

Paw Prints Newsletter

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DID YOU KNOW...

- ▶ Calico cats are almost all females.
- ▶ 25% of dogs sleep on their owners' beds.
- ▶ Cats can see up to 120 feet away.
- ▶ Dogs can warn epileptics that they are going to have a seizure.
- ▶ Cats' peripheral vision is about 285 degrees.

Congratulations on Your New Puppy!

Socializing Early

Although it is tempting to let your new puppy play with other dogs right away, resist until it has had its first round of vaccines. Its immune system is still developing and vaccines don't have super powers. It actually takes a few weeks to build immunity following immunization. Exposing your puppy to other dogs can make them sick. Ask your veterinarian when the time is appropriate to allow your pet to socialize.

First Year Check-Ups

Just like a baby, your puppy needs regular health maintenance during its first year. It should be de-wormed and vaccinated within 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age. By six months, your puppy could either be spayed or neutered. Heartworm preventative treatment should be administered once a month. And lastly, do not forget the flea and tick prevention.

Feeding Treats

While training your new pet, avoid giving it lots of treats.

Especially with large breeds, puppies can get overweight very quickly and develop joint problems.

Puppy-Proofing Your House

Puppies are as curious as babies. Check around the house very carefully and remove any temptations. With their needle-sharp teeth, they can easily chew electrical cords, swallow objects, or eat toxic plants. Be sure to keep an eye on your pet while it is exploring.

Foods to Avoid

You probably know to keep

your pup away from chocolate and more obvious toxins like rodenticides. There are other substances that can hurt it as well, including macadamia nuts, raisins, grapes, sugar-free gum, cocoa mulch and antifreeze. Ask our receptionist for a free copy of "101 Things You Didn't Know Could Harm Your Pet."

Getting to Know the Leash

If your pup pulls while on a leash, consider a head collar or harness until it gets accustomed to the leash. Your pet can damage its trachea by pulling too hard against the collar. Ask your veterinarian for more information on what types of collars would be best suited for your puppy.

The Danger in Toys

Some very thin rubber chew toys can break easily. If it does, carefully pick up the pieces and discard as they can choke your puppy. Consult with your vet for the best type of toy for your pet.

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Congratulations on Your New Puppy!

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Welcome back to school!
Hope you had a good summer break!

Basic Puppy Training

Even if you've had dogs before, dog training techniques change and improve over time. Consider enrolling your pet in basic puppy training. You will pick up useful tips on how to stop problem behavior before it starts. Puppy class is also great for socialization. Your pup will get used to being around other dogs and people.

Potty Training with the Crate

Crate training is a great way to potty train your puppy. It provides your pet a safe place especially when you are out of the house. Invest in a crate large enough for your pup

as an adult. If it is too big for now, make it smaller by placing a divider inside to take up room. Your puppy will be less likely to do her "business" in smaller places.

Touching Your Pet

Accustom your pet to having her ears and paws handled by gently holding and touching them often. You can also touch the nail clipper to its nails without cutting the first couple of times to let it know it's okay. This will prep it for future grooming and/or veterinary visits.

Exposure

Ease your pup into experiencing different sounds and smells – the

vacuum, people with beards, hats, umbrellas, or crutches. The more it is exposed, the more it will take everything in stride when it is older.

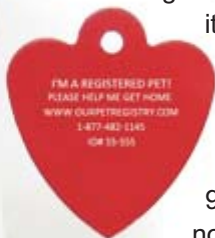
For more information visit www.healthypet.com, www.asPCA.org/pet-care/dog-care, or www.hsus.org/pet.



Lost and Found: Please Register Your Pet



It is a shocking fact that one out of three pets will get lost during its lifetime.



Without identification, 90% of will not return home.

In fact, according to American Humane Association, only 17% of lost dogs and 2% of lost cats ever find their way back to their original owners.

Almost 4 million pets are euthanized every year because their owners cannot be found or have

failed to register their pets. If a shelter cannot determine a pet's owner, the pet will be euthanized in as few as three days.

Register your pet if you have not done so already. It is vital that you do so, either by mail or internet at www.HomeAgain.com or www.cherrydalevet.com.

Hiking Dangers for Your Pets

With summer upon us, many pet owners are yearning to hit the trail with their pets. While this is a great way to exercise them, keep an eye out for potential dangers along the trail and remember to pack a basic First Aid Kit (like the one featured in our July Issue).

Venomous Critters

Snakes and scorpions can be a real concern when out hiking. Keep your pet close. If you suspect your pet has been bitten or stung, the best course of action is to get veterinary help immediately. DO NOT try to suck out the poison. Prompt medical attention is the paramount concern.

Foxtails, Spines & Thorns

Some dogs seem to have a special skill in finding cacti or foxtails! Remove any offending objects as best as you can. Clean the area with antiseptic solution and apply an antibiotic ointment. If you cannot remove something, please see your vet.

Sharp Stones and Rocks

Cut paws and pads are not uncommon after your pet has been scrambling around. Clean any wounds with an antiseptic and apply an antibiotic ointment. If deep cuts do

not stop bleeding, your pet should be seen by a veterinarian.

Fleas and Ticks

To limit the risk of your pet contracting any tick-borne diseases such as Lyme's disease, ensure that it gets its monthly preventative treatment of either Frontline™ or Advantix™ or is wearing a tick collar.

Many ticks and fleas lurk in the brushes and grasses. Try to avoid heavily wooded areas and examine your pet after the hike. For pet owners, wear light-colored clothing to help you see and remove ticks before they attach. Wear a long-sleeved shirt tucked into pants, and tucked into socks.

If you find difficulty in removing ticks attached to your pet, do not take chances. Call your veterinarian for assistance and ask for advice on what other signs and symptoms to look for.

Water Puddles

Do not allow your pet to drink from puddles of still or discolored water. These may be infested with many parasites that can cause mild to severe abdominal problems. Take bottled water for your pet.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Q. *If my pet is in pain, can I give them a human pain medication such as aspirin?*

A. Most medications that humans take are toxic to pets. If you have additional questions about this, ask your vet or give us a call.

Q. *Can I give my pet people food in small amounts?*

A. Several kinds of human food are toxic to pets. There are some that are acceptable as a treat but if in doubt, consult with your veterinarian first before giving it to your pet.

Q. *What shampoo should I use for my itchy dog?*

A. Please make an appointment with your pet's veterinarian so they can properly diagnose the issue and can recommend the proper treatment.

SPECIAL OFFER

Dentals are 10% off through the month of August. Take advantage of this great offer today.



Giardia in Dogs and Cats

Giardiasis is an intestinal infection in humans and animals. It occurs worldwide and is a common cause of “Traveler’s Diarrhea” or “Beaver Fever” in humans. *Giardia* is sometimes confused with “worms” because they invade the gastrointestinal tract and can cause diarrhea.

This one-celled parasitic protozoa exist in two forms: a fragile feeding form that exist in the gut of infected pets, and a hardy cystic form that is shed in feces and can survive several months, particularly in water and damp environments.

Dogs and cats become infected with *Giardia* by ingesting contaminated water. While in the intestines, the organism goes through several stages of maturation.

During this process, your pet will begin to develop foul-smelling diarrhea. The stool may range from soft to watery, and occasionally blood.

Although relatively rare in healthy cats, infected cats tend to have excess mucus in the feces and in some cases vomiting may occur. The signs may persist for several weeks and gradual weight loss may become apparent,



especially if cats are housed in a cattery or shelter.

Other drugs are also used if *metronidazole* is not effective, along with rehydration therapy.

How is *Giardia* Diagnosed?

Giardia is diagnosed by an outside laboratory with special equipment and solutions that detect the cyst in the stool of the animal. Tests are available that detects the antigen (cell protein) of *Giardia* in the feces as well.

Can *Giardia* Affect Me or My Family ?

Yes, it is the most common intestinal parasitic infection among humans. It can cause severe diarrhea and dehydration. If your pet has been diagnosed, clean all beddings and kennel areas thoroughly with a bleach solution. Allow the area to dry before reintroducing your pet to the area. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling infected pets.

How is it Treated?

The typical drug used to kill *Giardia* is an antibiotic *Metronidazole* – by prescription only – given over a period of 7 days.



Clinic Hours

M-F: 7:00 am - 9:00 pm
 Sat: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Sun: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic

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Our doctors

Robert C. Brown, DVM (Director)
 Farid Boughanem, DVM (Medical Director)
 Jackie Keenan, DVM
 Sunny House, DVM
 Dharati Szymanski, DVM
 Laura Whitehead, DVM

Serving the community since 1972

DOG	HUMAN
3 months	5 years
6 months	10 years
1 year	15 years
2 years	24 years
4 years	32 years
8 years	48 years
10 years	56 years
15 years	76 years
20 years	98 years

Pets age faster than humans. To keep them healthy and disease free, have them examined twice a year.