



November/December 2011 Vol. 1

Hellooo...Holidays! Many of us will be doing some traveling to visit family and friends within the next couple of weeks. Where do Fido and Fluffy fit in to your plans? An astounding 80% of pet owners take their pets with them when they travel. Whether its summer vacation or **over the mountains and through the woods to grandmother's house**, a microchip can greatly increase your chances of finding your pets should they get out and become lost. Taking your furry family members when you travel anywhere, grandma's house or the vet's office, poses various questions that you should think about. What can you do to make it easier? What things are our pets exposed to?

Where, Oh Where, Did My Little Dog Go?

Microchip. Such a tiny thing but such a big help! The sad fact is that 1 in 3 pets go missing during its lifetime, and 90% never return home. If those pets had microchips, the percentage would be much lower. A study of 7,700 stray animals showed that dogs that were not microchipped were returned to their owners only 21.9% of the time, while those that were microchipped were returned 52.2% of the time! Even more astonishing were the cats. Without microchips, cats were



returned to their owners only 1.8% of the time. Cats with microchips were reunited with their families 38.5% of the time! So what exactly is a microchip? Great question, it's a small electronic chip inside a glass cylinder the size of a grain of rice. The chip holds an identification number specific to your pet which displays on the hand-held device when scanned. A microchip can be implanted during a routine veterinary office visit, no surgery or

anesthesia required, and is no more painful than a typical injection. Many people choose to have them implanted at the time of spay or neuter when they get a new pet as well. We here at Advanced Pet Care Clinic use AKC Companion Animal Recovery chips. They have lifetime enrollment and no annual fees. We register your information online for you and you're set. If you ever move or need to update your information, you can do it anytime for free. Making sure your information is

always current is one of the most important things you can do for your pet. Most of the microchipped animals that do not get returned to their owners are due to incorrect information linked to the identification number. If your pet ever becomes lost or stolen, the first thing shelters and veterinary clinics do is scan for a microchip so keeping it updated is crucial. Interested in this simple method of preventing a lost pet? Stop in and see us!



Here Kitty Kitty Kitty.....

The number of cats kept as household pets in the United States is far more than the number of dogs. Unfortunately, feline veterinary visits happen half as much as dog visits. Reasons given for this include how much cats hate to go to the vet and they appear healthy, so they do not need to go. Cats are actually notorious for hiding any

physical or medical problems they might have. However, a cat's health status may change in a very short period of time, and ill cats often show no signs of a disease. An annual examination by the veterinarian can uncover health problems not readily apparent to the owners, making yearly visits key for early detection and intervention of any problems. Oftentimes, the disease is not caught until it has progressed too far. Yearly bloodwork to screen for hyperthyroidism, kidney and liver disease is recommended as well as a physical examination to check for any signs of heart disease, oral disease, and weight problems. Of course, if you own a cat, you know half the battle is just getting kitty to the clinic at all! Most cats never leave the house except for that yearly trip to the vet office, and it may also be the only time they see their carrier! If the stress of the travel and office visit were reduced, kitty could tolerate, or even enjoy, the trip. Here, we have compiled some helpful tips to relieve some of those scary factors for your cat.



- Leave the carrier out in the open for a few days before the appointment to get kitty comfortable with its presence. Another option is to make it part of the furniture, as an inviting place for kitty to go.
- Create a comfortable environment inside the carrier using blankets, toys, or an article of clothing from a favorite person.
- Reinforce positive associations with the carrier using toys, treats and praise.
- Once your cat is comfortable with the carrier, take a few short car rides. The trips should be a positive experience.
- Drape a blanket or towel over the carrier to reduce motion sickness, or withhold food before the appointment.
- Purchasing a top-loading cat carrier can also make it easier to put the cat in and get the cat back out once at your destination.

By showing your cat that the carrier and car rides don't always have to be a terrifying place, visits with the doctor can be less intimidating and stressful, ensuring they receive the medical care they need.



Secondhand Smoke is a problem for pets too

Need that motivation to quit smoking?! Not only does secondhand smoke affect humans around you, it also affects your pets. Secondhand smoke can cause lung cancer and nasal cancer in dogs. Long-nosed dogs have a greater risk of developing nasal cancer, while short-nosed dogs have a greater risk of throat cancer. Inhaling smoke increases the risk of these types of cancer by 3 times as much. Smoke can also cause allergic reactions in dogs. This is seen as the scratching, biting and chewing of the skin that most owners associate with a food or flea allergy.

Cats are more susceptible to secondhand smoke due to their grooming habits. They have a higher rate of oral cancer, called squamous cell carcinoma, because they

ingest the toxins while licking their fur. Ninety percent of cats with this form of cancer die within the year. Cats around secondhand smoke also have higher rates of lymphoma than cats that are not around smoke. Lymphoma is a deadly form of cancer that affects the blood and immune system.

Birds also can be severely affected by secondhand smoke. They can develop eye problems and respiratory issues like coughing and wheezing, as well as lung cancer. Sitting on a smoker's hand can cause contact dermatitis from the nicotine still on the hand, irritating them so much they begin to pull out their feathers.

In general, secondhand smoke can cause several problems in our pets. Breathing problems such as asthma, salivation, diarrhea, vomiting, cardiac abnormalities and respiratory difficulties or paralysis, just to name a few. Inhalation of the

smoke is not the only culprit unfortunately. Cigarettes themselves are a dangerous item to leave within reach. Before a cigarette is smoked, nicotine levels are at 15-30 milligrams depending on the brand. After a cigarette is smoked, 25% of the nicotine is still left with levels at 4-8 milligrams. The toxic level to a cat or dog is 20-100 milligram, so your pet may start showing signs of toxicity if it eats just one unsmoked cigarette, and possibly after eating 3 cigarette butts! Studies have also shown that the more members in a household that smoke, and the more each member smokes, increases the risk for pets. It is so important that the smoker in a household has a designated area in which to smoke, that is physically separated from the home and that all cigarettes and cigarette butts are stored or disposed of properly.

Happy Thanksgiving!!



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*

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