



Jefferson Animal Hospital

PetTalk

Spring 2016



NO! Not There! House Training Your New Puppy

A new puppy is a joy, but potty training can leave both you and your new friend frustrated. It's also an opportunity to build trust and love if you approach the task with patience and understanding. Conversely, if you are harsh or inconsistent, your puppy can become confused, frustrated and insecure.

Expect that this will be a long process. Depending on breed, dogs as old as nine months may still have occasional accidents. The good news here is that as soon as your puppy figures out the behavior you want, they will be happy to comply! However, understanding exactly what you want will take repetition.



Whether you train on puppy pads, outdoors, or a combination of both, the most widely accepted method of humane house training is the same. Take your puppy to the proper spot frequently, and provide treats and praise when they get it right. When they choose undesirable spots, simply pick them up as soon as they begin urinating or defecating (yes, mid-stream!), move them to the correct spot, and keep them there for a few moments. Remain calm, don't scold or raise your voice.

If you miss seeing an incident as it happens, accept that the training opportunity was lost and simply clean up the mess without scolding. Never "rub their nose in it." They will not make the connection and will only become confused.

With this simple process, repeated consistently and as often as necessary, your puppy will eventually "get it" that you want them to do their business in a certain spot. Remain patient, and take time to enjoy your new puppy!

Listen Up! Common Ear Problems In Dogs

Hearing is one of your dog's keenest senses, so when his ears are bothering him, it's a big deal! There are many reasons a dog's ears become irritated. Some of the most common are listed below:

- Ear infections from bacteria, yeast, moisture, wax, allergies, or excessive fur.
- Yeast and bacterial infections are very common in dogs, especially dogs with long floppy ears.
- Parasites: fleas and mange mites. Fleas cause itching, which causes scratching. Mange mites cause hair loss, itching and inflammation.
- Ear trauma: bite wounds, frostbite, over-exposure to the sun, or blunt force
- Tumors: polyps, tumors, and masses. Tumors can cause inflammation and itching and can affect hearing and balance.

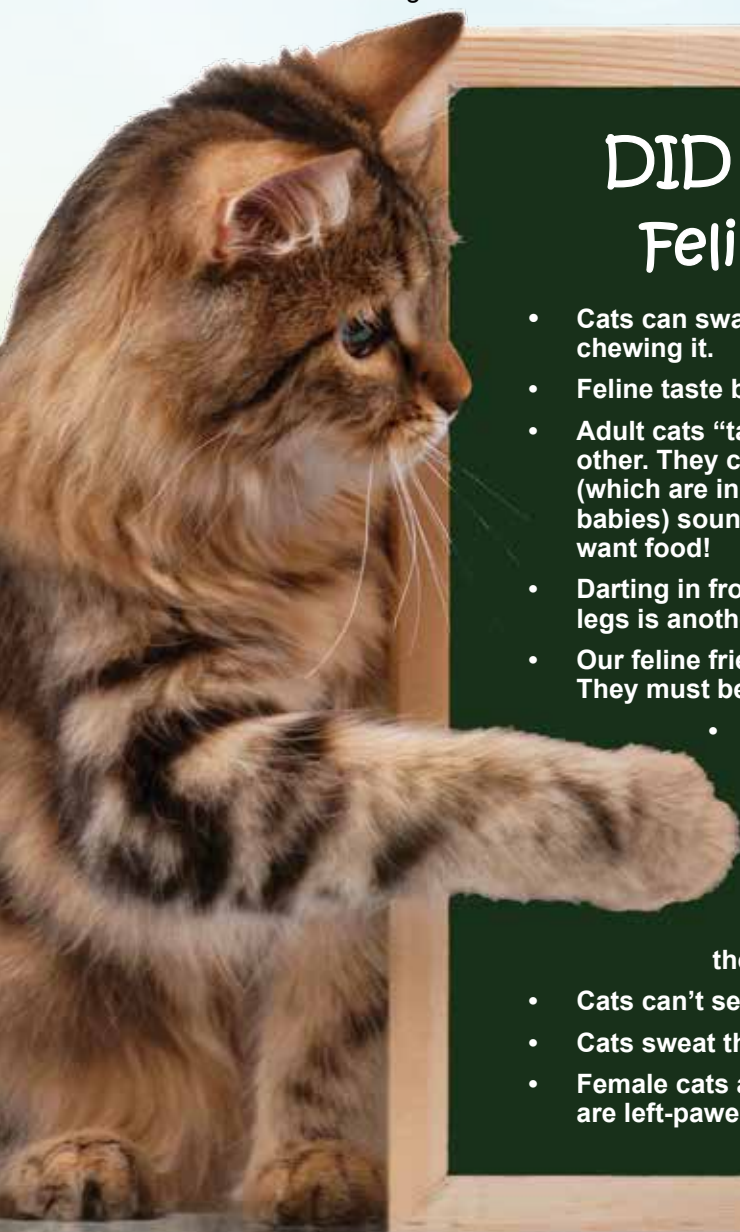
- Weather extremes: unusually hot, humid conditions can encourage yeast and bacteria to grow, causing infections. Extremely cold temperatures can cause frostbite, and ears are especially vulnerable.

What are the symptom of canine ear problems?

- Scratching the ears or shaking their heads
- Rubbing their ears against the floor or furniture
- Foul odor in the ear
- Redness and/or swelling
- Brown, yellow, or bloody discharge
- Loss of balance
- Hearing loss



Ear problems can be painful for your dog, and if they aren't addressed, scratching and head shaking can cause an aural hematoma (a blood filled pocket). Check your dog's ears regularly and call us if you notice any of the symptoms above. If left untreated, ear infections can harm the ear canal and middle ear and cause hearing loss.



DID YOU KNOW? Feline Fun Facts

- Cats can swallow and digest their food without chewing it.
- Feline taste buds can't detect sweetness.
- Adult cats "talk" only to humans and not to each other. They can control us by making their cries (which are in the same frequency range as human babies) sound more urgent—especially when they want food!
- Darting in front of and rubbing against a human's legs is another maneuver to get attention.
- Our feline friends don't understand punishment. They must be rewarded for good behavior.
 - Your cat can hear ultrasonic sounds at frequencies humans and dogs cannot.
 - Cats sleep approximately 70% of their lives and can dream when they are in a deeper sleep.
 - They bump noses to greet cats they know and feel safe with.
- Cats can't see directly under their noses.
- Cats sweat through their paws.
- Female cats are right-pawed and male cats are left-pawed.



Ick! A Tick!

These nasty little parasites are common everywhere, and each year, animals become infected with the serious diseases they transmit. Ticks feed by biting into your pet's skin and ingesting blood. They typically live on three different animal hosts within their life cycles, which can be as long as three years.

Although ticks can cause many diseases, Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever are the most well known. These diseases can cause fever, anemia, painful joint swelling and lameness. Although rare, some species can even cause paralysis. The Lone Star tick found in Louisiana can also cause serious illness to humans.

How can you protect your pet? Treat dogs and outdoor cats with flea and tick preventatives year-round. We recommend NexGard given every 30 days, or Bravecto given every 90 days. Be sure to make a tick check part of your daily routine; the sooner they are removed, the less likely the chance of infection. To remove ticks safely, commercial tick removers are available. Be sure to let us know on your visit if you have removed ticks from your dog or cat.

Call Jefferson Animal Hospital today at (225) 927-2344!

Bloat and Gastric Torsion

Is Your Dog at Risk?

We've all had the experience of eating too much and getting that uncomfortable "bloating" feeling, but bloat affects the canine system differently. For your dog, it's a serious medical condition that needs immediate attention.

Bloat happens when a dog's stomach fills with air and water, usually from eating too fast and swallowing lots of air in the process. Some dogs' stomachs actually twist from this condition, pinching off the blood supply and allowing nothing in or out. The veterinary term for this is gastric dilatation volvulus (GDV)—a life-threatening condition. Although not all dogs with bloat end up with GDV, those that do require emergency surgery.

These signs may come with the intense abdominal pain that indicates bloat:

- 🐾 Swollen stomach that feels hard
- 🐾 Pacing
- 🐾 Anxiety and restlessness, which may turn to listlessness and fatigue
- 🐾 Rapid, shallow breathing with pale gums and lips
- 🐾 Unproductive belching and/or vomiting
- 🐾 Excessive salivation or drooling
- 🐾 Heavy panting

Bloat and GDV happen most often in larger, deep-chested breeds such as Great Danes, Saint Bernards, Mastiffs, Doberman Pinschers, German Shepherds and many others. Take these precautions to help prevent bloat:

- 🐾 Don't allow your dog to drink large amounts of water before or after a meal.
- 🐾 Feed two or three smaller meals per day rather than one large meal.
- 🐾 Don't allow your dog to exercise right after eating.

Bloat can lead to GDV rather quickly. If your dog shows any of these symptoms, bring him in immediately or take him to the nearest emergency hospital after hours.



Keeping your furry loved ones healthy will make this spring more enjoyable for everyone. Take advantage of our special savings to help with your spring checklist!

ANNUAL VACCINATION PACKAGES

SAVE \$15

on Canine or Feline Annual Vaccination Packages.

Includes exam. Call us for details.

Offer good through 5/31/2016. Not valid with any other offer.

MICROCHIP SAVINGS

SAVE \$10

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Includes lifetime registration in the national database.

Offer good through 5/31/2016. Not valid with any other offer.

NEW PATIENT SAVINGS!

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Share this coupon with a friend or use it for a new pet of your own!

Offer is good for pets on their first visit to Jefferson Animal Hospital. Cannot be combined with Refer a Friend savings. Not valid with any other offer.

REFER A FRIEND AND SAVE!

Refer a new client and you'll both

SAVE \$20

on any doctor's visit or purchase of products totaling \$50 or more.

Be sure to mention the refer-a-friend savings when you make your appointments.

Call (225) 927-2344 to make an appointment!



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Keep her best friend healthy this spring.



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