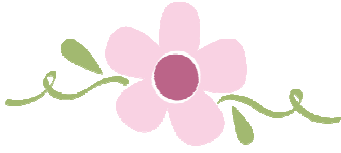


HAPPY TAILS

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Spring 2015 Newsletter

WHO KNEW?

- An estimated one million dogs in the United States have been named the primary benefactor in their owner's will.
- Cats love to hear the sound of their own name, and their owner's voice. They will more readily respond to names ending with an "ee" sound. So choose your kitty's name wisely and talk to them frequently!
- 33% of dog owners admit to talking to their dog on the phone and leaving messages on their answering machine while away :)

"If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, then animals are better off than a lot of humans"
-James Herriot

Cough, Cough, Hack, Hack

Infectious tracheobronchitis (ITB) is the medical term for "kennel" cough, which is caused by a bacterium called Bordetella. Whooping cough in humans is caused by a closely related organism. The most prevalent upper respiratory infection of dogs of all ages, ITB is recognized by a persistent, hacking or honking, gagging and sometimes spasmodic cough, lasting weeks or longer if not treated. ITB can be transferred either through the air or by coming into contact with the saliva of an infected dog. It is highly contagious to unvaccinated pets. Most pets that contract ITB have recently been kenneled at the groomers or a boarding facility; dog parks and free access to unmonitored outdoor activity can also increase the risk. In some cases, chronic heart or lung disease can lead to ITB. Treatment includes antibiotics and cough-suppressant drugs. The Bordetella vaccine may take up to seven days to become fully effective. If your dog has never had it, or hasn't had it for more than seven years, the vaccine will need to be boosted 3-4 weeks after initial administration.

WET BEHIND THE EARS

Because of the twisty, curvy design of a dog's inner ears, it's easy for parasites, bacteria, and yeast to hide and thrive in them. This also means that any debris in the canal must work its way up to escape. Infection can result from trapped debris. Dogs with allergies are particularly vulnerable, as are those with floppy ears. If your dog's inner ears are dirty, clean them with a cotton ball dampened with an ear cleansing solution. Don't clean your dog's ears so frequently or deeply as to cause irritation. If you're not careful, frequent bathing and swimming can lead to irritation and infection. To prevent this, use an ear cleansing solution with a drying agent in it to help evaporate moisture from the ear. Contact us if you notice ear discharge, bad smell, redness, swelling, head-shaking, or scratching of the ears. Dogs and cats can have either a bacterial or yeast infection in their ears. It's important to have an ear cytology done to determine which kind of infection they have so our doctors can treat it correctly. Never start your own treatment without first consulting with Dr. Nasal or Dr. Dan.



SPRING CLEANING

As the weather gets warmer, our pets will be itching to get outside and play more. Most pets will have more access to the garage, so do your spring cleaning before giving them free reign of the territory again. Spend a few extra minutes to check on the following things:

1. Apply a flea and tick product such as Frontline Plus or Nexgard to keep your pet safe. Other animals in the yard, such as rabbits, squirrels, and other stray animals, carry fleas that are easily transferred to your cat or dog. Always use a product that is best suited for your pet; using a product meant for dogs can be fatal if used on a cat. For the safest recommendation, talk to your veterinarian.

2. If you're using rodent bait or traps, make sure they are in places that your pet can't reach. Many of them contain sweet-smelling but deadly ingredients that will appeal to your pet.

3. Be sure that your antifreeze is closed tightly and that there are no open bottles lying around. The poisonous antifreeze has a sweet taste that attracts pets.

4. Keep other automotive products, such as transmission fluid, oil, and lawn and garden products, tightly sealed and out of reach.



The Litter Box Conundrum

Inappropriate urination is one of the most common reasons why pet owners abandon or relinquish their cats. While it can be a frustrating problem to solve, there are ways to prevent, manage, or resolve these behaviors. Many owners think it is due to anger, but the truth is that the specific physical, social, or medical needs are not being met.

Environmental Impact and Social Needs:

- If a dominant cat is near the litter box, a less confident cat may seek out other places to eliminate.
- A negative encounter in or near the litter box (e.g. administering medication, trapping the cat in the box for any reason, dirty litter boxes, sudden or loud noises, and high traffic areas) may cause this behavior.

Marking Behavior:

- Unaltered cats will mark as part of their sexual behavior. Spaying and neutering drastically reduces this behavior.
- Anxiety related marking can be in response to a change in the cat's environment such as outdoor animals, new people or pets in the house, remodeling, etc.
- New or unrecognized smells such as backpacks and shoes can trigger marking. Indoor and outdoor threats can create marking of the windows, doors, stairway, hallways, doorways, and in middle of rooms.

Medical causes and problems:

- Urinary Tract Infections, cystitis, arthritis, kidney problems, diabetes, and other medical issues. Your veterinarian can help rule out any medical issues by doing a physical examination and diagnostics to look for:
- Feline Idiopathic Cystitis** (inflammatory condition) is a common medical cause of house soiling. This can be induced by stress, change in diet, and other issues.

Treatment and Management:

- **Number:** One litter box per cat plus one extra, in different spots throughout the home.
- **Location:** Avoid placing food and water close to the litter box. Cats prefer quiet, private places. Avoid areas where the cat is unable to flee or can be cornered. In multi-leveled homes, place a litter box on each level. If the cat is soiling away from the box, place a new box at the location of soiling.
- **Size:** Bigger is better; litter boxes should be 1.5 times the length of the cat from the nose to the base of the tail.



PREVENTING ANIMAL CRUELTY

Be Aware: Without phone calls from concerned citizens who report cruelty in their neighborhoods, no one would know about most instances of animal abuse. Get to know and look out for the animals in your neighborhood.

Learn to Recognize Animal Cruelty: Wounds on the body, patches of missing hair, extremely thin animals, an owner physically abusing an animal, or animals who cower in fear or act aggressive when approached by their owners.

Know Who to Call to Report Animal Cruelty: Every state and even every town is different. In some areas you may have to rely on the police to investigate. Others may need to contact an animal control agency. These agencies will more than likely allow you to remain anonymous.

Provide as Much Information as Possible: Details that are provided can go a long way toward assisting the investigating officer. Write down the type of cruelty, who was involved, the date, and where the incident took place.

Talk to Your Kids: If a parent isn't treating the family pet right, they will pick up on that and do the same. Kids need to know that pets need food, water, shelter, and someone to play with them.

Support Your Local Animal Shelter: Volunteering at an animal shelter is a great way to make a difference.

Volunteers can foster animals who have been abused in their former homes, giving those dogs and cats the chance they deserve to have a good life.

Last, but not least, be sure to show your pets the love and good care that they deserve.



DOG PARK 4 1 1



Spring fever has hit, and you and your canine companion are ready to enjoy outdoor activities. Dog parks are a great place to play and burn off energy.

- Do your homework when looking into a dog park. Talk to family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and read online reviews. Look for a clean park where grass, fences and buildings are maintained and owners clean up after their dogs.
 - Consider your dog's individual needs. Some parks have separate small and large dog areas as well as fenced in and off-leash areas. You want this to be a positive experience.
 - Do not bring treats, toys or food. This can cause fights or undesired behaviors. Do bring a leash, a waste bag and drinking water if not supplied.
 - Be familiar with your dog's body language prior to visiting the dog park. This will help prepare for any unpleasant or stressful situations.
 - Your dog should be current with vaccines, including Rabies, distemper and Bordetella, and should be spayed or neutered. Unaltered females should never visit the park when in heat.
 - Your dog should be on monthly Heartgard, which protects against mosquito-carried heartworm disease, as well as intestinal worms which can be spread through wild animal or unprotected dogs' feces, soil, etc.
 - Keeping your dog up-to-date on monthly Nexgard will protect them from ticks and fleas.
 - Begin your dog park experience with short visits during slower times.
 - Remember to clean up after your dog!
- For more information or a list of rules and regulations, visit deperedogpark.com.



CHEW ON THIS!

Nexgard is a chewable flea and tick preventative for dogs. Afloxolaner, the active ingredient, is designed to eliminate fleas and ticks, and protect your dog from Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Ehrlichia, tick paralysis, among others, for 30 days. It is approved for dogs and puppies 8 weeks and older weighing more than 4 pounds. Avoid the greasy mess with other topical treatments and let your pet play and swim with no worries!

