

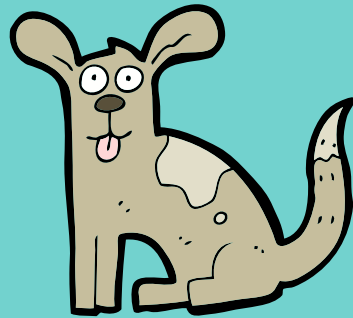
Food, Guests, and other Holiday Hassles

With the fall season comes all the fun of the holiday gatherings. From football parties to Halloween and Thanksgiving there are lots of enjoyable things for us that may cause issues for our pets. Remember to keep food up and out of reach - while you may want to share with your pet, many human foods can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Some furry family members do not appreciate all the socializing or seeing people in strange costumes, and the stress they feel may be demonstrated with unwanted behaviors. It is often best to let them avoid the commotion by securing them in a quiet room away from the party.

Chill Out!

Does your dog just HATE coming in to see us? Is s/he scared of nail trims? Are they super unimpressed during annual exams?

We are now offering a "chill protocol" for our concerned canine companions! A combination of 3 calming nutraceuticals and pharmaceuticals given at home by you in a yummy treat, allow for a calm and relaxed visit with us.



Seasonal Flea and Tick Prevention?

Fall is coming! We are often asked if flea and tick prevention can be stopped in the fall and winter months. Unfortunately, the answer is no. We highly recommend year round flea and tick prevention for our patients.

Some species of ticks are active well into winter and some can even survive past the first frost. Make sure to eliminate areas where ticks can hide and thrive, such as leaf piles and garden litter. The number of deer ticks actually peaks during the fall months. The deer tick is responsible for spreading Lyme disease which is dangerous for you and your pets!

Don't forget that fleas love to come in and make your home their own. As you turn your heat on in the fall, the fleas will become more active. Once the flea life cycle has begun on your pet and in your home - it will take at least 3 months of continuous prevention of ALL animals that come into the home. It is much easier and less "gross factor" if the pet stays on prevention year round.



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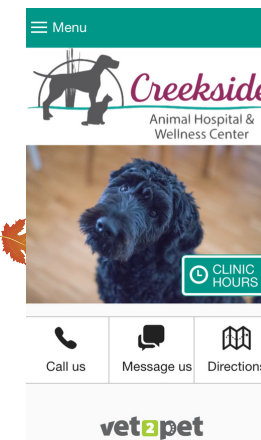
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In this Issue

Fleas and Ticks
Fun Feline Facts
Seasonal Safety
Chill Out
Bee Stings
and much more!



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Bee Stings



Bee stings aren't comfortable, but thankfully reactions are typically mild.



Remove the stinger. Don't use your fingers as that can squeeze more of the venom into the sting site. Gently scrape the stinger off with the edge of a credit card or similar hard surface. Wash the site with warm soapy water.

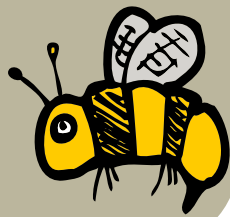
Treat the pain and swelling. A cold compress will help reduce the swelling, redness, and pain. Use a cold wash cloth, freezer gel pack, or frozen vegetables. Be sure to wrap it in a towel to prevent frostbite, and leave the compress on for no more than 20 minutes at a time. Do NOT use any over the counter medication without first consulting with a veterinarian.

Danger signs. (CALL US OR EMERGENCY CLINIC IMMEDIATELY!)



- Pale Gums
- Vomiting
- Hives
- Lack of Energy

- Severe Swelling
- Difficulty Breathing
- Collapse



Fall Safety

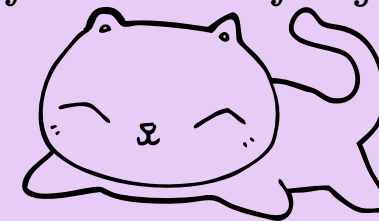


- Mushrooms - toxicity ranges from vomiting/diarrhea to liver failure.
- Rodenticides - even the new "safer" baits are deadly to our pets. Let us know immediately, if you suspect ingestion of any kind. Be sure to keep the packaging for all products that you use.
- Cleaning supplies - keep all products out of reach of children and pets!
- Candles - use with caution. Pet can easily cause fires if they have access to the open flames
- Holiday plants - many plants have some sort of intestinal toxicity if ingested, some signs are mild (like vomiting) while others are much more severe.
- Alcohol - dogs' and cats' bodies are not able to break down alcohol like we can. While alcohol toxicity is rare, it can happen. Also, in mixed drinks, pets may come across other non-alcohol products that are toxic such as chocolate and grapes.



Fun Feline Facts!

- Cats aren't lazy - they are just conserving energy by sleeping 13-14 hours per day.
- A group of cats is called a "clowder".
- A male cat is called a "tom" and a female is a "queen".
- Cats have powerful night vision and can see light levels 6 times lower than what a human needs in order to see.
- Cats have 230-250 bones in their body vs humans who only have 206. The additional bones in their spine and tail give them the extra flexibility so they can pull off their trademark back arch.
- A cat's sense of smell is their strongest sense, which is 14 times stronger than a human's.
- The average cat can jump 8 feet in a single bound, which is approximately 6 times its body length.

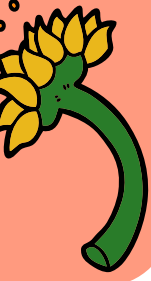


Laparoscopic Surgeries

Don't forget! We can now perform Laparoscopic Surgeries for your pet! This is the standard of care in human medicine, so why not provide it for your pet? Ask us today if your pet would be a good candidate!

Allergies

With the changing of the season, does your dog or cat start to itch? Do they scratch or chew on themselves? Or do they over-groom themselves to the point of causing bald patches in their hair or skin sores? Perhaps they have recurring ear infections or are scooting their bums (anal gland issues). Your pet may have allergies. After a thorough exam to determine the cause, our veterinarians will recommend treatment to help ease your pet's discomfort.



Antifreeze



One of the fall dangers we must be alert for is Antifreeze. Dogs and cats are attracted to the sweet taste of this product. The absorption from the GI tract is extremely fast - usually within 3 hours. Some early signs are vomiting, lethargy, disorientation and abnormal gait. Twelve to Twenty-Four hours after ingestion, secondary signs will occur. They include anorexia, persistent vomiting, lethargy, excessive salivation and/or oral ulcers. Prognosis for pets worsens as the time from ingestion lengthens. If there is any possibility your pet has ingested antifreeze, call your veterinarian or emergency hospital immediately!