

Hair off the Dog (and Cats too) News

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Pet First Aid and CPR Certification

Good News! As of March 2007, Emily and I are officially certified in Pet First Aid and CPR through the American Red Cross! Emily and I felt it important to obtain certification because we know that emergencies can happen at any time. With our own house full of animals, the potential for an emergency is even higher. The class was not only informative, but it also allowed us the opportunity to network with other pet professionals in the area to include 3 local pet sitters. While we hope never to have to use Pet First Aid and CPR, if the situation does arise, you can rest assured that we can maintain control. If you, your family members or friends are interested in becoming Pet First Aid and CPR certified, please let us know so that we can pass your information on to our colleague who is working to set up a time and date for a local class. Cheers!

Tracy



ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Releases List of Top 10 Hazards Encountered by Pets in 2006

New List Reveals Significant Increase in Calls Pertaining to Common Household Items

Urbana, Ill., March 5, 2007—The ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) today announced that it managed more than 116,000 calls to its Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) hotline in 2006, several of which pertained to common household items. “While the reason is not clear, calls in virtually each of these categories seems to be on the rise,” said Dr. Steven Hansen, veterinary toxicologist and senior vice president with the ASPCA, who manages the ASPCA’s Midwest Office, which houses the APCC. As National Poison Prevention Week approaches (March 18-24), the ASPCA advises pet parents to stay alert to the possibility of poisoning from these common household items:

1. Human Medications: For several years now, this category has been number one on the ASPCA’s list of common hazards, and 2006 was no exception. Last year, more than 78,000 calls involving common human drugs such as painkillers, cold medications, antidepressants and dietary supplements were managed by the Center—a 69 percent increase over 2005. “Pet parents should never give their pet any medication without the direction of a veterinarian just one extra-strength acetaminophen can be deadly to a cat, and just four regular-strength ibuprofen can lead to serious kidney problems in a 10-pound dog,” says Dr. Hansen. To avoid inadvertent poisoning from medications, store them in a secure cabinet above the counter and out of the reach of pets.

2. Insecticides: The APCC handled more than 27,000 cases pertaining to products used to kill fleas, ticks and other insects in 2006, up more than 28 percent from 2005. According to Dr. Hansen, “A key factor in the safe use of products that eliminate fleas, ticks and other pesky bugs, is reading and following label instructions exactly. Some species of animals can be particularly sensitive to certain types of insecticides, so it is vital that you never use any product not specifically formulated for your pet.” It is also a good idea to consult with your pet’s veterinarian before beginning any flea and tick control program.

3. Veterinary Medications: Surprising as it may seem, last year the APCC managed more than 12,000 cases involving animal-related preparations such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs,

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Em's Grooming Tips

Ear Care

One of the most important things you can do at home is to keep your pet's ears clean and healthy. Whether or not you have your dog professionally groomed on a regular basis, you should check your dog's ears at least weekly. Ear infections occur in five to twenty percent of dogs.

Cat's ears generally cause fewer problems, but should also be checked and cleaned on a regular basis.

Different breeds of dogs come with very different shapes of ears...



Some are floppy (Also known as long ear or drop ear dogs, which are prone to infection)

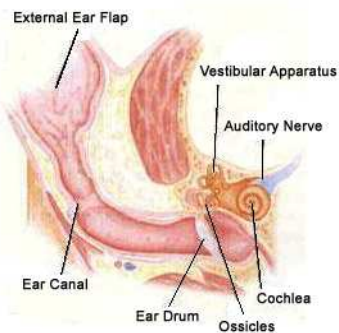


Some very upright (Can very easily attract foreign bodies)



Others very hairy (Ears with a lot of hair can interfere with the ears natural process)

The ear canal produces wax to keep itself healthy. In a healthy ear, wax travels upward against gravity and the ear cleans itself, but it needs circulation of air into the canal.



The actual ear canal is much longer than ours and shaped like an L.

In order to stay healthy, the ear needs to be:

- ✓ Free from excess wax
- ✓ Free from foreign bodies (like grass seeds)
- ✓ Free from inflammation/infection (discharge, swelling, bad smell, redness)
- ✓ Dry and open

It is important to check your pet's ears for any of these changes.



Canine



feline

A healthy ear is pale pink with no odor.

Signs of ear infection include a strong, foul odor and brown debris in the ear itself. Other times, the underside of a pet's ear may appear dry and flaky and the animal will shake his head and scratch his ears. If your pet already has an ear infection, make sure to take him to the veterinarian for a proper diagnosis. Do not attempt to remedy the problem yourself. If the proper care is not taken in a timely manner a pet could

continued next page

permanently lose his hearing.

If your pet's ears have a small amount of dirt debris inside or smell a little, cleaning your pet's ears from home is very easy. The technique for a cat or dog is similar; the only major difference is in restraint. Never put anything in your pet's ear without proper restraint and no matter which species you are restraining, it would be a good idea to pick a room that is quiet and free of small children.

Canine Restraint



Depending on his size, put your dog on a table so that he is approximately chest high.

Gently hug your pet under his neck with one of your arms, and put the other hand on the back of his head if necessary

Be patient, yet persistent. If your dog is small you can use the cat restraint technique. Hugging your pet with your left hand under his chin gives you control and flexibility as to how much restraint is needed.

Feline Restraint



Wrapping your cat with a towel is a good way to restrain her for ear cleaning. In essence you will be wrapping her like a burrito. For cats in general the less restraint the better- let the towel do the work.

Put a large towel on a table and put your cat towards the front end of this towel.

Bring each side of the towel over the cat and leave only the head and tail to stick out

Bring the back, unfolded section of the towel over the front just up to the back of your cat's head.

Finish the "kitty burrito" by wrapping the towel under each side of your cat. The only thing sticking out of the towel at this point is the head.

Hug your cat gently to you with one hand and you will have your other hand free.

Cleaning method



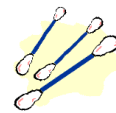
&



or



&



Tools you will need include:

The first thing to do is squirt the gauze or cotton rounds with cleaning solution. (There are many to choose from and they are easily found at any good pet store) Wipe away any dirt that is on the surface.

Then gently pull up on the ear and partially fill the ear with cleaning solution. By straightening out the ear, you allow the cleaning solution to flow down the ear canal to where the wax and debris is located.

Massage the base of the ear canal very gently; you will probably hear a squishing noise, which is quite normal. Most pets find this part very soothing.

Let your pet shake his head if he wants to. Then use the gauze or cotton rounds to soak up the fluid that comes out of the ear.

Q-tips can be used to get to dirt out of any nooks and crannies in the ears but should NEVER be used inside the ear canal as they can damage the sensitive tissue that lines the ear canal. Also, the eardrum can easily be ruptured.

Time to reward your pet for a job well done! 🐾



Caring For Your Dog's Teeth

The most common tooth and gum disorder in your pet can appear as early as four months of age. An inflammation around the teeth and gums called 'tartar' is actually a buildup of hard mineral deposits. It builds up very slowly, becoming stained with hard deposits on the sides of the teeth. This can leave your pet's gums susceptible to infection and even loss of teeth.

The initial indication of tartar is your pet's persistent bad breath. The inflammation around the gums will initially appear as red lines between the teeth and gums. A poor diet is usually the cause of a tartar buildup, which is why your dog should be given foods that require chewing to keep the food buildup cleaned out with the flow of saliva.

If your dog is in the beginning stages of tartar and gum inflammation, a change of diet may help. However, if tartar is present, a thorough cleaning is in order by your veterinarian.

You can maintain your dog's healthy mouth by routinely cleaning their teeth, either by a vet every year, or doing it yourself. You'll know what your dog will tolerate. However, most dogs are very amiable to having their teeth brushed. If you are able, use a very soft toothbrush with a paste made of baking soda and salt. Regular toothpaste is not recommended, as the strong tastes are usually rejected by dogs. You might want to concentrate on one or two teeth at a time. Clean their teeth every one to six months. 🐾

Have Pet, Will Travel?

Courtesy of americanhumane.org

Here are things you should know about taking your pet with you on your journey.

- * Always make sure your pet is properly identified. Obtain identification with the address of your destination, as well.

- * Whether going by plane, train, or automobile, train your pet to travel in his kennel. This invaluable training will make the entire traveling experience less stressful to the animal, whether across the country or across town.

- * Make sure your kennel is the proper size for your animal. It should be large enough for your pet to stand and turn around in comfortably. Kennels should be properly labeled with "This end up" and "Live animal" stickers if traveling by plane.

- * If traveling by car, try to keep your pet on the same potty "schedule" that it is on at home. Stop only when you would normally let your animal out.

- * Never leave your pet unattended in your vehicle or in the airport.

- * If traveling by plane, book direct non-stop flights. Inform flight attendants that you have a pet in cargo, if it is unable to be in the cabin with you.

- * As a general rule, puppies and kittens, sick animals, animals in heat, and frail or pregnant animals should not travel by air. Animals that are "pug-nosed" should not fly in the cargo area of a plane. If your animal is too large to fly in the cabin with you, perhaps a stay at the boarding kennel would be a safer choice.

- * Bring copies of vaccination records with you, as you never know when you might need them. Health certificates are generally required to fly with an animal on an airline.

- * Plan well in advance. Some states have strict regulations on traveling with pets. Don't be caught at the last minute. Boarding kennels fill quickly during the high-travel holiday season, so it may be difficult to find a vacancy at the last minute. 🐾

Performing CPR on Your Pet

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation or CPR can be performed on your cat or dog, using the same guidelines necessary for human CPR. Keep in mind that an animal in pain will often be aggressive. Nevertheless, if the animal can be restrained and/or if resuscitation is appropriate, such as in the case of a drowning, shock, or electrocution, then try the following:

1. First look for signs of life, such as a pulse or breathing.
2. Place the animal on its side and extend the head and neck to open the air passages.
3. Place the heel of one hand on the animal's chest with the other hand palm-down on top.
4. Press firmly, release, pause and repeat 20-30 times per minute, taking care not to break the animal's ribs.
5. Alternate chest massage with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, if required, by holding your hand around the animal's closed mouth and exhaling short puffs of air directly into its nostrils.

Knowing pet CPR is important. For more information on learning Pet CPR, speak to Tracy or Emily at (661) 310-9368. 🐾

Thousands Fleeced into Buying Sheep As Poodles



Thousands of Japanese residents had the wool pulled over their eyes when they were conned into buying neatly-groomed lambs they were told were valuable miniature poodles, the Sun Newspaper reported Thursday.

The lambs were allegedly shipped from Great Britain and Australia to Japan by an Internet company advertising them as poodle puppies.

According to the newspaper, Japanese actress, Maiko Kawakami, suspected a scam after her "poodle" didn't bark and wouldn't eat dog food.

Authorities believe as many as 2,000 people have been conned.

One couple found out the truth only after a dog groomer told them she could not trim their poodle's claws because they were hooves.

The "poodles" sold for as much as \$1,200, about half the price of real poodle puppies in Japan. Authorities say the scam artists took advantage of the fact sheep are rare in Japan and most people do not know what they look like.

The company, whose name translated as Poodles As Pets, has been shut down.

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Don't Leave Your Pet in a Parked Car

Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car for any period of time. On a warm day, the temperature in a parked car can reach 120° in a matter of minutes—even with the car windows partially open. Your pet can quickly suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke or suffocation when trapped in high temperatures.

This is what you should do if your pet is exposed to high temperatures:

- Be alert for the signs of heat stress—heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, unsteadiness, a staggering gait, vomiting, or a deep red or purple tongue.
- If your pet becomes overheated, you must lower her body temperature immediately.
- Move your pet into the shade and apply cool (not cold) water all over her body to gradually lower her temperature.
- Apply ice packs or cold towels to your pet's head, neck, and chest only
- Let your pet drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes.
- Finally, take your pet directly to a veterinarian—it could save her life.

If you see an animal in a car exhibiting any signs of heat stress, call your local animal care and control agency or police department immediately!

You don't just expose your pet to the dangers of heat stress when you leave her in a car, you also expose her to pet theft. Thousands of pets are stolen each year from unattended cars.

Taking your pet for a ride may seem like fun, but many pets prefer to spend time with you in the comfort and safety of your home. Explore activities that you and your pet can share at home and avoid taking risks by leaving your pet in the car.

If you must take your pet with you in your car, do so safely: Cats should ride in pet carriers, and dogs should ride in travel crates or be on a leash. When a pet travels, she should wear two ID tags—one with a home address and one with a destination address. 🐾

Groomer Humor



Dog Wars

The Taco Bell Chihuahua, a Doberman, and a Bulldog are in a doggie bar having a cool one when a good-looking female Belgian Tervuren comes up to them and says, "Whoever can say liver and cheese in a sentence can have me." So the Doberman says, "I love liver and cheese." The Belgian says, "That's not good enough." The Bulldog says, "I hate liver and cheese." She says, "That's not creative." Finally the Chihuahua says, "Liver alone...cheese mine!"



Q: Why did the poor dog chase his own tail?

A: He was trying to make both ends meet!

Q: What do you get if you cross a sheepdog with a rose?

A: A collie-flower!

Q: What did the cowboy say when the bear ate Lassie?

A: "Well, doggone!"

Q: What happened when the dog went to the flea circus?

A: He stole the show!

Q: How can tell if you have a stupid dog?

A: It chases parked cars!

Q: Why don't dogs make good dancers?

A: Because they have two left feet!

Q: What happens when it rains cats and dogs?

A: You can step in a poodle!

Hamlet's Cat's Soliloquy

To go outside, and there perchance to stay
 Or to remain within: that is the question:
 Whether 'tis better for a cat to suffer
 The cuffs and buffets of inclement weather
 That Nature rains on those who roam abroad,
 Or take a nap upon a scrap of carpet,
 And so by dozing melt the solid hours
 That clog the clock's bright gears with sullen time
 And stall the dinner bell. To sit, to stare
 Outdoors, and by a stare to seem to state
 A wish to venture forth without delay,
 Then when the portal's opened up, to stand
 As if transfixed by doubt. To prowl; to sleep;
 To choose not knowing when we may once more
 Our readmittance gain: aye, there's the hairball;
 For if a paw were shaped to turn a knob,
 Or work a lock or slip a window-catch,
 And going out and coming in were made
 As simple as the breaking of a bowl,
 What cat would bear the household's petty plagues,
 The cook's well-practiced kicks, the butler's broom,
 The infant's careless pokes, the tickled ears,
 The trampled tail, and all the daily shocks
 That fur is heir to, when, of his own free will,
 He might his exodus or entrance make
 With a mere mitten? Who would spaniels fear,
 Or strays trespassing from a neighbor's yard,
 But that the dread of our unheeded cries
 And scratches at a barricaded door
 No claw can open up, dispels our nerve
 And makes us rather bear our humans' faults
 Than run away to unguessed miseries?
 Thus caution doth make house cats of us all;
 And thus the bristling hair of resolution
 Is softened up with the pale brush of thought,
 And since our choices hinge on weighty things,
 We pause upon the threshold of decision.

--shakespaw



heartworm preventatives, de-wormers, antibiotics, vaccines and nutritional supplements—a 93 percent hike in volume. “Although these products are formulated for use in pets, it is very important to always read and follow label directions for use exactly,” says Dr. Hansen. “As with flea and tick preparations, many medications are intended for use in certain species only, and potentially serious problems could result if given to the wrong animal or at too high a dose.”

4. Plants: The number of cases involving plants also shot up by more than 111 percent in 2006 to more than 9,300. Some varieties that can be harmful to pets include lilies, azalea, rhododendron, sago palm, kalanchoe, and schefflera. “Just one or two sago palm nuts can cause vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures and even liver failure,” says Dr. Hansen. “Also, lilies are highly toxic to cats—even in small amounts they can produce life-threatening kidney failure.” While poisonous plants should certainly be kept away from pets, it is also a good idea to discourage animals from nibbling on any variety of plant, as even non-toxic plants can lead to minor stomach upset.


5. Rodenticides: Last year, approximately 8,800 calls about rat and mouse poisons were received by the APCC, representing an increase of more than 27 percent over 2005. Depending on the type of rodenticide, ingestions can lead to potentially life-threatening problems for pets including bleeding, seizures or even damage to the kidneys or other vital organs. “Should pet owners opt to use a rodenticide around their home, they should make sure that the bait is placed only in areas completely inaccessible to their animals,” says Dr. Hansen.

6. Household Cleaners: In 2006, approximately 7,200 calls pertaining to cleaning agents such as bleaches, detergents and disinfectants were received—up 38 percent from the year before. Says Dr. Hansen, “Depending on the circumstances of exposure, some household cleaners can lead to gastrointestinal irritation or even severe oral burns for pets.” Additionally, irritation to the respiratory tract may be possible if a product is inhaled. “All household cleaners and other chemicals should be stored in a secure location well out of the reach of pets,” recommends Dr. Hansen, “and when cleaning your pet’s food and water bowls, crate or other habitat, a mild soap such as a hand dishwashing detergent along with hot water is a good choice over products containing potentially harsh chemicals.”

7. Chocolate: Always a common food-related call, more than 4,800 chocolate calls were received by the APCC last year, an 85 percent increase from 2005. Depending on the variety, chocolate can contain large amounts of fat and caffeine-like substances known as methylxanthines, which, if ingested in significant amounts, could potentially cause vomiting, diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity. In severe cases, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors and seizures have been noted—and it could even be fatal. “Typically, the darker the chocolate, the greater the potential for poisoning,” says Dr. Hansen. “Baking chocolate contains the highest amount of methylxanthines, and just two ounces could cause serious problems for a 10-pound dog.”

8. Chemical Hazards: A newcomer to the top 10 category, this includes such harmful items as volatile petroleum-based products, alcohols, acids, and gases. In 2006, the APCC received more than 4,100 calls related to chemical hazards—an astronomical jump in call volume of more than 300 percent. “Substances in this group can cause a wide variety of problems,” Dr. Hansen explains, “ranging from gastrointestinal upset and depression to respiratory difficulties and chemical burns.” Commonly used chemicals you should keep your pets away from include ethylene glycol antifreeze, paint thinner, drain cleaners and pool/spa chemicals.

9. Physical Hazards: While not necessarily all toxic, items in this group consists of objects that could pose a choking hazard, risk for intestinal obstruction, or other physical injury, and in 2006, the number of physical hazard calls grew a staggering 460 percent to over 3,800. “We’ve managed cases involving the ingestion of several common objects—from pet collars and adhesive tape to bones, paper products and other similar items,” says Dr. Hansen. “It is important to make sure that items which could be easily knocked over, broken, chewed up or swallowed are kept out of the reach of curious pets.”

10. Home Improvement Products: In 2006, approximately 2,100 cases involving paint, solvents, expanding glues and other products commonly used in construction were managed by the APCC—up 17 percent from 2005. While the majority of water-based paints are low in toxic potential, they can still cause stomach upset, and artist paints sometimes contain heavy metals that could be poisonous if consumed in large quantities. In addition, solvents can be very irritating to the gastrointestinal tract, eyes and skin, and could also produce central nervous system depression if ingested, or pneumonia if inhaled. “Prevention is really key to avoiding problems from accidental exposures to these substances,” says Dr. Hansen. “Pet parents should keep pets out of areas where home improvement projects are taking place, and of course label directions should always be followed when using any product.”

NEW! Company Website

www.hairoffthedogandcatstoo.com

Our website officially launched on December 1, 2006. Our website is designed not only to give you a personal view of our work and what we do, but also to provide a place of **information** and **education** on your pet's grooming needs and general well-being. Check out our **pet supplies** where you can purchase many of the products we currently use in our salon. All offerings are products that we know and trust. Featured items for sale include **pet first aid kits** and our **doggy-safe locking trash can** (to keep our mischievous animals out of the garbage), as well as many other products that you will find useful in your home. Check it out and share it with your family and friends! 🐾

PET ID TAGS NOW AVAILABLE!

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER, VISIT OUR WEBSITE

OR

SPEAK TO TRACY OR EMILY AT YOUR NEXT GROOMING APPOINTMENT!

Free Pet Rescue Sticker

The ASPCA offers free Pet Rescue Stickers. This easy-to-fill-out card will alert people that pets are inside your home in the event of an emergency. You can order your sticker here:

www.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_rescuesticker

Santa Clarita Valley Needs A Dog Park!

For all the amenities that the Santa Clarita Valley has to offer, one is very prominently and very sadly missing! There are no off leash dog parks in the entire valley!

Santa Clarita has some very stringent leash laws that everyone will agree are important and necessary. Unfortunately, because no alternatives exist in this valley, many dog owners have had to find isolated areas in local parks to let their dogs run free. These dog owners (myself included) are not trying to be rebellious or "break the law," we simply want a place where our dogs can run together free to socialize and play with other dogs without the constraints of a leash.

If you also feel that an off-leash dog park is long overdue in Santa Clarita, there are a few actions you can take.

Visit the SCV dog park online petition at the following address and add your name to the ever-growing list of people asking city hall for a park.

<http://www.petitiononline.com/scvdogpk/petition.html>

You can also contact city hall by mail at the following address:

City of Santa Clarita
Department of Parks and Recreation
23920 Valencia Boulevard, Suite 300
Santa Clarita, California 91355

Let's let city hall know that we are responsible pet parents who want a dog park not just for ourselves, but for the good of the whole community. Remember, a well-socialized dog is a friendly dog!

(Contributed by Autumn Hayner)

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