



TenderCare

Pet Tails

Tender Care Animal Clinic
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FALL 2009

Saving Lives

EPA Alert

Due to a sharp increase in the number of reports of adverse reactions to topical flea and tick products, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is evaluating whether further restrictions on these products are necessary to protect pets. Adverse effects have ranged from skin irritation to seizures and even death.

The seven products listed here were responsible for 80% of the adverse incidents reported: Promeris for Dogs, Frontline Plus for Cats, Frontline Plus for Dogs, Zodiac Spot On Flea & Tick Control for Cats and for Kittens, Zodiac Spot On for Small, Medium Large, Puppies, Toy and Miniature Dogs, Sergeant's Silver and XFC Squeeze-on for Dogs, Sergeant's Gold Squeeze-on for Dogs and Sentrypro Squeeze-on for Dogs.

Visit epa.gov/pesticides/health/flea-tick-control.html for more information.

If you have concerns about topical products or would prefer an oral flea control product, please call us at **867-0740**.

It started almost by accident. In 2003, disgusted by the number of pets being dumped on their country road, Mindy and Lee Hansen decided to do something about it. They began finding new homes for the unwanted dogs and cats left on their doorstep. Since then, dozens of dogs, cats and rabbits have been placed with loving



families. Now officially associated with Eastern Kentucky Animal Rescue, their initial desire to make a difference on their street has become a mission that has led them across the East Coast.

Animals slated for euthanasia in high-kill shelters in Eastern Kentucky are rescued and adopted out to homes from New England to

After spending some time with these generous, good-hearted people, it's easy to understand why they are an inspiration to all of us who love animals.

Pennsylvania. Mindy particularly remembers the case of Farley, a purebred Collie suffering from mange who was adopted by a family in New Jersey. After appropriate veterinary care, Farley looks like a new dog, and has the loving home he deserves.

At any time, the Hansens may be caring for up to 30 cats, an equal number of dogs, and two or three rabbits. Although they mainly rely on their own incomes and rescue groups to provide for the needy animals, any donation of food, crates, towels,

blankets and toys is greatly appreciated. Volunteers who can transport pets from Lexington to Cincinnati are also in short supply. After spending some time with these generous, good-hearted people, it's easy to understand why they are an inspiration to all of us who love animals.

In spite of the recession, the overwhelming number of needy animals, and the hardships of providing around-the-clock care, they have rallied support from our clinic and others to pursue their mission. And they manage to do it all with a smile! If you can find it in your heart to donate your time or supplies, or are interested in adopting a pet, please contact *Hugs & Transports* at 502-857-1175. Make a real difference in someone's life.



FLUTD

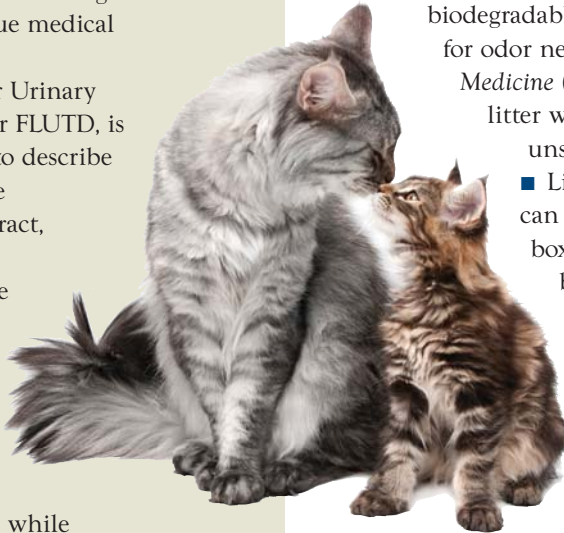
"Inappropriate elimination" is one of the main reasons cats are surrendered to shelters. Sadly, many of those cats surrendered may actually be suffering from an illness that caused the unwanted behavior. If your normally fastidious feline suddenly displays a change in litter box habits, it's important to take her to your veterinarian as soon as possible—some of the problems that might cause this behavior are true medical emergencies.

Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease, or FLUTD, is the term used to describe problems of the lower urinary tract, including the bladder and the urethra. The symptoms may include straining to urinate, little or no urine released, crying while urinating, blood in the urine, a painful abdomen, frequent attempts to urinate, excessive licking of the urinary opening or urinating in a sink or tub that has a smooth, cool surface.

The underlying causes of FLUTD are varied, but they include:

- Urinary tract infection (either bacterial, fungal or viral)
- Incontinence (geriatric or otherwise)
- Idiopathic (unknown cause)
- Urinary stones (uroliths) or crystals
- Cancer
- Trauma
- Urethral blockage (a life-threatening condition)

In addition to a physical examination, lab tests may be required to help determine the cause of FLUTD. Those tests may include urinalysis, blood work, x-rays and ultrasound.



What's the Scoop?

If your cat has abandoned its litter box and your veterinarian has determined the cause is NOT due to a medical problem (see FLUTD), take heart! There are still many avenues to explore to resolve the issue, but it's important to address the concern quickly, as the unwanted behavior may become a habit.

- Keep that box clean! Remove soiled litter daily, and wash the box once per week to remove odors.
- Stress is sometimes the cause for a change in litter box habits.
- Cats are creatures of habit, and if you suddenly change the type of litter, the box or its location, it may be cause for revolt.
 - There are many types of litter, including clumping, non-clumping, biodegradable, flushable, scented or unscented, with various additives used for odor neutralizing as well. A recent article published in *Veterinary Medicine* (March 2009) cited studies showing that cats prefer clumping litter with activated carbon as the odor neutralizer, and cats prefer unscented or cedar scent over other scents.
 - Litter boxes can be large or small, covered, self-cleaning, and they can have high sides or low sides. Most cats seem to prefer a spacious box with sides low enough that they can see what is in the box before they enter.
 - Place the box in a quiet, discreet location where your cat can see others approaching.
 - Multiple cats—Some cats may willingly share a box with others, but many will not. One box per cat plus one extra is recommended.
 - A urine stain on a vertical surface is usually an indication of "marking," a form of communication with other cats. Talk to your veterinarian if this occurs; a hormone spray may help alleviate this problem.

Cats can develop an aversion to a certain type of litter and the box location. The most proactive approach is to provide several litter boxes with different litter choices until you discover which your cat prefers.

Low Stress Travel

Do you dread taking your cat to the vet? Many cats hide as soon as their carrier comes out of the closet, and then wail during the entire ride. There is no question that a carrier is the safest way to transport a cat, so what can you do? It is possible to reduce some of the stress, but it takes time and patience!

First, clean the carrier to help eliminate any odors that may be offensive to your cat, and then place a clean old towel on the bottom to make it comfortable. Place the open carrier in a room your cat associates with pleasant things, in a spot where it can stay for a while. Drop a few morsels of your cat's favorite treats inside, so she'll discover them when her curiosity gets the best of her and she decides to investigate. Do not lock the cat in the carrier; instead allow her to go in and out as she pleases. Once she's comfortable inside, play with her using a feather or her favorite toy, and soon she'll begin to think her carrier is a wonderful place.

While this may seem like a lot of work, it really can help turn that scary carrier into a pleasant haven for your cat.

Happy Trails!

Autumn is a perfect time for hiking, and taking your dog along can be great fun. It's important to be safe, and to be a good ambassador for all dog owners who enjoy this wonderful pastime.

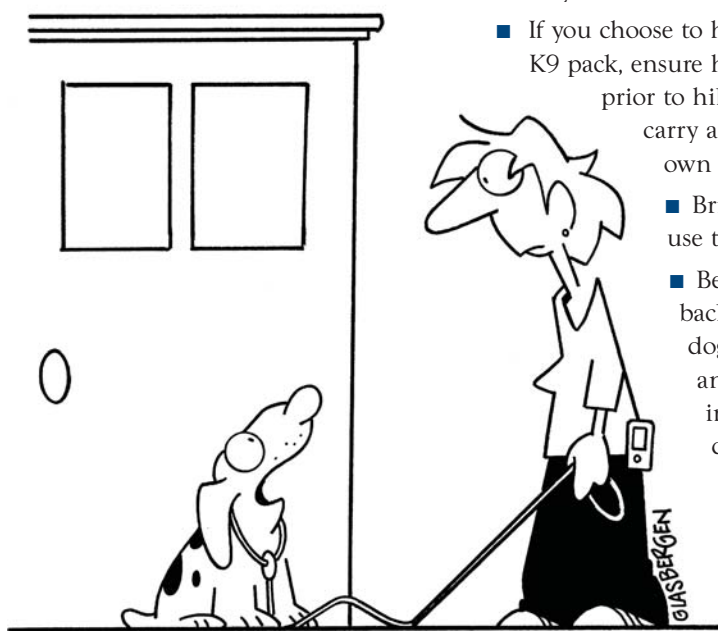
- Choose a trail where dogs are welcome.
- Choose a trail that is appropriate for your dog's fitness level.
- Be sure your dog is wearing ID tags.
- Remember, not everyone loves dogs! Keep your dog close to you when passing other hikers, horses and dogs.
- Keep your dog on a leash! (If dogs are allowed off-leash, be sure that you have 100% voice control and that you can observe all other guidelines.)
- Carry enough water for you and your dog—drinking from streams poses the risk of exposure to giardia, leptospirosis or other contaminants.



- Bring at least a basic first aid kit containing gauze pads, bandage wrap, veterinary antibiotic cream and tweezers.
- Do not allow your dog to chase wildlife.
- Do not allow your dog to bark and spoil the serenity for other hikers.
- Stay on the trail.
- If you choose to have your dog carry a K9 pack, ensure he's accustomed to it prior to hiking. Most dogs can carry about 20% of their own body weight.

- Bring poop bags and use them!
- Be prepared to turn back at any point. Your dog will follow you anywhere, even if he's in pain. Monitor your dog's progress. Check his paws for abrasions and be sure he's not overexerting himself.

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www.glasbergen.com



**"How come you need \$150 walking shoes,
but I have to do 2 miles in bare feet?!"**

Lipoma

Lumps. Just the thought of them often brings cancer to mind, but a lump could be something else, such as an abscess, a cyst, a hematoma or a lipoma. A lipoma is a benign, usually painless tumor comprised of fatty tissue. They are common in dogs, but are sometimes found in people, cats and horses.

Lipomas are usually located on a dog's torso or inside the upper part of their legs, but can occur in other places. Your veterinarian can usually confirm whether a lump is a lipoma using fine needle aspiration, where cells are extracted from the growth and examined under a microscope.

Older, overweight females are more prone to lipomas than other dogs, and certain breeds appear to have a higher incidence as well. Dogs who get one lipoma will usually get more. Lipomas can be surgically removed, but it's typically not required unless they interfere with mobility or appear to cause discomfort.

Lipomas are usually well defined and located just under the skin. "Infiltrative lipomas" are deeper, and may become enmeshed with muscle or connective tissue. These should usually be removed immediately. "Liposarcomas" are a rare but malignant type of fatty tumor.

New lump? Don't ignore it! Never assume that a new lump is a lipoma, even if your dog already has others. If the nature of the lump is questionable, your veterinarian may want to aspirate to confirm the diagnosis. Remember, early detection almost always yields more successful results when treating any medical condition.

**"Money will buy you
a pretty good dog,
but it won't buy
the wag of his tail."**

– Henry Wheeler Shaw



STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT:



Shaina and Ripley

Shaina St. Pierre has been an important part of our staff since 2008. She assists in every area of the practice, from answering phones to helping in surgery. Shaina is a senior in high school this year and is working at Tender Care as a co-op student. Her future plans include attending Morehead University to obtain a degree as a veterinary technician. When she isn't caring for animals, she enjoys reading and is seriously addicted to both the Twilight series of books and movies and the Prison Break television series.

Canine Influenza

Swine flu isn't the only virus making the news lately. Since 2003, a new influenza virus affecting dogs has been identified in 30 states. The virus has an extremely high morbidity rate, causing illness in over 80% of exposed animals. It's so new that immunity doesn't yet exist! Dogs can be exposed in parks, kennels, shelters, pet stores—anywhere dogs visit. Affected dogs are shedding the virus several days before they show any signs of illness, so letting your pet socialize with "healthy dogs" only is no real protection.

When they do become ill, dogs show many of the same signs as humans with the flu: fever, cough, nasal discharge and muscle aches. Unlike many other respiratory viruses of dogs, influenza can kill by leading to pneumonia. The virus is causing great concern among veterinarians across the country due to the severity of the illness it causes.

Fortunately, a vaccine was developed this year that will provide protection. It is given in two doses, two to three weeks apart. We are urging all our dog owners to have their dogs vaccinated against this potentially deadly disease!

Care Enough to Share

It is part of our mission at Tender Care to make sure that every pet in our community receives the veterinary care it needs. We are also keenly aware that the economy has made it difficult for many people to afford high-quality veterinary care. To ease the burden and still provide the best possible care for pets, we have initiated the "Care Enough to Share" program.

For every new client you refer to our office, you will receive a \$20 credit to your account. In addition, the new client receives \$30 off their first visit! You can pick up "Share Cards" from our office, or simply have your friends mention your name at their first visit. Help us reach our goal of helping all pets live a long and happy life, and help others at the same time!

**Tender Care
Animal Clinic**

**Canine Influenza
Vaccine**

**20% OFF
IN NOVEMBER**

Bring in this coupon in November to receive 20% off the cost of the initial vaccination and the booster.

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON
Limit one coupon per family. Cannot be combined with any other offers.

VALID UNTIL NOV. 30, 2009



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