



JEFFERSON Animal Hospital



Pet Talk

Summer 2021

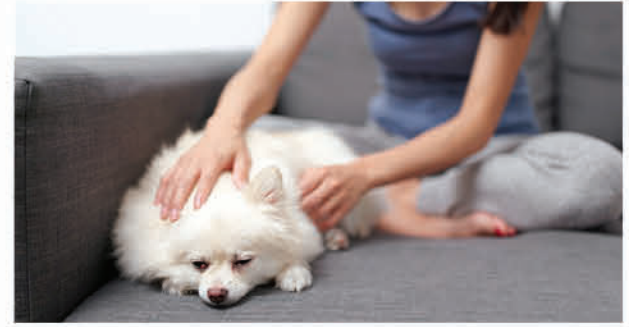


Is This an Emergency?

When to Get Immediate Care

Accidents happen. Some problems need urgent care, and some can wait. Knowing when your pet is experiencing an emergency is key to getting them help in time. The following are signs that emergency care is needed:

- 🐾 Rapid breathing
- 🐾 Unable to urinate
- 🐾 Deep laceration or excessive bleeding
- 🐾 Bloating or distended stomach
- 🐾 Sudden lameness or limping
- 🐾 Ingestion of poison
- 🐾 Crying out in pain
- 🐾 A fever over 104 degrees
- 🐾 Disorientation
- 🐾 Choking
- 🐾 Lethargy or collapse
- 🐾 Difficulty standing or loss of balance
- 🐾 Swollen face or a bulging eye
- 🐾 Uncontrolled vomiting or diarrhea
- 🐾 Snake, scorpion and certain spider bites
- 🐾 Heatstroke/hypothermia
- 🐾 Constant coughing
- 🐾 Pale gums
- 🐾 Seizures



It's also a good idea to keep a list of foods that can make your pet sick. These include alcohol, avocado, garlic, grapes, onions, raisins, spinach, tomatoes, chocolate, caffeine, Xylitol, yeast dough, and some plants. Remember to keep your human medications out of reach.

Some emergencies are obvious; some are not. Be prepared by having a plan in place before you need it. Keep emergency phone numbers available and ask us about our emergency protocol. Anytime your pet is behaving unusually or doesn't seem quite right, don't hesitate to contact us!

Canine Vision

What Does Your Dog See?

Ever wondered what your dog sees? In human terms, they would be considered near-sighted and color-blind. Scientists now believe that dogs see color in a way similar to a person who has red-green color blindness. The colors they see best are blue and yellow, while reds and greens are difficult for them to detect. He may prefer blue toys over red, and may be obsessed with the yellow tennis ball!



Canines are also near-sighted. A human with 20/20 vision is said to have perfect eyesight, while dogs typically have 20/75 vision. This means that they need to be 20 feet from an object to see it as well as a human would at 75 feet. Some breeds, however, are thought to have better eyesight than others. Labrador Retrievers are an example.

A dog's vision does have some advantages over human vision. They are able to see in low light much better than humans can. They also have greater peripheral vision because of the wider placement of their eyes. Still, dogs are less dependent on vision than are humans. They rely on their exceptional sense of smell and superior hearing to perceive the world around them.

Fear of Fireworks

How to Protect Your Pet

While we may enjoy the "bombs bursting in air" on July 4th, to pets, they can be scary. Fireworks sound louder to pets as their hearing is several times more sensitive than ours. Also, pets don't understand why these strange lights and sounds are happening. They may experience stress, anxiety, or even terror.

It's best to keep pets inside and supervised whenever fireworks or firecrackers can be heard. Even indoors, dogs may hide or become destructive. Be sure doors and windows are shut to reduce noise. They may try to get outside; in fact, more pets run away on this day than any other day of the year! Be sure ID tags and microchips are up to date.

Create a safe interior space and try to comfort them with talk, petting, long-lasting chews or soothing sounds. Products such as ThunderShirt or pheromone-based sprays such as Adaptil and Feliway may help some pets. If your fur-baby becomes overly anxious, contact us about other possibilities. We may prescribe medications to help calm them. Of course, never let pets near any type of fireworks—even unlit, they can pose a danger.



A Hidden Threat

Chronic Kidney Disease in Cats

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a common, potentially fatal feline disease. Approximately 30% of cats over the age of 10 have chronic kidney disease, but the condition can occur at any age. Unfortunately, cats can lose as much as 75% of kidney function before symptoms of CKD appear! It's important to have regular checkups and watch for signs.

Symptoms include vomiting a foamy fluid, excessive or frequent urination, excessive thirst, and weight loss. You may also notice your cat sitting hunched over a food or water dish but not eating or drinking. A buildup of waste normally removed by the kidneys may make them lethargic and appear unkempt. CKD can also cause elevated blood pressure, which can affect several important systems, including the heart, brain and eyes. Anemia is also a potential side effect with lethargy and pale gums being the most obvious symptoms.



Older cats need annual or semi-annual kidney screening, even if there are no apparent symptoms. We use blood tests, urinalysis, ultrasound and other measures to diagnose CKD. No matter what age, if your cat exhibits any of the symptoms above for a few days, be sure to contact us. The sooner we begin to support renal function, the slower the progression of the illness.

Although there is no cure for CKD, recent medical advances mean we can successfully treat most cats for an extended period and give them a higher quality of life. We will prescribe a special diet and may prescribe medications that support kidney function. Our PAW (Pet Annual Wellness) Plans for cats include regular checkups and other screenings to help us detect CKD and other health issues. Be sure to ask us for details!



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

Summer Hazards

5 Ways to Help Pets Beat the Heat!

Summer is a great time for outdoor fun, but the season also holds special dangers for pets. Keep these summer hazards in mind:

- 1. Never leave your pet in a hot car!** Even with the windows cracked, the interior can quickly become like a furnace. Sadly, many dogs are lost every year from pet owners leaving them in cars "for just a few minutes." With an outside temperature of only 78 degrees, the temperature inside a parked car can reach 120 degrees in minutes!
- 2. Keep it cool.** If it's too hot outside for you, it's too hot for your pet. Don't leave your dog outside in extreme heat and avoid walks during the hottest part of the day. Watch for signs of heat stress and dehydration, which include dry gums, excessive lethargy, decreased urination and lack of appetite.
- 3. Avoid dehydration.** Prolonged dehydration can become a serious condition. Keep water bowls full of fresh, cool water. Carry water when you take your dog for a walk or car ride.
- 4. Water Hazards.** Don't assume your dog likes to or is able to swim. They can drown! In addition, chlorine in pools, salt in the ocean, and algae and bacteria in lakes and ponds can all be harmful. Be sure they drink only fresh, safe water.
- 5. Asphalt and Pavement.** If the asphalt or pavement is too hot or rough for your bare feet, it's probably too hot for your pets. To avoid scorched pads, walk your dog early in the morning or later in the evening when streets and sidewalks are cooler.

Be sure to contact us immediately if you suspect your pet is suffering from any heat-related illness!



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