



TenderCare

Pet Tails

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www.TenderCareAnimalClinic.com

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CLINIC

We recently used the services of a "relief" veterinarian to fill in for one of our doctors who was on vacation. "Dr. P" works at many different clinics in Kentucky and sees a wide range of practices and procedures. She was very well liked by our staff and the clients whose pets she treated. The following is an excerpt of a letter she sent us after her day at Tender Care. The punctuations and capitalizations are hers.

"I have to compliment your clinic — it is very clean and comforting and has a very nice flow. The staff was very polite and clean, friendly and helpful. You have done a great job getting things flowing in a very appeasing manner.....I LOVE it when I go to a new clinic and they have digital radiography and a CO₂ laser!! Sadly, at most clinics that have laser technology it seems an underutilized tool. SNIP clinics may be a partial reason — (some) people don't understand the difference in quality and care, the increased risk of disease exposure at the "low cost" options, or the lack of training of the helpers at the "budget clinics." When laypeople in a county ask me which clinic in a county to take an animal, I ALWAYS suggest the one with the BEST CARE PROVIDED, the BEST equipment, and trained staff. Your clinic definitely gets top billing in the area!! So THANKS for providing Scott County such a quality option!!"

Loving Bohdi

Bohdi was always a joy to see. A Great Pyrenees mix, he was 130 pounds of happiness whenever he came into the office. And even at eight years of age, he was still lively and active. So when he came to the clinic in September of 2009 with lameness in his right rear leg, an injury seemed to be the most likely cause.



A close exam and an x-ray revealed a small fracture in his hock. Though we always feel a little trepidation when a large breed older dog has an unusual fracture, I felt reassured by the fact that the injury was not in one of the most common areas where osteosarcoma (bone cancer) occurs. Bohdi went home on pain medicine and orders to rest.

Unfortunately, he was back in two weeks with an ugly swelling of the injured area. With a bad feeling that this was a potentially life-

threatening problem, we referred Bohdi to the specialists at Metropolitan Veterinary Services in Louisville. Drs. Graehler, Applewhite and the other highly trained surgical and internal medicine specialists immediately took him to surgery. The news was as bad as all of us feared—Bohdi did have osteosarcoma.

Unlike some tumors, osteosarcoma can be a very aggressive and debilitating cancer. Even with amputation, a dog's life expectancy may be measured in months. To increase his odds of survival, his owners elected to have the leg amputated and then started Bohdi on a course of chemotherapy with a specialist in Cincinnati. Through it all, he remained the same happy spirit we all know and love. Bohdi bravely learned to walk on three legs after surgery, then when his other hind leg was injured, he learned to use a special cart to get around. He has remained amazingly healthy during chemotherapy, experiencing some tiredness but none of the severe side effects that can occur.

With all the advances in veterinary medicine, sick and injured animals can expect to recover from illnesses that were impossible to treat in decades past. Even a diagnosis of cancer doesn't have to mean a shortened life of suffering and pain. As Bohdi continues to show us all, animals have a tremendous capacity to love, heal and overcome adversity.





Fleas & Ticks

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, tick-borne diseases are on the increase across the country. Ticks can carry and transmit a wide variety of pathogens, including bacteria, viruses and toxins. In fact, a single tick bite can transmit multiple pathogens, which sometimes leads to confusing symptoms of illness.



Symptoms of tick-borne diseases range from quite subtle to severe, and vary by disease. They can include lameness, lethargy, loss of appetite, fever, rashes, depression, and neurological signs such as dizziness or seizures. Some of the more common tick-borne diseases include Lyme Disease, Babesia, Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis.

Fleas are the most common external parasite in pets. They can cause skin problems ranging from mild irritations to severe dermatitis. They can also carry tapeworms and serve as vectors for other diseases that can be passed to pets and humans. Sometimes you'll see fleas, but often you'll only find evidence of their existence in the form of scabs or dark specks of "flea dirt" on their skin.

If you discover fleas, you must treat both the animal and its environment. Indoors, vacuuming helps control flea populations in all stages of life, from eggs to adults. Your yard can be a haven for fleas, especially if it is shady and moist. Nematodes are one way to battle outdoor fleas; they are microscopic worms that kill flea larvae and cocoons, and are harmless to your pets. Look for them in your local garden supply store.

Both fleas and ticks pose a health threat to humans and pets, so it is important to keep these parasites in check. Talk to your veterinarian about the best methods of flea and tick control for your pet. Some products are safe for dogs but not for cats, and almost all products can be toxic if used incorrectly.

A New Method of Care

A blistering nightmare ravages the soldier with images of a horrific explosion in Iraq, until his dog turns on the bedroom light and wakes him, reminding him that he is safe at home. This is not an introduction from a fictional novel; it is the real job of a specially trained psychiatric service dog.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is an anxiety disorder that can occur after a terrifying event. Symptoms include flashbacks, nightmares, hyper-vigilance and detachment from family, friends and society. The U.S. Dept. of Veteran's Affairs (VA) estimates PTSD occurs in about 11%-20% of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.



Photo courtesy NEADS. ©2009 Winthrop Handy

The VA has recently started a three-year study to "assess the benefits, feasibility, and advisability of using service dogs for the treatment or rehabilitation of veterans with physical or mental injuries or disabilities, including post-traumatic stress disorder." The intent is to pair enough service dogs with soldiers to produce scientifically valid results. According to Fred Barnes of the VA, "We are laying the groundwork for what will possibly be a new method of care, and the VA will be the vanguard of that care."

Separate from the government studies, several non-profit organizations have already started pairing service dogs with soldiers diagnosed with PTSD, including NEADS (www.NEADS.org), whose Canines for Combat Veterans program has matched dogs with veterans with dual diagnoses of a physical disability and PTSD, and *Puppies Behind Bars* (www.puppiesbehindbars.com). In some initial surveys of veterans paired with service dogs, they report reduced PTSD symptoms and a reduction in the daily medicines needed to help control the condition.

Dogs can be trained to remind a soldier to take medication, recognize the onset of PTSD symptoms and provide tactile stimulation to help the soldier become aware of those symptoms, retrieve a portable phone or call 911, and even to act as a "block" from strangers in public, where the dog holds his ground, preventing people from making body contact with his partner while in line, on a bus or other crowded space. A trusted canine companion can also help an individual to overcome the social isolation that often results from PTSD, drawing them outdoors for daily walks and helping them transition back into society.

Bastet

Egyptian officials recently announced that archaeologists have discovered the ruins of an ancient temple that may have been dedicated to the cat goddess, Bastet. The temple is estimated to be more than 2,000 years old.

Cats were revered by the ancient Egyptians, as they kept the royal granaries vermin-free, thus helping to protect the food supply. It was a crime to harm a cat. Among other things, Bastet was the goddess and protector of the home and pregnant women.





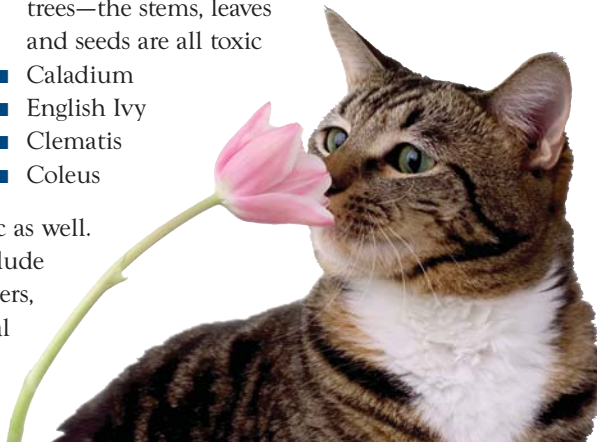
Backyard Hazards

Summertime lures us outdoors, and what could be better than relaxing in the safety of your own backyard with your pets? Unfortunately, there are a surprising number of toxins lurking in the average yard. It's important to monitor your pet, and be familiar with the potential dangers of ingesting certain plants or other items. Depending on the toxin, ingestion may cause irritation of the tongue, mouth and esophagus, digestive upset, seizures, coma, kidney or liver failure, cardiac arrhythmias or death. Symptoms of poisoning could include drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, anorexia, tremors, seizures and lethargy.

The ASPCA currently lists 444 toxic plants, some of which are listed below. For the complete list, look at the ASPCA website at www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/

- Many lilies, such as Asiatic lilies, day lilies and Lily of the Valley (more toxic to cats than dogs)
- American Holly
- Gladiola
- Hosta
- Apple, apricot, plum, peach and cherry trees—the stems, leaves and seeds are all toxic
- Caladium
- English Ivy
- Clematis
- Coleus
- Rhododendron
- Yucca

Many indoor plants are toxic as well. Other hazards in your yard include pesticides, fungicides, weed killers, fertilizers (including blood meal and bone meal), plant foods and cocoa bean shell mulch.



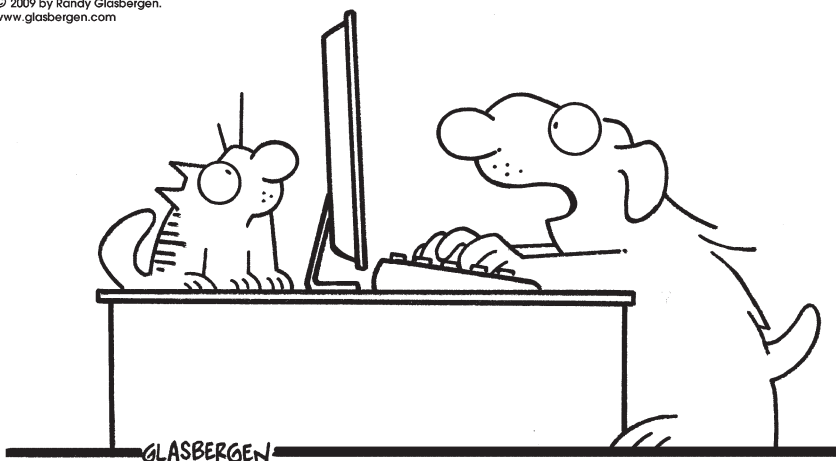
What's on the Menu?

Your barbecue is underway, and your pets are enjoying the attention your guests lavish upon them. All the fixings for a feast are laid out on a picnic table, and when you turn your back to flip some burgers, your dog jumps on the table and starts to sample the food. This indiscretion is an inconvenience for the party, but it may be fatal for your pet — there are a number of foods that are perfectly safe for humans to eat that are not safe for pets. As with plants, the effects of toxic foods on pets vary. Some foods cause minor gastrointestinal distress, and others may damage the heart, liver, kidney or spleen, and cause seizures and death. The ASPCA provides the following list of foods that are potentially toxic to pets:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Avocado
- Onions, onion powder (cooked and raw)
- Chocolate (all forms)
- Coffee (all forms)
- Fatty foods
- Macadamia nuts
- Moldy or spoiled foods
- Raisins and grapes
- Salt
- Yeast dough
- Garlic
- Products sweetened with Xylitol (such as sugar-free gum)

POISON CONTROL HOTLINE: Be aware of the plants and foods that are toxic to pets. If your pet has ingested something suspicious, contact your veterinarian, or the ASPCA 24-hour emergency poison control hotline directly at **1-888-426-4435**. Note that there may be a fee for this call.

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"I can't believe what my fleas are saying about me on their blog!"

"Dogs have a way of finding the people who need them, filling an emptiness we don't even know we have."

– Thom Jones



Be A Friend

 Be sure to check our Facebook page and become a friend. We plan to offer future specials for our Facebook friends as well as posting informational videos and articles to help you care for your pets. Any suggestions for improving the page are welcomed!

Congratulations!

The May winner of the iPod was Beverly Dolliver. Congratulations! The drawing was held among all the people who purchased Vectra, Comfortis and Revolution flea control products from our office in May. Thanks for caring enough about your pets to use the safest and most effective flea control products available! If price is a concern, be sure to compare us to the online pharmacies. Did you know that our prices on heartworm preventive meet or beat the prices at 1-800-PET-MEDS?

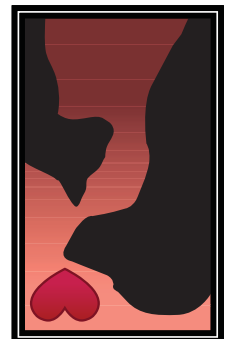
Client Appreciation Day

Our third annual Client Appreciation Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 21. More food, fun and contests! It's our way of thanking you for placing your pet's care in our hands and we really appreciate that trust. Please join us!

Beat The Heat!

Summer is here, and with it comes the opportunity for all of us to enjoy more time outdoors. It's great to include your pets in the fun, but remember these safety tips to help keep your loved ones healthy during the summer months:

- Be aware of the signs of heat stroke in dogs! They include panting, drooling or excessive salivation changing to dry gums as the condition progresses, a rapid pulse, weakness and confusion. If you notice these signs, immediately attempt to cool the dog using cool (not cold) water, and seek emergency veterinary assistance.
- Never leave your dog unattended in a parked car. Even in the shade and with the windows down, the inside of a car can reach 120°F within minutes. Your dog is susceptible to heat exhaustion, heat stroke and even death under those conditions.
- Pets can get sunburns too! Pets with short hair and pink skin are especially at risk. Consider applying sunblock around your dog's nose and ears if you plan to spend time together outdoors (it's best to look for sunblock that is labeled safe for pets). While shaving your long-haired dog may seem like a good idea during the summer months, it may actually increase the risk of sunburn.
- Avoid strenuous exercise on extremely hot days. Extra care should be taken with older pets, and in very hot weather, try to walk your dog during the early morning or evening when it's a little cooler outside.
- Make sure an outdoor dog has access to fresh water and shade at all times.
- If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your dog!



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