Fortunately, you can take steps to reduce our stress and make us feel more at home!

-  Reduce anxiety by keeping your home as peaceful as possible and by not interrupting your cat's routine any more than is necessary. Remember that loud noises are distressing to us.
-  Locate our food and litter boxes in a quiet space away from other pets and family members.
-  Honor our independence by making sure we can access our food, water and litter box without your assistance.
-  Provide us with our own beds, toys, perches and private spaces that no one else uses.
-  Since being house-bound deprives us cats of the daily challenges of nature, we need stimulation to protect us from boredom. Toys can help, but you don't have to spend a lot—a paper bag or a large bottle cap can hold our attention just as well. We also love looking out windows and breathing fresh air.
-  We enjoy climbing, hiding and camouflage, so be sure our living space provides these opportunities.
-  Unless we have special dietary needs, experiment to discover what types of food we prefer.
-  Show us affection frequently with your voice or touch. That said, let us initiate physical contact. Depending on our personalities, some of us enjoy playing with you more than “cuddling.”

Overall, respecting your cat's natural likes, dislikes and instincts will help your kitty live a happy life like me!

Special thanks to all of our feline-friendly clients,



## Accentuate the Pawsitive

### Meet Barbara!

You could call our receptionist, Barbara Kelley, a pet fanatic! Not only does she care for several cats and dogs of her own, she has volunteered for animal welfare groups in the area for 25 years. “I've always been committed to responsible pet ownership, the advancement of veterinary medicine, and reducing the number of stray animals in Houston,” she says.



Barbara once considered becoming a veterinarian but was stronger in English than in math and science. She graduated with a BA in Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin in 1976. Born in Venezuela, Barbara moved to Houston in 1959. She's been a homeowner in Tanglewilde since 1984, where she shares her home with her pets including a four-pound Chihuahua named Gigi and a black and tan hound named Elvis. “My cats and dogs are my family,” she says.

A huge fan of collegiate sports, Barbara is a season ticket-holder for UH football, basketball and baseball. We're thrilled to have her on our team!

Call Tanglewilde Veterinary Clinic today at (713) 783-4044!

## Listen Up! Common Ear Problems In Dogs

Hearing is one of your dog's keenest senses, so when his ears are bothering him, it's a big deal! There are many reasons a dog's ears become irritated. Some of the most common are listed below:

- 🐾 Ear infections from bacteria, yeast, moisture, wax, allergies, or excessive fur.
- 🐾 Yeast and bacterial infections are very common in dogs, especially dogs with long floppy ears.
- 🐾 Parasites: fleas and mange mites. Fleas cause itching, which causes scratching. Mange mites cause hair loss, itching and inflammation.
- 🐾 Ear trauma: bite wounds, frostbite, over-exposure to the sun, or blunt force
- 🐾 Tumors: polyps, tumors, and masses. Tumors can cause inflammation and itching and can affect hearing and balance.

- 🐾 Weather extremes: unusually hot, humid conditions can encourage yeast and bacteria to grow, causing infections. Extremely cold temperatures can cause frostbite, and ears are especially vulnerable.

What are the symptom of canine ear problems?

- 🐾 Scratching the ears or shaking their heads
- 🐾 Rubbing their ears against the floor or furniture
- 🐾 Foul odor in the ear
- 🐾 Redness and/or swelling
- 🐾 Brown, yellow, or bloody discharge
- 🐾 Loss of balance
- 🐾 Hearing loss



Ear problems can be painful for your dog, and if they aren't addressed, scratching and head shaking can cause an aural hematoma (a blood filled pocket). Check your dog's ears regularly and call us if you notice any of the symptoms above. If left untreated, ear infections can harm the ear canal and middle ear and cause hearing loss.

Always open from 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m., Monday through Friday and Saturdays, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.! If you need us, come on over!

Enjoy these special savings and keep your furry loved ones healthy this spring.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dental Cleaning 20% off	Dental Cleaning 20% off	Dental Cleaning 20% off	Vaccines 20% off	Vaccines 20% off	Vaccines 20% off
20% off Wellness Screening includes blood count, chemistry panel, urinalysis and thyroid screen.		Spay & Neuter 20% off	Call (713) 783-4044 today to make an appointment!	Spay & Neuter 20% off	Savings not valid with any other offer. Savings Expire 5/31/2016

Make budgeting for routine care easier with our Wellness Plan from Veterinary Pet Insurance!

Please go to [www.tanglewildevet.com](http://www.tanglewildevet.com) or call us for more information!



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