

Paw Prints Newsletter

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Welcome Caroline and Amy

DID YOU KNOW...

- ▶ The Labrador Retriever was voted America's favorite breed in 2009.
- ▶ It is illegal to crop a dog's ears in the United Kingdom.
- ▶ Cats are capable of jumping 5 times as high as they are tall.
- ▶ That only 80% of cats respond to catnip, the other 20% do not have the specific gene that causes them to react.

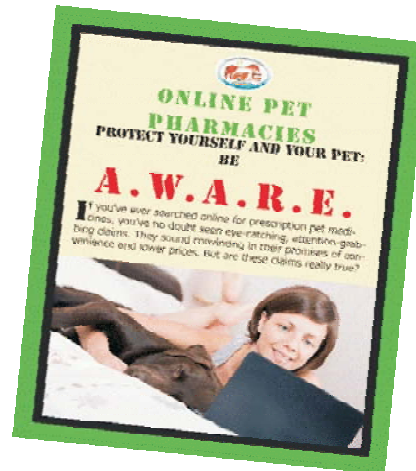
FDA Warns Pet Owners about Online Pharmacies

Online pharmacies continue to tout discount prices and sometimes "no prescription required" to pet owners, but the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) isn't buying it. The agency is reminding pet owners once again that veterinarians are their best resource for prescription medicines.

A new online booklet—"Online Pet Pharmacies: Protect yourself and Your Pet---Be A.W.A.R.E." delivers advice to pet owners on how to find a reputable pharmacy.

The acronym A.W.A.R.E spells out five steps for pet owners to follow when considering online pharmacies.

A—Ask your veterinarian.
W—Watch for Red Flags
A---Always check for site accreditation
R---Report problems and suspicious online pharmacies
E---Educate yourself about online pharmacies.



- Whenever your pet needs prescription medicines, your veterinarian is your best, most reliable source, because your veterinarian
- physically examined your pet and knows your pet's medical and treatment history,
 - knows which medicines are safest for your pet,
 - educates you about potential side effects associated with your pet's medicines,

- shows you how to properly use the medicines prescribed for your pet,
- stores prescription medicines in the clinic according to label directions, and
- uses current, unexpired medicines.

Please be A.W.A.R.E.

For more in depth information please visit the FDA listed websites links below
<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary>





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



Our Canine and Feline vaccine protocols are now available online.

Please visit cherrydalevet.com and click on the Pet Health Program Tab to review. Please call us with any questions or comments.

What You Need to Know about Heart Murmurs

A heart murmur is an abnormal sound created by turbulent blood flow in the heart. The sound can be heard by listening to the heart with a stethoscope. The most common causes of heart murmurs are congenital heart defects, leaky heart valves, anemia, and cardiomyopathies (heart muscle disorders).

Your pet's heart is examined with a stethoscope at each visit. Puppies and kittens often have soft murmurs that resolve with age. However, if a murmur is very loud or is still present after 4 months of age, further testing is recommended. The only way to determine the cause of a murmur is to evaluate the heart with ultrasound, which is called



echocardiography ("echo" for short). A second test, called an E.C.G or E.K.G, measures the electrical activity of the heart and is used as an aid in diagnosing heart disease.

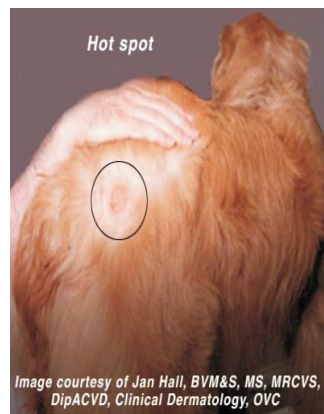
When adult animals develop a heart murmur, further testing is recommended. Many heart murmurs are benign and will not affect your pet's health. However, some can be very serious. The only way to know the difference is by further testing.

Cats can sometimes have a serious heart condition with a very soft or even no murmur. Thus, even a small murmur in adult cats should be taken seriously.

Signs of heart diseases include exercise intolerance (dogs that have trouble finishing their walks or tire easily), increased breathing rate or open mouth breathing, coughing, lethargy and lack of appetite.

Animals will often do not show these signs until they are severely affected, so they should be seen immediately if you notice any of the above. Please contact us if your pet is showing any of the sign or symptoms so that your veterinarian can diagnose and treat your pet early.

Canine 'Hotspots'



What are "hot spots"?

Acute moist dermatitis or "hot spots" are a common skin disorder in dogs. "Hot spots" can appear suddenly and become large red, irritated lesions in a short time.

What does a "hot spot" look like?

It is usually a large, raw, inflamed and bleeding area of skin. The area

becomes moist and painful and begins spreading due to continued licking and chewing.

What does treatment involve?

The underlying cause should be identified and treated, if possible. Flea and tick preventives should be applied at the time of treatment. Anti-

The Woe of Worms

Intestinal parasites are alive and well in Arlington. We have a large population of domesticated dogs and cats as well as several species of wildlife capable of transmitting intestinal parasites. With the expanse of hiking trails, recreation areas and dog parks there are many opportunities for all animals to transmit and contract infections. The most common parasites we see in this area are roundworms, hookworms and giardia.

We do also see infections of tapeworms and whipworms. The most common way parasites cause an infection is when an animal eats the feces of another animal. However, hookworms and tapeworms have additional modes of infection. Tapeworm infection can be

spread by flea ingestion while hookworms can actually infect by making contact with exposed skin.

Intestinal parasites can sometimes look like pieces of feces or near their anus. If you notice any of these particles, it is important to contact your veterinarian immediately. If your pet is infected with an intestinal parasite you may also notice vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy or decreased appetite. Any one of these signs warrants a call to your pet’s doctor.

Of these parasites, roundworms, hookworms, giardia and tapeworms are capable of infecting humans. If your pet is diagnosed with an intestinal parasite is important to minimize contact with your pet until their treatment is completed. This is

particularly important for children, the elderly and anyone whose immune system is weak.

If your pet is diagnosed with an intestinal parasite and you notice any changes in your health, it is very important that you contact your physician. Incidentally, many people are under the impression that indoor cats cannot become infected with intestinal parasites. As a veterinarian and an owner of two indoor cats, I can definitely say that this statement is NOT true.

Although your cat may qualify as “indoor only”, they can be exposed to parasites in soil brought into the house by humans.

For all these reasons it is important to bring in your pets’ fecal samples every six months. That way we can make sure that all of our pets and human friends are free of these diseases.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Island of Haiti as they embark on rebuilding their lives, homes, and their island.

Canine ‘Hotspots’

inflammatory medications and antibiotics are often used to relieve the intense itching and to combat secondary skin infection. These may be injectable drugs, oral tablets and capsules or topical preparations. The area is usually clipped and cleaned to facilitate applying any sprays or ointments on the affected area.

What is the prognosis?
Good with treatment. The condition usually resolves as rapidly as it developed.

Is the condition likely to recur?
Unfortunately, dogs that have “hot spots” are more likely to experience recurrences. Flea control and proper bathing and grooming are your best defenses against future “hot spots”.



Pet Boarding at Cherrydale

Some of our clients find that boarding is a convenient time to let us take care of some basic grooming and healthy care needs for their pets.



Some of the services which can be performed while your pet is staying with us include: nail trim, anal glands, ear cleaning, bathing, and physical examination including exam and fecal examination for intestinal parasites.

While you are away, you can be assured that your pet will be

pampered by our staff of trained veterinary professionals and will receive special attention as needed. We currently have 30 kennels of various sizes that are here to accommodate all of your four-legged friends. Holiday booking, please call weeks in advance.

Cherrydale Welcomes Caroline



Our new receptionist/vet technician. Caroline grew up in Alexandria, VA. She went to Columbia University in New York City, and majored in Biology/pre-med. She played division one Lacrosse all 4 years.

Caroline is now coaching Varsity Lacrosse at T.C. Williams High School. She is applying to Vet School in

October. Caroline has a Golden Retriever named Piper and 2 cats, Hobie and Touny.

Cherrydale Welcomes Amy



Our new receptionist Amy, originally from Oak Creek, WI only moved to Virginia a short time ago. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Parkside where she received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Anthropology. After more than three years working as veterinary assistant

at a greyhound track, She know that a life working with animals would make her the happiest, and she plan to attend veterinary school in the future. She loves spending her free-time outdoors with her wonderful greyhound Sooner and her cat Boots.



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

4038 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22207
 Phone (703) 528.9001
 Fax (703) 243.8586
 Email hospital@cherrydalevet.com

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.