



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.

DOG PARKS

Here are a few things to keep in mind if you are thinking about going to the dog park this summer.

- All dogs entering the dog park must have their **vaccinations** current and complete. This should include core vaccinations as well as kennel cough. This protects the health of your dog as well as the other dogs in the park.
- **Poop and scoop.** Cleaning up after your pet keeps the park clean and reduces the transmission of intestinal parasites.
- All dogs entering the dog park must be **spayed or neutered.**
- Dogs known to show aggression towards people or other dogs are not allowed in the dog park. **Keep your dog in sight** at all times.
- Some dog parks **may not allow toys** (Frisbees, balls etc.) to be brought into the park. Please read the rules posted at the entrance to the dog park and abide by them. The rules are there to protect everyone who uses the park.



CARING FOR OUR PETS

Accurate information empowers us to make the right decisions for our pets. Your vet is always your best resource. He or she is committed to providing you with information and recommendations designed to make your job easy. This newsletter is another resource.

Your vet will assist you with making decisions regarding the care for your *sick* pet and will recommend care for your *seemingly healthy* pet. This is called preventive healthcare. It's not just for senior pets, but also for pets as young as 6 months (sometimes even younger!). Spay or neuter is an example of preventive healthcare for your young pets. Other forms of preventive care include; physical exams, bloodwork, fecal exams, dental care and vaccinations. Attending to the preventive healthcare needs of our pets is the right choice for your pet.

Heartworm season has started!

If you have not already started your heartworm preventive program, arrange for any needed testing and preventive medication now.

SPAYING / NEUTERING

Spaying and neutering procedures provide health benefits for the pet and prevent litters of unwanted puppies and kittens.

Spaying

- Eliminates the risk of uterine infections for both cats and dogs
- Significantly reduces the risk of malignant mammary cancer in dogs

Neutering

- Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer in cats and dogs
- Reduces the incidence of prostatic disease in dogs
- In cats, neutering reduces roaming, fighting and urine marking (spraying)



SUMMER SAFETY

TICKS

Ticks are repulsive pests that can also carry disease. Ticks are most often found in long grass or brush. They feed on blood and will bite dogs and cats as well as people. When a tick bites it actually attaches to the skin and may stay in one spot for several days, feeding until it is full. Talk to your vet about the types of ticks in your area and the diseases they may carry. Pets can be protected from ticks and tick-borne diseases.

HEAT

Summer days can get hot. Pets need to be protected from heat and sun. Pets should never be left in cars. If pets are kept outdoors, they must have shade and plenty of fresh water. On extremely hot days, pets will appreciate air conditioning or a cool basement as much as we do. Hot sidewalks and pavement can do damage to feet. Walk your dog in the morning or evening to avoid the heat of midday and choose to walk on grass if possible. Keep walks short when temperatures are high.

SWIMMING

Make sure to rinse and dry your dog after they go swimming or are bathed. If your pet's skin is left damp, a hot spot can develop. A hot spot is a moist damp spot on the skin that can become infected when the moisture allows bacteria to grow. These small areas of infection can grow and become itchy very quickly. Hot spots require veterinary care.

CAMPING

Make sure to keep your pet safe when you go camping. Wildlife is more active in the summer. A curious pet may find themselves face-to-face with a skunk or raccoon. Wildlife can carry rabies and pose a serious threat to your pet. Raccoons are vicious fighters and skunks have their own very memorable means of defense. Keep your pets in sight at all times.