



TenderCare

Pet Tails

Tender Care Animal Clinic
450 Connector Road
Georgetown, KY 40324
Phone: (502) 867-0740
Fax: (502) 867-1273

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www.TenderCareAnimalClinic.com

Flea Frustration

Every year as the weather warms and the fleas begin to attack, we hear new reports of flea products losing their effectiveness. The topical once-a-month products are especially faulted for failing to deliver adequate protection against fleas. For anyone who is frustrated by the battle against fleas and ticks, fall is the perfect time to take charge and win the fight! To be victorious, however, there are a few things you have to know:



**Tender Care
Animal Clinic**

BRING IN THIS COUPON TO RECEIVE

10% OFF

A 6-month supply of
Vectra or Comfortis
once-a-month flea control

**Vectra
3D™**

Comfortis®

Limit one coupon per household.
Cannot be combined with any other offers.

GOOD UNTIL DEC 31, 2010



Become our fan
on FACEBOOK!

We have special monthly
offers just for our fans.

1. **Repeated studies have shown that prescription topical flea products (those available from your veterinarian) are still just as effective at killing fleas as they have always been.** Most people don't realize that it takes hours after the flea gets on the pet before it will die, and dying fleas often come to the top of the haircoat, making them more visible.
2. **All the animals in the household must be treated for any product to be effective.** Just because your cat stays inside doesn't mean you can skip treating it. Pets that do go outside can bring fleas in that can then live and feed on the untreated indoor pets. Just one female flea can lay 40-50 eggs a day on your untreated pet. These eggs then fall off into the house and hatch, leading to a whole new (and hungry) batch of fleas. Studies have shown that frequent, aggressive vacuuming of carpet and around baseboards can help reduce the population of indoor fleas. Be sure to throw the bag away in a sealed container after vacuuming!
3. **NOTHING kills flea pupae.** Fleas can survive in the pupal stage for up to six months, completely untouched by any pesticides you apply in your house or yard. When they finally emerge from their cocoon, they're ready for a blood meal on your pet. That's why it's absolutely crucial to continue flea treatment during the winter months. It's your chance to get ahead of the fleas! Failure to do so can allow a whole new population of fleas to flourish in your home.

4. **There are reservoirs of fleas outdoors.**

The product you use may be killing numerous fleas, but your pet picks up new fleas every time it goes outside. Most often, feral cats, raccoons and opossums are the culprits. Squirrels and wild rabbits are seldom a source of the type of fleas that attack dogs and cats. The offspring of the fleas on these wild animals can infect your pet for three to eight weeks after the wild animal leaves the yard. Beneficial nematodes prey on immature fleas outdoors and are harmless to your pets. Check online for sources.



continued on pg. 4



Food Safety

A report published in the August 2010 journal *Pediatrics* linked some human salmonella infections that occurred between 2006 and 2008 with contaminated dry dog and cat food. Seventy-nine patients in 21 states were identified, and most were children under two-years-old. The report concluded, "This outbreak highlights the importance of proper handling and storage of pet foods in the home to prevent human illness, especially among young children."

Salmonella is a bacteria that can cause food-borne illness in humans and pets. Infants, young children and elderly people are at greater risk than healthy adults, and the same is true in pets. Infections usually cause gastrointestinal distress such as diarrhea, but can lead to other complications, especially in compromised individuals. It is important to note that all pet food is at risk of salmonella contamination, including kibble, canned food and raw diets.

There have been a number of recalls of salmonella-contaminated pet foods in 2010. The Food and Drug Administration has a complete list available on its website, at <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/RecallsWithdrawals/default.htm>.



Pet Diabetes Month

Diabetes mellitus is the clinical name for a group of conditions in which the body is unable to properly regulate blood glucose (sugar) levels due to a deficiency of insulin or insensitivity to its effects. Nearly 24 million people in the U.S. have diabetes, and the number is growing. Cats and dogs can get diabetes as well, and it is estimated that one in 500 dogs and cats develop the disease. While there are many differences in the disease in dogs, cats and humans, there are similarities as well.

Normally, as food is digested, some components are converted to glucose. Glucose is absorbed through the intestines into the bloodstream, and insulin, a hormone produced by the pancreas, allows the glucose to enter the body's cells to give them energy. In a diabetic, the glucose levels build up in the bloodstream and the cells "starve." The body then excretes the excess glucose from the bloodstream into the urine.

As the excess glucose is excreted, it takes water with it, causing larger amounts of urine than normal to be produced. This excessive water loss causes thirst and increased water consumption. Because the cells are starved for energy, the body's fat and protein deposits are then broken down, causing weight loss. The symptoms you might notice in a cat or dog include:

- Increased thirst
- Increased urination
- Increased appetite
- Lethargy and/or weakness
- Weight loss
- Dull haircoat

While any dog or cat can get diabetes, there are a number of risk factors common to both cats and dogs:

- Age (older pets are more susceptible)
- Obesity
- Neutered males (cats)
- Certain breeds appear to be at higher risk, including Beagles, Schnauzers, Dachshunds and Cocker Spaniels (dogs) and Burmese cats
- Presence of certain other diseases
- Genetics
- Unspayed females (dogs)
- Lack of exercise (cats)

Diabetic animals are at greater risk from bacterial and fungal infections, and diabetic dogs are at risk for cataracts. Untreated diabetes can lead to a number of serious complications, including death, in cats and dogs.

Daily insulin injections are usually required for diabetic pets, and while this sounds frightening to some pet owners at first, it's not a difficult task. Diet plays an important role in regulating diabetes, and a prescription veterinary diet may be the best choice. Your veterinarian will have specific recommendations for your dog or cat. Exercise is beneficial to the diabetic pet, but it needs to be consistent because activity affects blood glucose levels.

Diabetes mellitus is a very dynamic disease, and even in pets who are well maintained, it should be closely monitored. Diabetes is not curable, but it is manageable, and many pets with diabetes are able to live full, happy and healthy lives.

November is Pet Diabetes Month. Talk to your veterinarian if you suspect your pet may have diabetes.



AUTUMN is the peak activity period for some tick species. Be sure to remain diligent about keeping your pets parasite-free!

Holiday Safety

Holiday season is upon us, and while the celebrations often bring cheer to humans, the holidays hold many dangers for our pets. Here are some simple tips to ensure your holidays aren't interrupted by a visit to the emergency veterinary clinic!

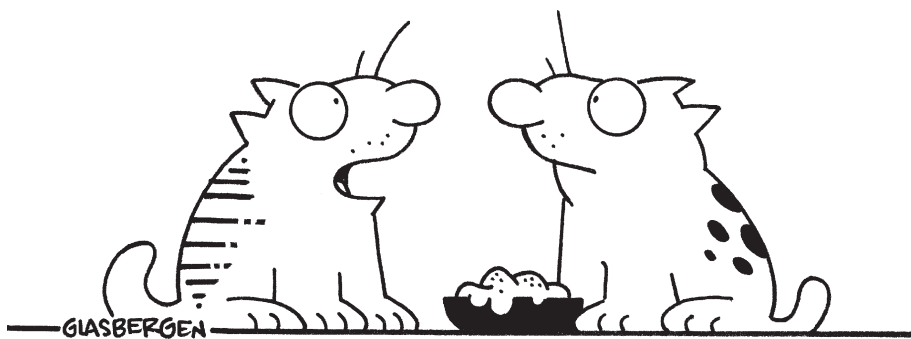
Halloween

- Be sure your pets don't sample the Halloween candy! Chocolate is toxic to dogs, and xylitol, an artificial sweetener found in many mints and gum, is toxic as well. Candy wrappers can cause dangerous obstructions.
- The continuous ringing of the doorbell, heralding the arrival of excited children in scary costumes, is very stressful for many dogs. Consider keeping your pet safe in a back room during trick or treating hours.
- Halloween can be a time of terrible pranks. Be sure to keep pets safely indoors.
- If your dog has an outgoing personality and you want to take him along while trick or treating, be sure he is wearing identification, and keep him on a leash.

Thanksgiving, Christmas and Chanukkah

- Rich, fatty foods can be treacherous for pets. Ingesting even small amounts of some foods can lead to digestive distress or pancreatitis.
- Alcohol is toxic to pets, and sweet drinks like eggnog may be tempting for them. Be sure to keep all alcohol out of your pets' reach.
- Chocolate, raisins and grapes are all toxic.
- Mistletoe and several other plants can be toxic. For more information, see <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/>
- Pets often find Christmas trees irresistible. If you've added preservatives to the water, be sure your pet can't drink it. Glittering tinsel is enticing to cats, but can cause potentially fatal obstructions if they ingest it, as can ornaments, garland, ribbons and bows. Wrapped pet gifts may be detected by your pet's superior sense of smell and unwrapped without you, or worse, eaten along with the wrapper. Finally, the lure of climbing the tree has caused more than one cat to bring the entire tree crashing down.

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"You're kidding -- there's no holiday to honor the inventor of the can opener?"

Pancreatitis

The pancreas is a small organ that has two major functions: to produce insulin to aid in the absorption of glucose and other carbohydrates, and to produce enzymes which aid in the absorption of fats and proteins. An inflammation of the pancreas is called pancreatitis. Pancreatitis can be acute or chronic, and while acute cases tend to be more severe, they may also resolve.

Symptoms in dogs include lack of appetite, vomiting, weakness, abdominal pain, dehydration and diarrhea. Clinical signs in cats are less specific, and include lethargy, lack of appetite, dehydration, vomiting and abdominal pain.

Pancreatitis is often very painful for pets, and can lead to fatal side effects, so do not let the symptoms go unheeded.

Most cases of pancreatitis are idiopathic, meaning the cause is unknown. In dogs, dietary indiscretion is one of the most common risk factors. Diagnosis is based partially on history (especially dietary indiscretion, vomiting and abdominal pain), along with blood work, and sometimes ultrasound and other lab work.

Treatment of acute pancreatitis is supportive, including fluid therapy and monitoring. Intervention to prevent complications may be called for in some cases. Pets with acute or chronic pancreatitis should usually be switched to a low-fat diet.

"The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue."

— Author unknown



FLEA FRUSTRATION

continued from pg. 1

As you can see, it's essential to use flea products monthly and to use them all year to gain adequate flea control. Treating every animal in the household is a must and trying to keep wild animals out of your yard is helpful. Any flea control product is a pesticide and is potentially toxic to your pet! Be sure to talk to your vet about which product is most appropriate for your animal. Recommendations vary depending on the age, health and type of pet you have. And NEVER make the mistake of applying a product for dogs on a cat. It can be fatal! If you have concerns about product safety, contact us or visit the website www.epa.gov to learn more.



ANGEL FUND

Over the past year, we at Tender Care have seen an increasing need for financial assistance to provide emergency care for pets. Even middle-class families are being hit hard by the economic downturn and can find it difficult to afford life-saving medicines or surgeries. We are attempting to help fill that need

by accepting Care Credit and multiple pet insurance plans. In addition, many of our clients have been extremely generous in donating unused medication to needy pets.

In a effort to provide more, the employees at Tender Care are donating money from their salaries to an "Angel Fund" to provide emergency services for animals. Eligible pets are those from existing Tender Care clients who would otherwise have to be euthanized because of the inability of their owner to pay for care for an emergency condition. We are also seeking donations from anyone in our community who can supply food, litter, medications or money to assist those who are less fortunate. Please talk to Amanda or Randi if you can help. Thanks in advance for your generosity!



Worm Worries

Think worms only affect humans in third world countries? A recent report from the CDC stated that 15% of people *in America* are affected by intestinal parasites! And if you are a dog owner, your risk of being infected is much greater than if you have no pets in your home. Children are more likely to be exposed because they play in the same environments where animals defecate and they frequently put their hands in their mouths before they wash up. For this reason, parasitologists recommend that *all pets* be tested twice a year for intestinal parasites and that they take a monthly parasite preventive such as Interceptor. Help us perform an accurate intestinal parasite exam by bringing in a small sample of stool in a sealed plastic bag or container for testing every time your pet comes to the office for vaccinations or wellness exams. Remember, your pet may not be the only family member we protect from parasites!

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Georgetown, KY 40324



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