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Monthly Feature: Halloween Costume Photo Contest!

Halloween Costume Photo Contest!!

We would love your participation in our first ever Halloween Costume Photo Contest! We will choose winners in each of the following categories: Best Dog Costume, Best Cat Costume, and Best Human-Pet Costume Duo. The winners will be featured on our Facebook page, in our January newsletter, AND on the News tab of our website. To participate, just email a photo of your furry friend or the Human-Pet Duo in Halloween costumes to info@mysacvet.com by October 31st, 2015. Keep an eye out for the winners!



Don't Stop Now! (Fleas and Heartworm!)

It is a common misconception that our furry family members don't need flea and heartworm prevention year round. I am here to tell you why it's so important!

Fleas: Flea eggs and larvae cannot live if the weather remains below 37 degrees F for over 10 days. Here in Sacramento, the weather does not get cold enough to keep fleas away in the winter. Flea infestations are still a problem, even in the cooler months.

Side-note: Make sure to purchase a veterinary approved flea prevention product. Some over the counter products are not as effective, and can actually be quite dangerous, especially for cats. For more information: go to our website Blog tab and search "flea".



Heartworm: Mosquitoes are the vector for transmitting heartworm disease and can stay active year round in Sacramento. Missing one dose of heartworm prevention can leave your pet open to the disease. In that period of time, the heartworm larvae can grow enough so they are no longer sensitive to the prevention. Therefore, the next dose may not kill the larvae, at which point they can grow into adult worms. Here at Sacramento Animal Hospital, since 2013, we have treated over 20 cases of Heartworm Disease. This does not include those who elect not to treat the disease or not to do a heartworm test. Let's keep our furry friends protected!

Winter Tips to Keep Our Furry Friends Safe!

With chilly weather, a new winter routine can present a challenge for owners who have settled into warm weather habits. These tips can help you design your winter routine in a safe way for you and your four-footed family members.

Check and Honk: During the winter, outdoor cats look for areas of shelter, and sometimes sleep under cars. Before starting your car, always check under the engine or honk the horn to warn any hiding kitties.

Sweaters: Although our pets do come equipped with fur coats, some of them are fairly short. Pets with low body fat, such as Greyhounds or Chihuahuas, have even less to keep them warm. They can get chilly without any added insulation. A sweater or water resistant coat can help keep our not-so-furry family members warm!



Observe: Long term exposure to cold can lead to hypothermia and frost bite. Always be on the look-out for shivering, lethargy, and shallow breathing. Frost bite usually occurs on the ears, tail, nose, scrotum, or feet. Check your pets for redness, swelling, or blisters in those areas.

Stay Away From Antifreeze: When replenishing your car's antifreeze, always clean up spills thoroughly and store the container out of your pet's reach. Antifreeze is a sweet tasting liquid that attracts pets and even very small amounts can be fatal if ingested.

Wipe Away: Check your pet's paw pads when they come in the house. Wipe them with warm water to remove any chemicals they may have picked up that they may lick off later. Bellies belonging to 'low to the ground' pets may also need to be checked and wiped off. Additionally, feet can easily get abrasions or cuts due to iced roads and sidewalks. Booties are a great way to prevent paw pads from getting cuts or chaffing.

Special Treatment: Senior pets, puppies and kittens, and animals with certain diseases such as arthritis, thyroid, heart, and lung diseases deserve special treatment in the colder months. Long walks in colder times are not as pleasant for these groups and can even be damaging.

Outdoor Only Pets: If possible, give your outdoor pets some inside access during the winter. A dog or cat door into the garage or basement will help them keep cozy. If that is not possible, definitely supply them with heated and weather-proof shelter. Dry and clean bedding is necessary to keep our beloved pets healthy. Water and food can freeze overnight, so make sure to check it daily so their water stays fresh and in liquid form. Pets that spend a lot of time outdoors may need an increase in their food intake. Because their bodies are working hard to keep them warm, they use more energy, and therefore, require more food.

Fireplaces and Heaters: Make sure there are barriers between your furry family members and sources of heat. Pets can easily burn themselves when getting too close.

Always Always Dry: After bathing or swimming, dry off your pet immediately. Even a minimally wet coat in chilly weather can contribute to hypothermia. If you normally cut your pet's hair to a shorter length, keep it a little longer during the winter to facilitate insulation. Keeping ourselves and our furry friends warm in the winter is challenging but necessary for happy and healthy pet families!

AAHA Accreditation Awareness (American Animal Hospital Association):



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence

Sacramento Animal Hospital is proudly an accredited member of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). Over the past 20 years, we have voluntarily and regularly undergone inspections by AAHA to ensure that we comply with their rigorous standards. These standards encompass every aspect of hospital management and patient care including: surgery, exam facilities, medical nursing care, diagnostic imaging, and anesthesiology, leadership, etc. We are proud to be a part of the 15% of veterinary practices in North America to achieve accreditation. If you are travelling with your pets, and need to visit a veterinary hospital, ideally go to a clinic that is AAHA accredited. This way you know your furry friend is getting care from a hospital that goes above and beyond.

Holiday Pet Safety

It can be a difficult task to keep our pets safe during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Some of you may decorate or have guests over to visit. The holidays can be an exciting time of year and the little safety precautions we all take on a daily basis can get forgotten (even by us veterinary professionals)! Here are some tips to remember:

- Glorious decorations are big holiday culprits that can threaten our pets' safety: Tinsel gives trees a wonderful shine, but is very attractive to playful kitties. If ingested, it can create an intestinal blockage which often requires surgery. This goes for ribbon also.
- Lights within reach of a curious cat or inquisitive dog can be very enticing. Lights have the ability to trap your furry friend in a tangled mess or even shock them if they decide to chew on the cords and wires.
- Ornaments can pose a hazard not only if ingested, but also if broken; ornament pieces can cut right through the tender pad of a four-footed friend. Hanging them out of reach can help keep our pets safe.
- Common holiday plant decorations including poinsettias, mistletoe, and holly are toxic to pets if ingested. These can have ill effects on the stomach, heart, and nervous system.
- Cats often are infatuated with trees that are indoors. After all, you must have bought the tree and all the ornaments as special toys for your cats! Not just ornaments, but an entire tree can pose a problem if it falls over.



We all love our pets; that's why we have them right? Sometimes we show our affection by offering tasty treats (i.e. human food). Even though we have the best intentions when we see those sweet little eyes, giving him/her a table scrap does not always yield the best results. The following are the many human foods that may give our adorable pets pleasure one day, but discomfort the next:



- Turkey, pork, or beef bones may be tasty, but they can chip, splinter, and lodge themselves inside your pet! They don't always come out the other end, in which case surgery is the best and only option.
- Skin or extra fat from our meaty meals can easily upset your pet's stomach. It can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and even pancreatitis. These conditions often require your furry friend to be hospitalized.
- Any food (even pet food) that your pet does not eat regularly can give him/her an upset stomach simply because s/he is not used to it.
- Any human treats should be kept out of reach of our dog and cat family members. Chocolate is toxic to pets, but many other human treats can be dangerous if ingested.
- Gum, candy, or mints (especially labeled "sugar-free") often contain Xylitol. Even in small amounts, this can induce seizures and liver failure. Have your guests put their purses and bags somewhere out of reach to avoid any curious furry friends ingesting goodies!
- Keep in mind that even gift-wrapped food items on the floor can be tantalizing. The wrong family member (i.e. fluffy) might unwrap them!

If you want to treat your pet during this special season, keep it to small pet chews or treats and best of all attention! Their stomachs will thank you!

Although we love to see all of you and your pets, we hope this list will help you avoid a visit to the vet! Stay happy and healthy and have a great holiday season!

Additional Dental Procedure Availability!

As some of you may have noticed, it can be difficult to schedule a Dental Procedure appointment less than 2 weeks in advance. For this reason, we have decided to add 2 additional slots per week for dental procedure appointments. This will help accommodate those who need dental care right away. We are excited to offer these slots on



Wednesdays! Dental (or periodontal) disease is one of the most common diseases in dogs and cats and can show up as early as 3 years of age. This is why there is such a high demand for dental care. Let us know if you need any advice on how to start teeth-brushing!



Saturday, October 17, 2015

Join the SPCA for their newest event! It will benefit all the animals housed at the Sacramento SPCA as well as celebrate the animals and the work the SPCA does to help improve the lives of animals in the community. Starting at 7pm, during the main event, guests will enjoy food, wine, and beer tastings as well as performances of professional entertainment troupe, CIRCOSPHERE.

For more information, visit sspca.org under the "Events" tab.

Tabby's Corner:

Dear Tabby ~

I am a completely black outdoor kitty and my favorite holiday is Halloween. Every year I like to watch all the kids trick-or-treat in their costumes and sometimes I even get in a few 'scares'. My humans are talking about keeping me inside this year and I am so disappointed! What should I do?

Sincerely,
Scary Black Kitty

Dear Scary Black Kitty,

Well, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but your humans do have the right idea. Unfortunately not all humans are nice to cats. With the stereotype that black cats are bad luck, especially on Halloween, it is safer for you to stay inside. Maybe you can sit in the window and watch the trick-or-treaters go by without being in danger of getting hurt!

Meow for now!
Tabby

If you would like more information about the topics discussed in our newsletter, please contact us at 916.451.7213 or visit our website at www.mysacvet.com. If there is another topic you would like the doctors to address in our next newsletter please let us know.



