



This newsletter has been provided to you by your veterinarian to promote healthcare for your pet. It aims to inform you, the pet owner - with veterinary professional insights and best-practices for leading pet healthcare.

### CARING FOR OUR PETS ISN'T EASY

**T**hey talk too much or don't make a sound, they complain too much or they don't complain at all, they eat too much or not enough, they run around or don't get out of bed.

*Would you recognize any of the above behaviours as signs that your pet's health may need attention?*

Fact is, most pet owners wouldn't recognize important signs. It is our responsibility to learn to recognize signs and respond appropriately. Appropriate responses can include, diet change, environment adjustment, or a call or visit to your vet. Even when you think you know the answer; **don't bet, call your vet.**

### DENTISTRY

**W**hat are the signs that indicate my pet's mouth needs attention?

- >bad breath
- >red gums
- >increased salivation
- >difficulty eating

An unhealthy mouth (as with any part of the body) reduces energy and overall vitality and may cause pain and discomfort.

Sore gums can cause difficulty eating resulting in poor nutrition.

Bacteria in the mouth can enter the bloodstream causing damage to vital internal organs.

Dental cleanings are preventive healthcare. Regular dental care is recommended for all pets to avoid serious medical conditions.

### Keep Your Pets Safe

**I**t may feel as though winter will never end. But, as it does every year, winter will end...really, it will. And, with its end, come new hazards to the safety of your pet. Warmer weather brings the temptation for our pets to stray after a long winter spent mostly indoors.

Here are some tips to consider;

- >Keeping your pet on a **leash** during walks is an easy way to prevent them from running away and getting lost or hurt.
- >While not prevention for wandering, **spaying and neutering** can help keep our pets close to home.
- >A collar with a clearly marked **ID tag** can help others return your pet to you should he or she get lost.
- >A **microchip** is a permanent way to identify your pet, even if your pet's collar should come off. If your pet is already microchipped, make sure to update your information with your veterinarian and microchip company if you should move.

If your pet likes to exercise off leash, obedience classes are a good idea. Teaching your pet to sit, stay and come can prevent accidents from occurring. Obedience classes are also a good way to help your dog learn how to interact appropriately with other dogs. Remember to discuss your pet's vaccination and parasite prevention needs with your vet before becoming involved in a social activity like obedience, fly ball or playing at the dog park.

### Protect Against Parasites

**T**he most common parasite of cats and dogs is the flea. Fleas are usually thought of as a summer pest, but with the warmer weather on the way, it is not too early to begin thinking about protection. Pets can even pick up fleas in the winter if they come in contact with other animals - other pets or wildlife - that may be carrying these pests.



Aside from making your pet itch and scratch, fleas carry tapeworms and can infect your pet if your pet eats the flea while grooming or scratching. Some pets have an allergy to the flea saliva and can develop sores, scabs and skin infections. Talk to your veterinary team about the various flea products available.

Mosquitoes will be returning soon too. Be sure to talk to your veterinarian about your pet's heartworm program.



### SPRING IS COMING

**A**pril showers bring May flowers. And mud!

When the weather is wet, it is important to pay special attention to your pet's coat. Coats can become wet, dirty and matted.



Extra **grooming** like trims, baths and brushing may be needed to keep your pet's coat in good shape.

Be sure to check their feet too. Excess moisture can lead to skin irritation and even infections.

If your pet has seasonal **allergies**, be sure to watch for signs like itching and scratching. These may be indicators that spring time pollens and other allergens are bothering them.

Parasites pose a threat to your pet.

Heartworm is a well-known internal parasite, and fleas are common external parasites.

Other parasites, such as ticks and intestinal worms can endanger your pet's health.

Talk to your vet about managing your pet's parasitic risks.



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