



Lakewood Animal Hospital Pet Gazette

Spring 2016

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*Women and cats
will do as they
please, and men
and dogs should
relax and get
used to the idea.*

*- Robert A.
Heinlein*

DID YA KNOW...

- * *Cats can rotate their ears 180 degrees.*
- * *The wetness of a dog's nose is essential for determining which direction a scent is coming from.*
- * *Meows are not innate cat language. They developed them to communicate with humans!*
- * *On average, dogs have better eyesight than humans, although not as colorful.*
- * *Domestic cats spend about 70 percent of the day sleeping and 15 percent of the day grooming.*
- * *A single elephant tooth can weigh as much as nine pounds. That's a whole cat!*
- * *It is much easier for dogs to learn spoken commands if they are given in conjunction with hand signals or gestures.*
- * *Ticks are second only to mosquitos in the number of diseases they transmit. Be sure to keep your pets on year round flea/tick control!*
- * *Cats have whiskers above the eyelids, around the muzzle and on the lower inside part of their forelegs that help them move smoothly in the dark.*

Spring has sprung! 🍷

Here are some helpful spring tips for your pets!

With the change of season, our thoughts turn to Easter celebrations, spring cleaning and much-needed home improvement projects. Before you embark on seasonal chores or outdoor revelry, take inventory of potential springtime hazards for your furry friends.

"You can't help that we're all mad here."

- The Cheshire Cat from Alice in Wonderland

- Easter Treats/Decorations

Keep lilies and candy in check—chocolate goodies are toxic to cats and dogs, and all true lilies can be fatal if ingested by cats. Be mindful, kitties love to nibble on colorful plastic grass which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting and dehydration.

- Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning is a time-honored tradition in many households, but be sure to keep all cleaners and chemicals out of your pets' way! Almost all cleaning products, even all natural ones, contain chemicals that may be harmful to pets. Read and follow label directions for proper use and storage.

- Allergies

Like us, pets can be allergic to foods, dust, plants and pollens. Allergic reactions in dogs and cats can cause itching, sniffing and sneezing, or life-threatening anaphylactic shock to insect bites and stings. If you suspect your pet has a springtime allergy, please give us a call. They don't have to muddle through it, we can give them relief!



- Pesky Little Critters

April showers bring May flowers—and an onslaught of bugs! Make sure your pet is on year-round heartworm preventive medication, as well as a flea and tick control program. We carry a variety and can assist you in choosing what is right for your pet.

- Out and About

Warmer weather means more trips to the park, longer walks and more chances for your pet to wander away! Make sure your dog or cat has a microchip for identification and wears a tag imprinted with your name, phone number and any other relevant contact information.

Please feel free to call or stop by with any questions. We are always here to assist you in keeping your pets happy, healthy and safe!

Surfin' for Pets

By Dr. Amy Olson, DVM

I admit it. Whether I have a question about cooking, about which sea animal has been clocked going the fastest, or what the rash on my kid's leg is from, I Google it. Most of us surf the web for answers to daily questions since there is such a plethora of information just a click away.

Unfortunately, deciphering between the internet's abundance to find accurate information is difficult. We frequently have well-meaning clients come in exasperated because they have "tried everything" to fix their pet's medical or behavioral problem. Many of the home-fixes these loving owners have tried are ineffective, inappropriate for the problem at hand, or even harmful.

"So, doc, are we supposed to run to the veterinarian every time our pet looks at us cross-eyed?"

Nope! The good news is that there are some reputable websites with very helpful information geared to pet owners.

- 1) www.veterinarypartner.com – This website is full of thousands of articles written by veterinarians on the most common pet related questions.
- 2) www.catvets.com – This is the website for the American Association of Feline Practitioners. It is packed with awesome information specific to our kitty friends.
- 3) www.catinfo.org – Dr. Lisa Pierson runs this website which is mostly devoted to feeding our kitties like the carnivorous creatures they are.

Obviously, even information from these sites does not replace a consultation and physical examination by a veterinarian, but it may give you a more reliable starting point than information from Dr. Google!
Happy Surfing!

Now that you are armed with all this knowledge; we encourage you to get your pet outdoors and enjoy the beautiful, Virginia spring!



Just for laughs!

What do you call a cat that gets anything it wants?

-Purr-suasive

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

-Bugs Bunny

What do you call a dog magician?

-Labracadabrador

What do you call a pile of kittens?

-A meowtain!

Interesting fact:

A cat can't climb head first down a tree. Every claw on a cat's paw points the same way. To get down from a tree, a cat must back down.

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