

4933 Indian Hills Drive Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 618-692-6399

# LABEST OF TIMES

## **Changes to Madison County Rabies Ordinance** *Important county issue for owners and their pets in 2012 elections*

### **Fewer Pay Rabies Fees**

In 2009, rabies registration fees generated less money than the previous year. Over 7000 people, (this increased to over 9000 in 2010) did not pay their rabies vaccination fees. The Madison County Animal Control has no means to make people pay these fees so the fees remained uncollected.

In 2010, a group was formed under the Public Safety Committee of the Madison County Board to see if the Rabies Ordinance should be updated. There are 19 private practice veterinary businesses in Madison County. None of these veterinary services businesses were contacted to be included nor were any of the 40+ veterinarians contacted to inform them of possible changes. This is odd as veterinarians are the public health experts of our community in regards to rabies. Veterinarians are the ones performing the rabies program. The purpose of the rabies vaccination program is the public health benefits. Veterinarians are trained in public health. Yet, despite these facts, private practice veterinarians were excluded from the process of updated Madison County's Rabies Ordinance. One veterinarian was involved with the process, Dr. Hall, who is an employee of Madison County.

With local veterinarians still in the dark, an updated Rabies Ordinance was presented to the county board and it was passed. I have been told by several members of the county board that they were led to believe that the local veterinarians were on board with changes. Of course the truth was that the veterinarians were not even aware of the proposed changes.

### **The Changes**

Collection of rabies fees will be made at the time you vaccinate your pets for rabies. Veterinarians have been mandated to collect the fees. There are options for paying a three year rabies fee and receiving a bone shaped three year rabies tag. Owners can opt to pay the rabies fees on a year to year basis when their pet has a three year rabies vaccination.

### **Why are rabies fees so high?**

The cost of the rabies program is the cost to keep the records of the rabies certificates and supply the rabies tags. The cost of the rabies program per animal is around \$4. The county has decided that people who vaccinate their animals for rabies must bear the cost of running Madison County Animal Control. Animal Control is an important function. It handles stray pets and animal bite cases. Its importance is not justification to charge its operation to those vaccinating for rabies.

The veterinary community guesses that half of the dogs in Madison County do not see veterinarians nor are these dogs ever vaccinated for rabies. Owners who vaccinate their pets are helping themselves, their pets, and everyone around them as it helps to create a rabies vaccinated animal barrier between wild life and people. These owners are having their animal rabies vaccinated at their own expense. Why punish these responsible people with padded fees?

The rabies fee should be used to recoup the cost of administrating the rabies vaccination program. County government has gone beyond recouping the cost of administrating the rabies vaccination program with the extra money being used to run the county. The vaccination for rabies program cost around \$4 per animal.

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The piling-on of fees from the state level and the county level is inappropriate. Why are fewer people paying their rabies fees in 2009 and 2010? Hello. The economy has taken a hit and more is of that is on the way. People are pinching where ever they can. Making the veterinary community the county's enforcers to collect ridiculously inflated rabies fees is not the way to go. The changes in the rabies ordinance are nothing more than government incrementalism. Incrementalism is the practice of a bit more bureaucracy, a bit more money for government and hopefully the public will be too busy to take notice nor have the gumption to challenge its implementation.

### What now?

Expect people who could afford to vaccinate their animals for rabies but could not afford to pay the high rabies fees to now skip vaccinating for rabies. Half of the dogs already are in this category. Vaccinating the pet population at 50% has been successful in helping to control the spread of rabies. How many can we afford to drive away from vaccinating for rabies?

We as a community should encourage pets to be vaccinated for rabies while keeping the bureaucracy expenses to a minimum. With the economic downturn, the State of Illinois should consider ending the low cost spay/neuter program sitting on the backs of those vaccinating for rabies. The county should remove piggyback revenue collection over the cost of administering the rabies vaccination program.

### What can you do?

It is a political issue at this point. On the one hand are the county employees who are worried in these tough times there will not be sufficient revenue to support their government salaries. On the other hand, you have the a rabies vaccination program as a public health concern. The changes made to the Madison County Rabies Ordinance have one purpose, to make the rabies vaccination program more "profitable". The harm to the rabies program, and the unfair treatment of responsible pet owners is cast aside as trivial compared to the need for revenue.

The Madison County Board is responsible. The new Rabies Ordinance was passed by the County Board. If its members were misled about it, they should be peeved.

Elections will be soon and it is time to make the Rabies Ordinance a prominent issue. If you are a pet owner, you should be concerned with the excessive fees being put upon you. If you are a citizen, you should be concerned about fewer animals being vaccinated for rabies. If you are a voter worried about government becoming bigger and more intrusive then you should be concerned.

Only support candidates who will correct all the mistakes being made with the rabies ordinance. Fees should be reduced to the actual cost of the rabies program. Resend making the veterinarian community into tax collectors. Do not accept being bullied by county government into paying taxes to support a program which is not your responsibility.

## VACCINE CLINIC at LABEST

**Saturday March 3, 2012**

**9am to 12 pm**

**Held by LaBest Inc and Fort Russell Vet Clinic**



**WALK-IN's WELCOME**

VACCINE	PRICE	EXAM REQUIRED
RABIES	\$15.00	NO
DHLPP (3 years)	\$10.00	YES
BORDETELLA	\$10.00	YES
INFLUENZA	\$17.00	YES
EXAM	<b>\$28.00</b>	X

**If you have any questions please contact LaBest at 618-692-6399**

## February is Pet Dental Health Month

Taking care of your pet’s teeth is just as important as taking care of your own teeth. It is estimated that 80% of dogs and 70% of cats over the age of three suffer from periodontal disease—a serious deterioration of the gums and supporting bones of the teeth.

Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets, and more commonly found in smaller breeds due to their small mouths which tend to hold more bacteria. Bacteria, combined with saliva and food debris between the tooth and gum, can cause plaque formations that accumulate on the tooth. As bacteria grow in the plaque and as calcium salts are deposited, plaque turns to tartar.

Without proper preventive care, plaque and tartar buildup leads to periodontal disease which affects the tissues and structures supporting the teeth. Left untreated, periodontal disease can cause oral pain, dysfunction, tooth loss and systemic complications. An over abundance of bacteria can also work it’s way into the bloodstream and can cause heart and kidney problems as well as feed any yeast that may be built up in the dog’s system.

Pet owners should look for the warning signs of oral disease. Common signs of oral disease include bad breath, a change in eating or chewing habits, pawing at the face or mouth and depression. Sometimes, what may seem to be a bad behavior when handling the dog’s head or muzzle could possibly be from oral pain.

The first step in preventing oral disease is by routinely checking your pets teeth or having one of our stylists check them out for you while your pet is at our facility. We recommend a general teeth brushing every week to two weeks or once a month by our professional stylists to prevent any tartar buildup. For removing tartar, our dental brushing program may be just the thing for your pet. We remove all the tartar and plaque buildup without any medication or tranquilizing your pet. We also recommend the Oxyfresh products such as the Oral Hygiene Solution and Soothing Pet Gel. These products will help promote the healing of irritated and receding gums, promote fresh breath and produce cleaner teeth with less plaque and tartar buildup. Call us now to find out more about Oxyfresh products. You can even have Oxyfresh sent to your home when you order online at [www.labestinc.net](http://www.labestinc.net).

**TARTER REMOVAL  
COUPON**

**DENTAL MONTH!** Purchase a Tarter Removal treatment and get \$10.00 OFF and a free Tooth Brush

Expires: 3/31/2012  
Not valid with any other specials. Must present coupon.

Pet owners may practice a regular dental care program at home, which may include brushing the pet’s teeth with toothpaste specially formulated for pets. It’s best to start early, but grown dogs and cats can learn to tolerate brushing. Toothpaste for humans is not recommended because it may upset the pet’s stomach.

**LaBest offers sedation-free tarter removal for only \$75.00!**

(See coupon above for more discounts!)

**BEFORE**



**BEFORE**

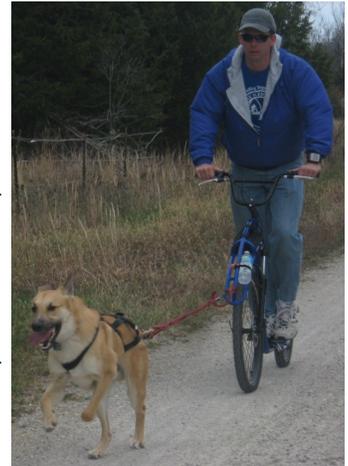


**AFTER**



## Pulling Together

The Chinook is a Northern breed, bred to perform many of the same tasks as the Spitz-type breeds and with some Spitz-type ancestors in the background. The Chinook however bears more resemblance to the Mastiff-type dogs than the Spitz-types in that he has a more rectangular shaped head, a saber tail, and a close-fitting, tawny-colored coat made up of a coarse-textured outer coat and a soft, dense undercoat. Other typical Chinook characteristics include webbed feet with thick, well-furred pads and the aquiline nose. One of the key breed characteristics is the Chinook temperament: calm, non-aggressive, with a willing, friendly disposition. Chinooks are bred to work in teams and do not exhibit dog aggression. Notwithstanding its gentle, even temperament, the Chinook is a dignified dog who may be reserved with strangers or in unfamiliar surroundings. A Chinook should, however, never appear timid or aggressive. In action, the Chinook is graceful but purposeful, alert but calm. His expression reflects his intelligence; his proud carriage reflects his dignity. For more information visit [www.chinook.org](http://www.chinook.org)



When we decided to bring a Chinook into the family I knew I wanted to find activities that would involve the entire family. We are an active family that enjoys bike rides, camping, hiking and just being outdoors. As an engineer, I am always telling my kids to use things for what they are designed for. Tables are not for standing on; dog crates are not for confining your little sister etc. So, it was obvious to me that working a Chinook in harness is as important as providing him a loving home. I joined several email lists, joined the Gateway Sled Dog Club, read many articles on the internet, and ordered a few books to read. When we brought our puppy home, I was prepared to enter the sport of working dogs.

At 3 months old, Yukon was used to his harness. At 4 months old, he pulled his first (empty) sled. At 6 months old, he was introduced to the scooter and at 1 year, he loves to pull! Yukon is happy to pull me on the scooter for 5 miles or more. When we are out, it is hard to tell who is having the most fun. On many of our adventures, one of the



kids will come along riding their bikes. It is a funny sight to see when I swap places with my 10 year old. He has a big smile as we run along. I'm not sure if the smile is from the fun of scootering or from seeing his dad wobbling along on a small bike with his knees up to his chest.

We are currently tracking our miles to apply for our advanced team dog title. You can see our progress at [www.yukonwdp.blogspot.com](http://www.yukonwdp.blogspot.com). In December we are adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> Chinook to the family so that Yukon has a pulling partner for the years to come.

Training to pull has been easier and as much fun as obedience training.

Yukon is in great shape from all the exercise and we have found a sport that pulls the family together for fun, outdoor adventures. Best of all, a tired dog is a good dog! Yukon enjoys lounging around the house for an afternoon after a

good morning run!

It is not difficult to get started into the pulling sports. After reading up on the subject I was able to teach Yukon Gee & Haw (turn commands) during our daily walks by simply issuing the command before every turn. We started this early and by 6 months he knew his 'left & right' pretty well. Training the commands can be done with many of the same methods used for obedience and behavior training. Dogs love to run, to pull, and to please. We just have to learn how to communicate our desires.

If you have been looking for a fun way to exercise your dog I highly recommend looking into scootering or other ways to work your dogs as they were 'designed' to do. Contact me directly and I'd be happy to discuss it with you.

Happy Trails & Tails,  
Craig Watson  
[craug@aol.com](mailto:craug@aol.com)

## CANINE INFLUENZA (H3N8)

Influenza viruses of an assortment of varieties have been the subject of concern for humans, wildlife, and domestic animals for many decades. The dog was largely felt to be exempt from “the flu” until 2004 when a new canine influenza virus, clearly stemming from the equine influenza virus, was isolated from several groups of Florida racing greyhounds. The problem seemed confined to the racing industry until 2005 when cases began appearing in boarding facilities involving pet dogs. In the last couple of weeks of September 2005 and continuing into October, numerous warnings to dog owners about a new lethal canine disease swept the internet. Some of these warnings contain legitimate information while others contain half-truths or information that is simply wrong. We would like to take this time to sort out the facts from the theories from the misinformation.

### WHAT IS CANINE INFLUENZA?

Let's start with what an influenza virus is. Influenza viruses represent a specific type of virus. There are actually three types (genera) of influenza viruses: type A (including the canine influenza virus), type B, and the less closely related Type C. They produce fever, joint pain, and respiratory signs with which we are all familiar. Death is unusual but stems from respiratory complications and is most common in the very old and very young. The virus has on its surface an assortment of proteins which determine its “strain” or subtype, and it is against these surface proteins that our bodies mount an immune response.

### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SICK DOGS?

Infection rate is high but (depending on which report one reads) 20-50% will simply make antibodies and clear the infection without any signs of illness at all. The other 50-80% will get symptoms of the “flu:” they will have fevers, listlessness, coughing, and a snotty nose. Most dogs will recover with supportive treatment (antibiotics, perhaps nebulization/humidification, etc.). A small percentage of dogs will actually get pneumonia. These dogs are those at risk for death and support becomes more aggressive: hospitalization, intravenous fluid therapy etc. Most of these dogs will recover as well, as long as they receive proper care. Mortality rate is 5-8%. The incubation period is 2-5 days and the course of infection lasts 2-4 weeks. Because this is an emerging disease, few dogs will have immunity to it



unless they have received one of the new vaccines. This means that any dog unvaccinated for influenza is a candidate for infection. Do not allow your dog to socialize with coughing dogs. If your dog develops a cough, see your veterinarian. If your dog develops a snotty nose, listlessness, and cough do not be surprised if your veterinarian wants to look at chest radiographs and considers hospitalization.

### HOW IS THE DISEASE TRANSMITTED?

Dogs that are infected will shed virus in body secretions whether or not they appear to be sick. Virus transmission can occur from direct contact with an infected dog or with its secretions. Kennel workers have been known to bring the virus home accidentally to their own pets. The virus persists on toys, bowls, collars, leashes etc. for several days. Infected animals should be considered contagious for 14 days.

### CAN PEOPLE GET INFECTED?

People cannot get infected by this virus. Influenza viruses are specific for their host species and require a dramatic mutation in order to jump species. One should not be concerned about getting an influenza infection from a dog, horse, or any other species other than a fellow human being.

For more information on Canine Influenza please feel free to ask our staff or visit : [http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body\\_canine\\_influenza.html](http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_canine_influenza.html)

## Winter Time Worries

Janet Tobiassen Crosby, DVM and Debbie Walker

As winter settles in, here are a few tips to remember to ensure a healthy season. As most pet lovers know, winter can be a challenge for our pets. This article will explore some common dangers to watch for, and what to do to avoid problems.

**Antifreeze:** This is actually a winter and summer potential problem. Cats and dogs are attracted to the sweet smell and taste of antifreeze, and will often sample some if left out in a container or spilled on the garage floor. Antifreeze is highly toxic - it is rapidly absorbed (initial signs appear approximately one hour post-ingestion), and there is a high mortality rate. Other sources of this deadly chemical are: heat exchange fluids (sometimes used in solar collectors), some brake and transmissions fluids as well as diethylene glycol used in color film processing. Acute cases (within 12 hours of ingestion) often present as if the animal was intoxicated with alcohol: stumbling, vomiting and depression are common signs. The kidneys are most severely affected, and even if the animal seems to improve initially with treatment, they may succumb shortly after to kidney failure. The kidneys shut down, and the animal is unable to produce urine. This type of kidney failure usually happens 12-24 hours after ingestion in cats, and 36-72 hours post ingestion in dogs. Success of treatment is dependent upon quick treatment. If you suspect that your animal has come into contact with antifreeze, contact your veterinarian immediately. A safe alternative to Ethylene Glycol antifreeze is available, it is called propylene glycol, and while it does cost a small amount more than 'regular' antifreeze, it is worth the piece of mind.



**Arthritis and Winter:** Cold, damp weather aggravates arthritis. Arthritis can appear in young pets, but is most common in the middle age and geriatric pets. A fracture can also make the bone susceptible to arthritis after the injury is healed. Overweight pets suffer from arthritis more than their normal-weight counterparts. If your pet is having trouble getting up or laying down, navigating the stairs, or has started to snap or cry when picked up, But first before rushing off to the vet, check your pet's nails! Long nails can create discomfort and nerve damage! Second, a deep tissue massage will relax and relieve any toxins in the body. If both of those don't do the trick, a visit to your veterinarian may be in order. Many new arthritis treatments are available, both natural and medicinal.

### **Salty Paws Chilly Feet**

At this time of year it's important to think of our pets. Here are some tips to help you out during this soon to be brutally cold winter: Be sure to clean your pets paws after being outside due to the toxicity of snow removal chemicals and salt. There is also an ice melt product called Safe Paws that will not harm your pet's feet. Keep your pets coat maintained-long hair in or around pads can result in snow and ice balling up creating a cold and uncomfortable situation for you pet. Doggie boots are good too! Infections and burning sensations can be created if your pet has any cuts or cracks on their paws. Always remember that our pets are a part of our lives and family. We should treat them, as we would prefer to be treated- indoor and being a part of the family. Could winters are frightful and can be very harsh, and you wouldn't want part of your family in an uncomfortable situation.

**For more information on keeping your pet safe throughout the harsh weather please see one of your LaBest Employees**

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Unlimited Daycare Package  
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1/1/2012**

**Daycare pictures will now be up-  
loaded monthly to our Facebook**

**Customer Of The Month**

**October: Princess Wolverton  
November: Obie Rogers  
December: Ms. Ginger Holsman**



### Training Classes Make A Great Gift for that new Christmas Puppy!!



#### Training Classes



<b>Puppy Class/Behavioral</b>	Tuesday January 10, 2012	6:30 PM
<b>Novice I (Performance On Lead)</b>	Tuesday, January 10, 2012	7:30 PM
<b>Novice II (Performance Off Lead)</b>	Wednesday, January 11, 2012	6:30 PM
<b>Agility (Beginners)</b>	Wednesday, January 11, 2012	7:30 PM

Private and Home Sessions are Available upon Request

Dates Subject to change.