



SPRING



Gwinnett Animal Hospital Newsletter 2016

K9 Distemper/Parvo VACCINE TITERS

What are vaccine titers?

Titers are a measurement of your dog's antibodies to canine distemper and parvo viruses. The pet's 'titer' allows us to know if your pet is protected or if a booster vaccine is needed.

Will the test make my dog sick?

Not at all! It is just a blood sample that we send to the lab.

Which pets should be checked?

Titers can be run on any pet past the puppy vaccine series. We highly recommend the test for older dogs, those with chronic diseases or compromised immune systems, or for those who have had problems after receiving their vaccinations in the past. Titers determined to be in the 'adequate' range mean your dog does not have to receive the vaccine.

Is the test expensive?

The test is more expensive than the vaccine, but if the titer is adequate, it only needs to be run every three years. Plus, it gives you the peace of mind that your dog is protected and doesn't have to receive the shot.

But my dog goes to the groomer and boarding kennel— don't they require the vaccine to be current?

Most groomers and boarding kennels will accept adequate titers in place of a current vaccine. Just check with them to make sure.



Unless you plan on taking me with you on vacation, I'd recommend making my boarding reservations ASAP!



Product REBATES

Heartgard/Nexgard

Buy 12 doses of **Heartgard** heartworm preventative AND 6 doses of **Nexgard** flea & tick control, and receive a **\$35** rebate in the mail!

Revolution

Buy 6 doses of **Revolution** flea, heartworm, and intestinal parasite protection for cats, get two free; buy 9 doses, get three free!

See a GAH staff member for details

Purrrrrrrrrr

We are all familiar with cats purring away happily, but cats do not reserve purring to express contentment. Purring has been found to mean much more.

Kittens purr to let mama know where they are, and to let her know that they are OK.

Cats purr and add a mewling sound around mealtime— this is thought to sound like a human baby cry so as to get our attention.

Purring often occurs during times of stress or pain. One reason is that it is thought to be self-soothing much as a baby sucks it's thumb; also, purring has been shown to stimulate healing of bones and soft tissues, as well as decrease pain and swelling— the health benefits apply to humans as well:

THE SECRET
Cats create purr vibrations within a range **20-140Hz**, known to be medically therapeutic for many illnesses.

Healing of bones. Frequencies of 25 and 50Hz are the best, and 100Hz and 200Hz the 2nd best frequencies for promoting bone strength.	Cat's purr can decrease the symptoms of dyspnea in both cats and humans.	Healing of muscles, tendons and ligament injuries. The vibrations are also helpful for healing soft tissue.	Lowering stress. Petting a purring cat calms down your nerves.	Purr vibrations help in healing infection and swelling.	Lowering blood pressure. By interacting with the cat and hearing the purring sound. Also, study shows that cat owners have 40% less risk of heart attack.
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Dog Tails 101

- ◇ Puppies learn to wag their tails at around 6 weeks old.
- ◇ Tails are used for communication, balance, as a rudder when swimming, and to spread their anal sac scent to those around them. Tail tucking is a way to 'hide' one's scent.
- ◇ Wagging does not always indicate happiness: A high wag is usually a happy wag; a low wag is usually a submissive or nervous sign.
- ◇ During rough play, a bowing posture with a high tail may be a "white flag" of surrender.
- ◇ Tailless dogs may have difficulty communicating with other dogs, so must use other body language signals to get their point across.