



**ADVANCED
PET CARE CLINIC**

"De-Tails"

November/December 2011 Vol. 2

¡Fleas Navidad!

Well, we finally made it to December. Our staff here at Advanced Pet Care Clinic can't believe how fast this year has flown; this month marks our second anniversary of being in business! **(and the crowd goes wild...)** We sure are **WILD** about that idea too! We have learned much and continue learning every day. **We appreciate your support and patronage!**

The holidays and their glorious pandemonium will soon be over, prompting most of us to pack it in and hibernate for the rest of the cold season. Blankets and couch time usually sounds good to all of us including our pets. However, making sure our furry friends get enough fresh air and exercise can be a challenge when they don't like cold weather, but there ARE a few ways to get them excited about venturing out.

Winter can also bring out some unwanted guests....and I'm not talking about your **in-**

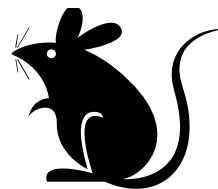
laws! Cold temperatures outside can tempt mice and other rodents to seek out the warmth of your home or garage. Knowing where your poisons and rodent controls are located can help keep your curious dog or cat from ingesting these substances and becoming sick or even dying.

Baby, It's Cold Outside!

Some of us are winter folks. Some of us are not. Our pets, however, have no choice. Cold weather or not, they must go out for fresh air and exercise. Getting your dog to participate in outdoor activities can be difficult if she is hesitant to play in the chilly air and snow. Using treats to reward for playing fetch outside or offering her a special snack every so often as you take your daily walk may spark her interest in staying out longer and keep her distracted. Engaging her in off-leash sessions of tug or fetch and allowing her to romp with canine buddies can keep her warmer on a brisk day. The more aerobic the exercise she gets, the better. Switching up the route for a walk or taking a detour through wooded areas will not only provide better protection from wind, but also give her new smells, sights and sounds that will keep her interested and distract from chilly temperatures. Having your pet dress for the weather can also help her beat the aversion to playing outside. Puppies, small breeds and shorthair dogs should be dressed in a cozy sweater or coat that covers their back and underside. Canine booties can protect paws from snow, salt and chemical de-icers that can clump between their toes and pads.



Getting your dog to play outside can simply be a matter of keeping her warm or using waterproof gear for wet days. If you have tried everything and she still seems miserable outside, winter is a great time to enroll in indoor training or agility classes. These sports are often taught in heated facilities and provide excellent exercise. Karen Anderson, local animal behavior specialist, hosts multiple 7-week sessions at our clinic every month, as well as free-play sessions on the weekends. Call us for information if you're interested. Interactive games, food puzzles and new tricks help keep your dog mentally active indoors as well.



Poison Pests Not Pets!

We have had a couple of cases concerning poison lately so we thought it would be beneficial to share what we know. Cold weather tends to send mice scurrying for a warm shelter, which can easily be your home or garage. Rodenticides are used to control the pesky populations, unfortunately, being so available for the mice also make them available to our pets as well. Most are anticoagulants and work by preventing blood from clotting. If you catch or suspect your cat or dog of eating poison, please contact us immediately. The vet may induce vomiting to rid the stomach of any poison and treatment with Vitamin K will be started, either orally or by injection and should be administered daily for at least 3 weeks. Unfortunately, if you don't actually see your pet ingesting the poison it's difficult to know for sure, and symptoms do not begin to show up until 72-96 hours after ingestion of the substance. Animals that consume anticoagulants lose blood into the environment or internal body spaces such as the lungs. The most common symptom is bleeding, usually from the ears, eyes, nose, mouth, skin and gums. Bruising may be seen, weakness, lethargy, pale gums and coughing from blood leaking into the lungs are all common symptoms. If the blood loss is severe enough you may see signs of shock, including collapse, loss of consciousness and decreased heart and breathing rates. Because of the delayed onset of symptoms, immediate veterinary treatment is imperative. Hospitalization and more intensive treatments may be required for more severe cases. Anticoagulant rodenticides are toxic to humans as well. Toddlers can get into the same small places that animals can so knowing where your poisons are located and restricting access are the most effective way of preventing accidental poisoning.



Come check out our new selection of sweaters for your pup! Available in multiple sizes.

Did You Know?

Dog nose prints are as unique as fingerprints and can be used to identify them.

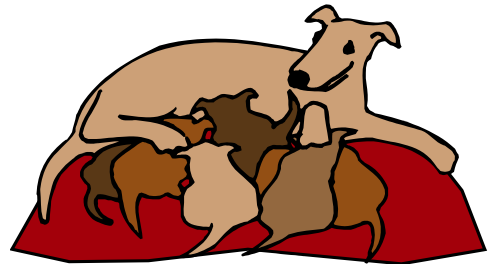


Annual Neck Check Time!

It's officially the end of the year and a perfect time to check your pet's collar and tags to ensure that important safety measures are in place should they ever need it. Start by checking the fit of your pet's collar. A proper fit and correct type is very important. A buckle or snap-together collar made of leather or nylon is the best for dogs. Training collars or "choke" collars are not recommended to be worn unsupervised. Cats should wear tear-away collars or those with elastic sections that allow them to wriggle free if they get caught up on something. Collars that have weak spots at the holes or fasteners are due to be replaced. Next, make sure the tags are current and legible. License tags are good but ideally an identification tag with your phone number is the best option in the event that Fido gets lost. Rabies tags also have identifying numbers and your vet clinic name on them that help link you to a lost pet. They also verify that your animal has been currently vaccinated and is not in need of another one if picked up by a shelter. We offer a variety of collars at our clinic by **Lupine Collars & Leads** that are guaranteed even if your pooch chews them! Fixing collars and ID tags is a simple and easy way to start your pet's year off right!

Dealing With Behavior Issues?

A study recently done has found that puppies separated from their litters too early, usually before 8 weeks of age, grow up more likely to develop behavior issues than those that were left until a little older. Separation at such a young age omits the period of time within their family where they learn social structure, dominance, patience and what is appropriate behavior. It's during this sensitive period puppies learn to accept new skills with minimal fear. These new experiences modify the brain and have an impact on their adult character, temperament and behavior making it harder for them to adapt to new environmental conditions. The study indicates those dogs removed from their litters earlier than 8 weeks were more likely to exhibit fearful and avoidant behavior as adults than those left longer. These behaviors included separation anxiety, noise reactivity, destructiveness, play-biting and aggression. All of these behaviors can make it difficult to establish a foundation for training, resulting in too many dogs being relinquished to shelters. With this knowledge, we can continue to stress the importance of waiting until at least 8 weeks to adopt a puppy and generate early behavior intervention ideas and information for frustrated owners.



**We're having a food drive for
the Northeast Iowa Food
Bank!**

Donate your canned goods or other non-perishable items and enter the drawing for a **\$25 gift certificate** to use here at the clinic!



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM
ADVANCED PET
CARE CLINIC!**

*Advanced Pet Care
Clinic*

Mon. 7:30-5:30

Tues. 7:30-8:00

Wed. 7:30-5:30

Thurs. 7:30-5:30

Fri. 7:30-5:30

Sat. 8:00-10:00

Warm Hearts Caring for Cold Noses!

Refer your friends and family and you will receive a \$5 credit to your account and they will get a FREE exam (\$35 value) with purchase of vaccines!

If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, please reply to this newsletter and put "remove" in the subject line.