

Paw Prints Newsletter

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DID YOU KNOW...

- Parasites can cause a variety of health problems for your pet-even death.
- Ultrasound enables veterinarians to visualize the internal organs of your pet
- Pets age faster, on average than people

Leptospirosis ("Lepto") and Your Pet

Leptospirosis, commonly called "Lepto", is a serious disease that can affect dogs and humans. Infections in cats are extremely rare. It is caused by a bacteria that is shed through the urine of wildlife host, such as rodents, raccoons and opossums. Most humans and dog infection arise from contact or ingestion of contaminated water such as lakes, ponds, slow-moving streams or puddles. The bacteria is especially hardy in warm water, making summer and fall the most common season for new infections. Infection can also occur directly from a host animal by bite or contact with their urine.

Lepto most commonly causes kidney and liver failure in dogs. Other signs are possible, such as fever, muscle pain, neurological disease and vomiting.

Treatment consists of therapy with multiple antibiotics, as well as monitoring and treating the organ damage that has occurred. Dogs that are infected are a source of

infection for people and must be handled cautiously.

Once recovered, they can continue to shed the organism in their urine for months or even years.

Preventions of the disease is achieved through vaccination, which is very effective against the common strains of the bacteria. We highly recommend the vaccine due to the prevalence of the disease in this area and the risk of infection to people.

Virtually every dog that venture outdoors is at risk for lepto. Take steps now to protect your pet

*Remove food, garbage or nesting materials from your yard that may attract wildlife.

*Discourage your dog from drinking from ponds or puddles

*As noted above please speak with your veterinarian about annual protection with updated "Lepto" vaccines.

Common Toxicities in Pets–Part–1



Space is limited.
Make your
boarding
reservations as
early as possible.

There are many common household items including drugs, plants, food, and other objects that are harmful to pets. Animals and humans do not have the same abilities to deal with certain medications and foods. Things that are perfectly safe for people to ingest can cause pets to become very sick or in some instances can prove to be fatal. No medications should **EVER** be given to your pet without the express consent of your veterinarian. Some examples of medications that are very harmful to pets include non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) such as Aspirin, Ibuprofen, Tylenol and Aleve. If your pet suffers from arthritis please contact our office to discuss safe alternatives for your pet. Other drugs that are toxic

include allergy medications such as Claritin D, cold and flu medications, antidepressants, vitamins, diet pills and anti-cancer drugs.

Plants that are found in and near your home can also be toxic. Different parts of different plants can be the problems (bulbs, leaves, berries etc) Some examples are Aloe, Amaryllis, Azalea, Bird of Paradise, Branching Ivy, Calla Lily, Asian Lily, Daffodil, Daylily, Dieffenbachia, Easter Lily, Eucalyptus, Ferns, Philodendron, Foxglove, Honeysuckle, Hyacinth, Hydrangea, Iris, Lily of the Valley, Morning Glory, Mountain Laurel, Narcissus, Nightshade, Oleander, Peach Lily, Poison hemlock, Rhododendron, Tulips, Water Hemlock, Yew and

Yucca. A complete list of toxic plants can be found at Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic.

In Addition to plants, there are items found outside of the home that can be extremely dangerous to pets. Antifreeze should be treated with utmost caution. Antifreeze is sweet tasting to dogs and cats and they will actually seek to consume it. Even small amounts of antifreeze that has leaked from a car or has been spilled on the floor of the garage can be fatal. Other concerns include de-icing slats, compost, gasoline, oil, pesticides, certain algae's and cocoa bean mulch fertilizer.

To be continued in the July Edition of Paw Prints.

Clinic Hours:

Mon–Fri: 7AM–9pm

Sat: 8AM–5PM

Sun: 10AM–5PM

Frequently asked Questions

How often should I feed my dog?

Feed your dog at least twice a day. Dogs are happier and healthier this way. Please

make a consultation appointment with your doctor to discuss a healthy food diet plan for your pet and the desired amount to feed at breakfast and dinner.

How do I administer an oral medication to my cat?

The Truth about Poop

Many of our canine and feline comrades think of feces as a delicacy. But consuming feces carries with it several risks for the pet connoisseur and their human housemates. Fecal digestion can lead to an infection of several different parasites including roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworm and Giardia. Not only can these infections cause vomiting,

are young children in the household as they tend to investigate the world by tasting the things around them.

Zoonotic infections are also of concern to anyone who is considered immune compromised such as the elderly, cancer patients, AIDS patient etc. Fortunately most heartworm preventatives,

diarrhea and nausea, they can also lead to more debilitating conditions such as anemia. Unfortunately, some of these infectious agents are zoonotic, meaning that they can be transmitted to humans. The most common are roundworms, hookworms, and Giardia. Zoonotic infections are particularly concerning when there

such as Interceptor, are also preventatives for roundworms, hookworms and whipworms. So... is my dog going to become ill each time feces passes their lips? Probably not. But it would behoove you to deter this behavior as much as possible for the health of all family members in the household, no matter what their species.

For more information, please visit the Center for Disease Control Website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthypeople>

If you have any questions about this article and would love to chat with our doctors please call us at 703-528-9001 or email us a

hospital@cherrydalevet.com

SPECIAL OFFER

Dentals are 10% off through the month of June, take advantage of this great offer today.

Twice-A-Year Early Detection Exams

Although an annual exam may be sufficient for younger dogs and cats, your veterinarian should see your older dog or cat at least two times a year. Cats or dogs that appear healthy may be hiding signs of disease. Certain

conditions may not even be detected during a physical exam, which is why diagnostic testing is so important. Several noninvasive tests and procedures performed regularly check for Anemia, Cancer,

Diabetes, Thyroid disease and or Kidney disease.

Routine testing combined with twice-a-year exams can reassure you of your older pet's continued good health or help your veterinarian begin early treatment.

First Aid and Your Pet

Though most of us will have a first aid kit close to hand for the family we often overlook our four legged family members. Putting together a well provisioned first aid kit for your pets is simple and will enable you to deal with many pet medical emergencies. The most useful items to include in your pets first aid kit are:

- *Gauze
- *Non Stick Bandages
- *Towels, strips of clean cloth
- *Adhesive tape for bandages
- *Activated Charcoal
- *Hydrogen Peroxide
- *Betadine Antiseptic
- * Digital Thermometer

*Medicine Dropper

Alternatively you can ask your local pet store whether they supply a readymade pet first aid kit. Most often these will come with a useful pet first aid handbook.

Do make sure to have your veterinarian or hospital number or a number to the local emergency hospital, your pets medical record (including medication and vaccination history), readily accessible.

Thank you for Vaccinating your Pet

According to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), an estimated 55,000 people in the world—most of them children—die of rabies every year. Nearly 25,000 of these deaths occur in Africa. That is why we want to say a Big **THANK YOU** to all who continue to vaccinate their pets, Did you know that each pet that is vaccinated here at Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic with the Continuum Vaccine (Distemper and or Corona), that Schering Plough/Intervet Animal Health donates doses of Rabies Vaccines to the Afya Serengeti Project in Tanzania Africa. This is an ongoing project that is

helping to reduce the spread of rabies to both humans and animals in Africa.

Each time our doctors here vaccinate your pet against distemper, they are also vaccinating a dog in Africa against rabies and saving the life of a child. To learn more about this project please visit www.afya.org , that is why we say Thank you for touching the lives and improving the quality of life for dogs and people on the other side of the globe. "Afya Serengeti-"Health for Serengeti"



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Fire House Construction Update

Construction and ground work has now begun on the new home location for Cherrydale Fire and Rescue Services on Lee Highway and 21st Rd N. During this period there will be lots of daily noise and interruption and or slowing down of traffic.

We do want to let you know that this construction project will not be affecting the daily operations of the clinic. As always we will continue to make your visit as comfortable and friendly.