



# AMC Quarterly

Spring 2008

Volume 2, Number 1

## In This Issue

- Welcome Dr. Bell
- DNA Testing
- Blue Algae
- Did You Know
- Pet Insurance
- Allergies

For more information on us or Articles in this Newsletter please visit these websites.

[www.animalmedical.org](http://www.animalmedical.org)

Visit our website for additional topics and information regarding our clinic.

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

Visit for detail information regarding DNA testing as well as company information.

[www.pca.state.mn.us/index.cfm](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.cfm)

Government information website on blue algae.

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

This website contains valuable information regarding pet insurance and allows side by side comparison to multiple insurers. It also has a link to allow you to get free quotes.

## Contact Us

Visit our website

<http://www.animalmedical.org>

Or email us

[frontdesk@animalmedical.org](mailto:frontdesk@animalmedical.org)

## Welcome Dr. Bell

Animal Medical Clinic is pleased to welcome Dr. Jessika Bell as the newest member of their veterinary team. Dr. Bell is a Minnesota native who grew up in the suburb of Anoka. She earned her degree in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota - College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005. Prior to that she received her Bachelor of Science at the University of Minnesota - College of Biological Sciences with a major in Biology. While obtaining her degrees, Jessika volunteered at the Raptor Center and worked in the U of MN Veterinary Medical Center Intensive Care Unit.

Dr. Bell's family includes her fiancé who is also a veterinarian and their two dogs Abby and Barry. When she is not at work, Dr. Bell can be found hiking with her family, quilting, or training her dog Barry in agility.

Jessika has always loved being around animals. She enjoys helping people learn how to care for their pets so as to help pets live happier, healthier lives. Dr. Bell is excited to be joining the Animal Medical Clinic team and is looking forward to working in this great community.

## DNA Testing

Have you ever wondered what breeds make up your dog? Wisdom Panel MX analyzes your dog's DNA to detect breeds in its genetic makeup. Wanting to know your pet's genetic make up is more than just mere curiosity. Knowing the combination of breeds can affect its appearance, behavior and well-being in many ways. The results can take up to 4 weeks to receive; you will get a detailed analysis booklet in the mail. Each booklet contains a list of breeds your dog is closest too, as well as each historical background, personality, and medical conditions. The Veterinarian will also receive a fax of the different breeds. Your veterinarian can help you develop a health care plan that's specifically customized to your dog's individual needs.



## Blue Algae



### Who should be concerned

Dog owners whose dogs enter or swim in Minnesota lakes.

### What is it

There are over 7,000 types of algae that are non-toxic. One form of blue-green algae produces toxins, which can poison animals that ingest the water directly or licking the algae off of their coat.

### When does it occur

Toxic blooms have been reported as early as May although the usual times are late summer and early fall. Anytime the algae get sunlight, warm dry temperatures; and nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen; an algal bloom can occur. These excess amounts of nutrients are derived from water pollution.

### Where can it bloom

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; "not all blue-green algae blooms are toxic..." Toxic blooms are unpredictable and can become concentrated on windward shores and can also dissipate in a matter of hours.

### What does it look like

You will see large floating mats of jelly like green scum; that also resembles green paint or pea soup. The water can appear cloudy and may have a blue-green hue. The smell of the decomposing algae is what some describe as swampy, musty or an earthy odor.

### How do you treat it

Toxicity to the pet depends on amount ingested, size of pet, and type of toxin. Signs can vary, depending on liver or nervous system involvement. If you think your pet has been exposed to blue-green algae, wash off your pet and contact a Veterinarian IMMEDIATELY. Signs may include weakness, muscle tremors, labored breathing, difficulty moving, bloody diarrhea, convulsions and even death.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency had 5 canine fatalities reported in 2007. You may report any algae bloom sightings to the MPCA. Call or visit their website for more information:

[www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-toxicalgae.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-toxicalgae.html)

Local: 651-296-6300 Toll Free: 1-800-657-3864.



## Did You Know



Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards!!

Crocodiles can't stick out their tongue!!



Starfish don't have brains!!



## Pet Insurance

**What is Pet insurance?** Pet insurance is health insurance for your cat or dog. Pet insurance pays a large portion of your veterinary bills when your pet gets sick or injured, at any veterinarian you choose. You can visit any general, specialist, or emergency veterinary hospital in the United States, there are no networks of any kind.

**How does it work?** You pay your bill at the time of service, have your veterinarian sign a simple form, and send it in to your pet insurance company. You'll usually receive a refund within 10 business days. Payment direct to your veterinarian can be arranged, too. You can get 70% to 90% of your bill back!

### WHAT DOES PET INSURANCE PAY FOR?

Pet Insurance usually pays for:

- Accidents
- Illnesses including cancer
- Surgery, hospitalization, and anesthesia
- Laboratory and diagnostic tests
- Medications

### WHAT DOESN'T PET INSURANCE PAY FOR?

Pet Insurance usually won't pay for:

- Cosmetic procedures like tail docking
- Genetic testing
- Pregnancy and whelping costs
- Any pre-existing conditions



**What types of plans are there?** There are many pet insurance plans available, ask your veterinarian for brochures or go to Google and type in "pet insurance." You can also visit [www.PetInsuranceReview.com](http://www.PetInsuranceReview.com) and read customer comments and testimonial about the different plans.

**When is the best time to get insurance?** It pays to get pet insurance when your pet is young as there are usually few or no pre-existing conditions. But healthy older pets can also get pet insurance.

For a FREE Quote you can visit [www.PetInsuranceReview.com](http://www.PetInsuranceReview.com) for other options on pet health insurance. As with any insurance product please review the choices available and select the product that best meets your requirements. If you have any questions, please speak with your veterinarian or the insurance provider.

## Allergies

Does your pet constantly chew, scratch or rub at a certain area of its body? These all could be signs of allergies. Just like people, dogs and cats can become allergic or sensitive to many things. Pollens are most frequently the cause, in the spring tree pollens, and in the late summer and fall weed pollens. If this is the case, the reaction may only occur in the summer months. However your pet may become sensitive to something in its environment that is there all year round, i.e. house dust. A small percentage of animals may have food allergies, which would affect them year round as well.

Have you ever wondered why your dog's paws are stained a reddish color? This is from your dog's saliva. Excessive licking will stain the skin and fur, which is a sign of an allergy. Other signs may or may not include; red irritated eyes, inflammation or redness between the toes, inflammation or redness on the dog's underside or irritation, and excessive wax in the ears.

If you notice any of these signs, see your veterinarian right away. There may be an underlying condition for the cause of these signs. If left untreated, secondary infections can occur.

