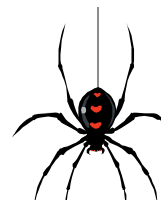




**ADVANCED
PET CARE CLINIC**

"De-Tails"

October/November 2010 Newsletter



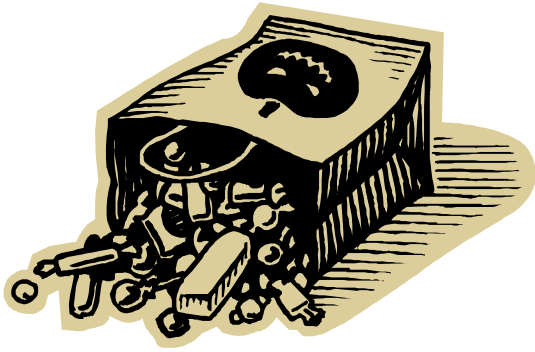
They're baaaaaack! *The holidays are creeping up on us at this very moment! I'm amazed every year how quickly this happens! Once we celebrate Halloween it turns into a whirlwind and I don't feel like my life is my own until about mid-January (and even then it's questionable). Think how our pets must feel with all the family hustling in and out with or without them! Maybe the added stress of extra guests in "their chair", or the fact that the weather has turned colder and now no one feels like taking Max out for that evening walk. Let's try to make a point of giving our pets a little extra love during this time, be it an affectionate hug, scratch behind the ears or just a 5 minute time of play at an unexpected moment. I mean really, isn't that what the holidays are all about? Spread the love!!*



At Home Tip

If, while trimming your cat or dogs nails, you happen trim it too short, a great home remedy to help stop the bleeding is cornstarch. You will want to apply pressure to the nail bed to temporarily stop the bleeding, and then use a Q-tip to pack the nail with cornstarch. This also works well if your pet happens to tear a nail. There are products on the market that you may use as well, such as Kwik Stop or a styptic stick.

Scout came in to have her Senior Wellness Check! Lookin' good, Scout!!



With Halloween and other holidays approaching soon, we need to keep in mind the safety of our pets. Don't let your pets sample the Halloween candy! Chocolate is toxic to dogs. (Thank goodness, since I really hate sharing my Hershey Bars!) The culprit in the chocolate that is dangerous to our pets is Theobromine. We clear it from our system very quickly, but dogs take about 3 days.

So how much chocolate will kill a dog?

- **Size matters**- A small Chihuahua and a large Labrador Retriever can ingest the same amount of chocolate but obviously the toxins in the chocolate will have a stronger affect on the smaller of the two.
- **Individuality**- **HOW** active your pet is makes a huge difference. A sedentary dog has a much slower metabolism than an active dog and therefore will not process it through his body as quickly, letting the toxins remain in the body longer.

Symptoms will occur within 12 hours of ingestion. Watch for:

- Excitement
- vomiting and diarrhea
- muscle spasms
- Excessive thirst
- Excessive urination (this becomes progressive)
- Fast heart rate
- Seizures

Treatment will depend on the dog and how far it has progressed from the time they have ingested the chocolate. Call Dr. Stevenson as soon as possible to have your pet seen.

Be aware that xylitol, an artificial sweetener found in many mints and gum, is toxic to your pets as well as alcohol, so be sure to put the goody bags up high, the plates of cookies and fudge away when we are done with them, and the sweet drinks like eggnog out of reach! It only takes turning away for a moment and our furry

little friends can devour a large quantity before we know it!!

Candy wrappers, tinsel, ornaments, garland, ribbons and bows are enticing to both cats and dogs, but can cause dangerous and often fatal obstructions in your pet if eaten. Many times we know these things but are caught up in festivities. It becomes easy to overlook these safety issues. Let's make this a reminder and hopefully we can enjoy our holidays without making an emergency trip to see Dr. Stevenson!



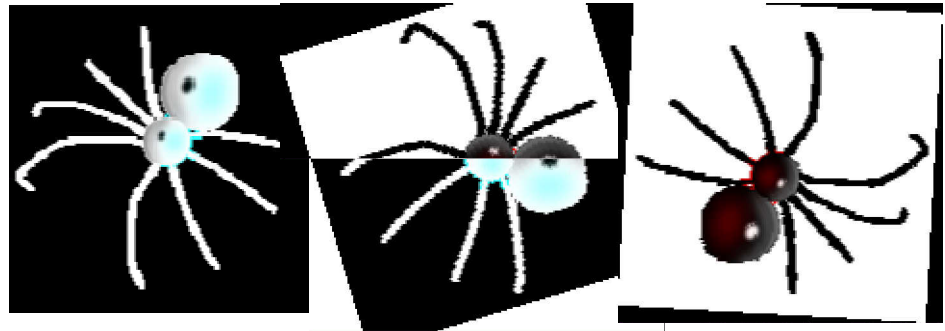
“THE REASON A DOG HAS SO MANY FRIENDS IS THAT HE WAGS HIS TAIL INSTEAD OF HIS TONGUE.”

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Franklin is coming dressed for dinner!

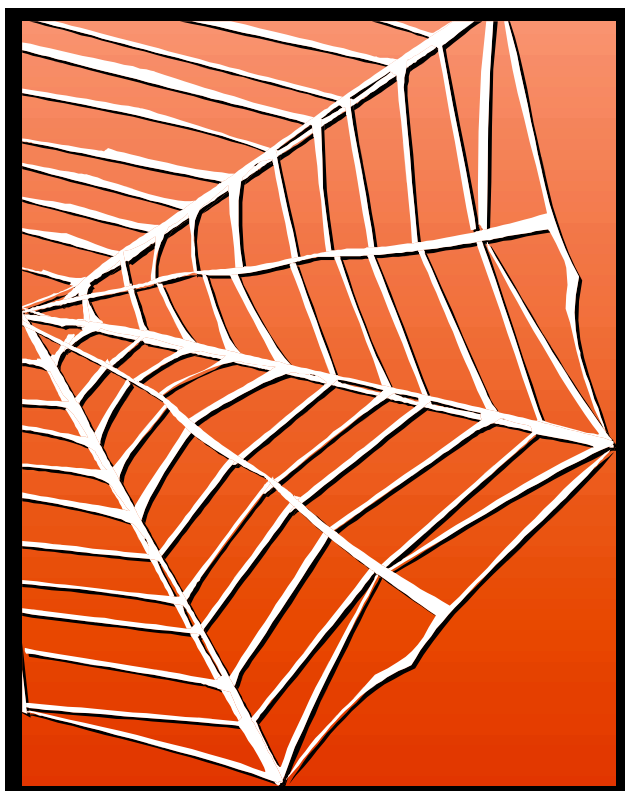


Beware
the
Creepy
Crawlers...



Keeping your cats and dogs---even those living indoors---on parasitic prevention all year long is the best thing for all concerned. While the infestation rate decreases in the cold weather, your pets are still at risk. Outdoor pests tend to move inside during the winter months. Fleas and ticks are hearty little creatures that can survive in many conditions, including our cold weather season. They can find their way into homes or crawl spaces under porches to get away from the harsh elements.

Your pets may not spend as much time outside in the winter, but they still go outside for walks and bathroom breaks. Hookworms are passed through feces in the winter just as easily as the summer months. As pet owners, you should be aware that we can pick up fleas or ticks on your pants or shoes and transfer them to your pets (including “indoor” cats). The cost of prevention far out-weighs the cost of treatment.



A big thank you to those of you that attended the 1st Annual Pet Fest held at Black Hawk Park! What a great turn out for the first year! It was truly encouraging to see the number of owners that came out to enjoy the beautiful day with their dogs! It will only get better as we go, so see you next year!!



Ask Audra...

Q. Dear Audra,
Why does my puppy pee on the floor when we greet her?

A. This sounds like a behavioral problem most commonly seen in puppies especially the shy, timid, oversensitive ones, and is called submissive urination. These puppies and even some adult dogs urinate on the floor, on the owner, or on guests as soon as it becomes excited or fearful. Some common situations where you may see this behavior displayed are over affectionate greetings, when you arrive home, guests entering your home, arguments between people, scolding, and loud noises.

Dogs are social animals and submissive urination is a way for them to communicate which dog is dominant and which dog is submissive. Dogs also see humans as part of their pack and may display submissive behavior towards us. This is their way of showing us that they recognize we are dominant.

Correcting submissive urination involves increasing your puppy's confidence and avoiding situations where this behavior occurs. Most puppies will outgrow this behavior with a little patience on your part. The following are some suggestions:

- Obedience class can be an excellent confidence booster for your dog and teach you as the owner when it is appropriate to praise and reward your dog.
- Gradually introduce your dog to new people, sounds and experiences. Praise your dog when it shows confidence.
- Scolding and punishment do not work; it only makes your dog feel more powerless. A firm NO is usually enough.
- Do not hover over your dog when greeting it because this is a dominant position. Instead crouch down and let your dog approach you and avoid making eye contact. If your dog urinates out of excitement when you return home or when someone unfamiliar greets it, try to downplay the greeting by calmly saying hello or maybe even ignoring it for the first 5 minutes until it calms down. Ask your guests to do this as well. After the excitement of your returning home wears off, approach your dog and kneel or sit on the floor so you are not towering over it.

Thanks for the great question this month! We love hearing from you so don't be shy! E-mail, phone us or pop it in the mail and we'll get back to you ASAP!

Everyone! Meet our new clinic cat, Izzy! She comes to us from Agape Foster pet rescue in Waverly. She is around 1 ½ years old, and already has us wrapped around her little paw!



The Sweet Truth about Diabetes and Your Pet

Dr. has just diagnosed your pet with diabetes. Your mind is frantically searching for any tidbit of information you may remember hearing about diabetes in animals. With an overwhelming feeling of dread you ask yourself, "Will they want to put her to sleep?"

No! Diabetes does not have to be a death sentence for your pet. Pets are susceptible to many of the same diseases that we are and Diabetes happens to be one of them. The condition is definitely treatable and need not shorten your animal's life span or quality of their life. Caring for diabetic pets has been made simpler now, especially with the right diagnosis and treatment plan set up through Dr. Stevenson.

Let's talk about the types and symptoms we should all be aware of in our pets.

Type I Diabetes is most commonly found in children and dogs. This particular type is most often due to pancreatitis or an immune system dysfunction, which will not allow the body to produce the hormone insulin. Type I is the most common form found in dogs and strikes 1 in 500 dogs. It mainly affects your middle-aged and older dog; the typical diabetic canine patient being middle-aged, female, and overweight. With treatment diabetic dogs are able to live as long as non-diabetic dogs of the same age and gender. There is no chance of remission with Type I as there can be with cats that have Type II. Symptoms may not be immediately noticed as they often have a gradual onset.

Symptoms to watch for:

- Excessive water consumption***
- Frequent and/or excessive urination (possible house accidents)***
- Greater than average appetite with either weight loss or maintenance of current weight.***

Once diagnosed, Dr. Stevenson will decide on the best treatment plan. This will vary depending on the type and how far the disease has progressed. Most common will be placing your dog on a regimen of food and insulin with a strict schedule.

Type II Diabetes is most commonly found in adult humans and cats. It is typically due to diet and weight issues.

1 in 400 cats develop diabetes, and lately it is becoming more common. Symptoms are similar to humans, with cats showing a gradual onset over several weeks. Because of this, it may go unnoticed for awhile. Most cats that develop this disease are 7 years plus and overweight.

Symptoms to watch for:

- Sudden weight loss***
- Excessive drinking and urination (may appear obsessive with water, lurking around faucets or water bowls)***

- ***Change in appetite - either ravenous, eating up to 3x's more, or lack of***
- ***Back legs become weak and gait can become stilted or wobbly***
- ***If you notice thinning skin and apparent fragility this may indicate that the cat is breaking down its own body fat and muscle to survive. At this point the disease has progressed to a very serious stage.***

Again, setting up the right treatment plan for your cat is very important. If left unaddressed, this disease can be life-threatening to your pet. Early diagnosis and treatment can help and with some cats lead to remission. Dr. Stevenson can recommend the right types of food/medications to get your cat back on the road to recovery.

Advanced Pet Care Clinic
Hours: Mon. 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Tues. 7:30 am - 8:00 pm
Wed. 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Thurs. 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Fri. 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Sat. 8:00am - 10:00 am
24 hour on call emergency.
(319) 277-7675



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