

Animal Hospital of Mt Pocono

570-839-8116

Winter 2009

www.animalhospitalofmtpocono.com



Dear Pet Lovers,

Welcome to the winter issue of our pet health newsletter series. Our winter season has been a bit colder than more recent years have been. For most of our dogs and cats, even these colder temperatures should not present a problem if they are in good general health and are exposed for only limited times during the day. Remember however, that when temperatures dip much below freezing our pets should spend a good portion of the day and night indoors, or have access to a protective shelter and even an external heat source, such as a heating mat made for that purpose. If their water is kept outdoors, make certain it is not frozen. After coming in from outdoors, check between their toes for ice balls and packed snow which tends to cling to their fur. With a little extra effort, we can keep our pets safer and more comfortable over this colder time of year.

Wishing you a safe and healthy winter season,
Dr. Joe Valese



Bird Care Tips

Our pet health care articles typically involve dog and cat care. Not wanting to neglect the care of our feathered friends we have these tips to share. To begin with, most bird owners are unaware that their pet birds should receive routine physical examinations, usually done annually. Many of the health problems facing pet birds involve improper housing and feeding. When your bird comes in for an examination, it is best to bring them in the cage they are kept in. This gives Dr. Valese the opportunity to trouble shoot any possible housing problems. This also involves the evaluation of toys and products kept in with the bird. Second, bring in some of the typical diet or a list of the diets fed to your bird. Unknowingly, many well meaning bird owners feed their birds a diet consisting mainly of seeds. This is not a balanced diet for the long term health of the bird. In fact, this can lead to diseases of malnutrition and is a major cause of illness in birds. Dr. Valese will help you plan a balanced and nutritious diet for your bird.

Birds have evolved to hide all outward signs of illness until they are close to death. In this way they avoided the attention of predators. Unfortunately, to the bird owner they appear fine until it is too late. This is why routine examinations help to detect early illness which usually has a better response to treatment. If it's been awhile since your pet bird has had a check up, don't delay but call us today to schedule their wellness examination. You'll be glad you did.



Buyer Beware

It is no surprise that many people are looking for ways to save money these days, especially with the overall weaker economy. In some ways this makes good sense, but in some situations it is a case of being penny wise and pound foolish. Case in point would be the shopping through internet pharmacies or pet supply super stores for your pet's prescription flea & tick and/or heartworm preventatives. There you may or may not save a few dollars in the products purchased. You may not realize, however, that these products are purchased by these pharmacies and stores through unauthorized sources since the product manufacturers only sell directly to licensed veterinarians and not to stores or pharmacies. In this way counterfeit or fake product finds its way into these stores and pharmacies. Some of it may be useless to your pet, some might even be harmful.

Either way there is the risk of unknowingly purchasing counterfeit products through these retailers. Also, any products purchased from retailers and not veterinarians will not be supported by the manufacturers even if the product is genuine. This means that if ever there was a problem with the use of the medication, you are on your own with no recourse. If purchased through a veterinary practice, the manufacturers would guarantee your satisfaction with the product and its results. So with the risk of possible fake product and the lack of manufacturer support, it seems truly penny wise and pound foolish not to purchase these needed products for your pet's good health directly from our office. You may be surprised as well to find that any anticipated savings from your internet purchase is little to none when compared to a purchase from our office.



Kidney Disease Screening

Because pets can't tell you when they're not feeling well, you play a big role in detecting health problems like kidney disease. The kidneys are vital to your pet's overall health because they remove waste substances from the blood and maintain the normal balance of fluid and minerals. Kidney disease is any condition that damages these vital organs, which affects more than one million pets each year - especially those age 7 or older - and is a leading killer in both dogs and cats. Some signs of kidney disease include: increased thirst and urination, decreased appetite, weight loss, bad breath, weakness or lack of energy, sore mouth, and vomiting. Clinical signs of kidney disease may not appear until your pet has lost nearly 75% of kidney function, so early detection of this "silent killer" is crucial. If your pet displays any of the previously mentioned signs, or if your pet is over 7 years of age, contact us to schedule an appointment with Dr. Vales. Pets age 7 or older are especially at risk for developing kidney disease, so call today to schedule a kidney disease screening. We are extending a special rebate to help with your pet's kidney disease screening tests. Have your pet screened for kidney disease by Dr. Vales and receive a \$10.00 mail in rebate. The offer is limited, so call today at 570-839-8116.



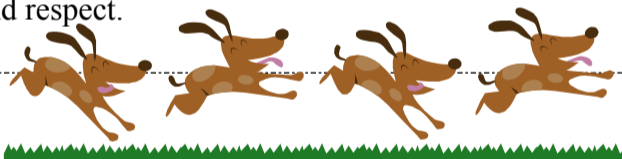
Training Corner

We all love puppies and the funny things they do, but many of their cute behaviors can become adult problems.

One such behavior is chewing of hands, feet, and sometimes even furniture. Chewing anything that is not an appropriate chew toy is an unacceptable behavior. Excuses such as "he is teething" or "it's just play biting" do nothing to address this misbehavior which can escalate to more severe biting and prevent you from handling their mouth. Mouth handling is necessary to accomplish home dental care and foreign material retrieval.

Stopping this behavior when they are young and easier to handle is very important. Using the proper technique and consistent training can easily correct this problem behavior. This will make your new puppy all the more lovable.

Call us today to discuss the proper training and toys for your puppy. We will help you develop a life long relationship with your puppy built on trust and respect.



Our Community Support - 2008 Donations



As we look back on 2008, we are thankful for all the support of our wonderful pet owner community. Because of you, we were able to provide excellent health care to so many pets. We also give back to the community. This past year we were able to provide donations and sponsorship to:

The American Red Cross – Monroe County Chapter and the "Run for the Red" Pocono Marathon, Pocono Mountain Knights of Columbus, and other local service organizations. We provided service donations of over \$2,900 to the Pennsylvania SPCA, Monroe County Animal League, and needy pet owners in our community. We also provided a \$500 scholarship for a Pocono Mountain High School senior in 2008 who should now be in college pursuing a future career in veterinary medicine. We feel that if we all work together we can help make our community a better place to live.

Remember too that we collect funds year round to help provide urgent medical care to the pets of needy owners. Your generosity is appreciated. Thank you to all.



**\$5.00 off Bath
for your pet.**
Offer expires 3-31-09
No other discounts apply



**\$2.00 off Dentees
Dental Treats**

Offer expires 3-31-09
No other discounts apply



**\$2.00 off Boarding
per weekday night**
Limit 5 nights

Expires 3-31-09
No other discounts apply



For after hours emergencies call 839-6039

OFFICE HOURS
Mon., Thurs., Fri. 8-4
Tues. 8-7
Wed 8-12
Sat 8-12

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
POCONO SUMMIT, PA
18346
PERMIT No. 9

Animal Hospital of Mt. Pocono
P.O. Box 235, Pocono Summit, PA 18346
Change Service requested