

Summer pet tips from Kirby Animal Hospital

Yard and Garden Safety

When designing and planting your green space, it's a good idea to keep in mind that many popular outdoor plants—including sago palm, rhododendron and azalea—are toxic to cats and dogs. Speaking of plants, did you know fleas and ticks lurk in tall brush and grasses, it's important to keep those lawns mowed and trim.



Ah-choo! Like their sneezy human counterparts, pets have allergies to foods, dust and even plants. Allergic reactions in dogs and cats can even cause life-threatening anaphylactic shock if the reaction is severe. If you do suspect your pet has an allergy, please don't give him any medication that isn't prescribed by a veterinarian.

It's summertime that means backyard barbecues. Please keep matches, lighter fluid, citronella candles and insect coils out of pets' reach. If you believe your pet got into something, you can call the Animal Poison Control center at (888) 426-4435 24 hours a day, or for more information ask Dr. Hill or go to <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care>



PARVO

Canine parvovirus (CPV) is a serious and highly contagious viral disease of dogs involving the digestive tract. The most common victims are young puppies (eight to 12 weeks old) and unvaccinated dogs. But sometimes parvovirus also affects older dogs and vaccinated dogs that have not fully completed their series of parvo vaccinations.

Generally, the time from exposure to the virus to the development of symptoms is short, three to 14 days. Symptoms usually include loss of appetite, depression & vomiting, which develop into more serious symptoms of diarrhea with blood. The virus is spread through infected stools and diarrhea of ill animals. The soil/environment becomes contaminated for several months and during dry periods the virus can become airborne through dust.

This virus can lead to the death of the animal. CPV is usually diagnosed once vomiting and diarrhea have begun. Once the dog begins to show symptoms, immediate medical treatment is necessary.

To protect your dog, take these steps:

Once a puppy is six to eight weeks old three sets of "puppy shots" are given at three-or four-week intervals starting. Seek and follow the advice of Dr. Hill as to the health and well-being of your pet. Establish a relationship with Kirby Animal Hospital prior to your animal getting sick. Regular health exams and vaccinations will help to ensure a long and happy relationship with your best friend. Finally, know that no vaccination is a guarantee. Presently, the best protection for viral infections is a pre-exposure vaccination. A very small percentage of pets will develop symptoms (although usually much more mild) even with appropriate vaccinations.

More information about CPV is available from Dr. Melissa Hill or the American Veterinary Medical Association
Excerpt from South Plains District Veterinary Command, Fort Hood, TX

The Heat and Your Pets

In summertime, the living isn't always easy for our animal friends. Dogs and cats can suffer from the same problems that humans do, such as overheating, dehydration and even sunburn. By taking some simple precautions, you can celebrate the season and keep your pets happy and healthy

Never leave your pet alone in a vehicle—hyperthermia can be fatal. Even with the windows open, a parked automobile can quickly become a furnace in no time. Parking in the shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day.

Be especially sensitive to older and overweight animals in hot weather. Brachycephalic or snub-nosed dogs such as bulldogs, pugs, Boston terriers, Lhasa apsos and shih tzus, as well as those with heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

Stay alert for signs of overheating in pets, which include excessive panting and drooling and mild weakness, along with an elevated body temperature.

Lastly, do not apply any sunscreen or insect repellent product to your pet that is not labeled specifically for use on animals. Ingestion of sunscreen products can result in drooling, diarrhea, excessive thirst and lethargy. The misuse of insect repellent that contains DEET can lead to neurological problems.





Saving Money on Vet Care

During the economy's ebb and flow it's sometimes difficult to remember to include our furry, feathered, and scaly friends. But if you remember to schedule regular visits to Kirby Animal Hospital you'll actually save money. The old saying "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is very true in the case of caring for your pets as well.

Don't skip your pet's annual shots. Talk with Dr. Hill about personalizing your pet's vaccine protocol. Some vaccines are optional, while others are essential in preventing serious diseases.

Spaying or neutering your pet can also save you money in the long run. It can help in preventing serious health problems including uterine infections, uterine, ovarian and testicular cancer.

Dental care is very important, as it can prevent such disease as tartar, gingivitis, loose or infected teeth, which can lead to heart and kidney problems which are expensive procedures. Start a daily routine of your pet's teeth and gums, and include a trip to Kirby Animal Hospital for a dental exam.

Consider pet health insurance. If the cost of an emergency vet visit or serious illness would be a financial strain, consider investing in pet health insurance, while your pet is healthy. Be sure to read the fine print, though—not all plans are created equal.



Laser Treatments at Kirby Animal Hospital

Dr. Hill now has therapeutic laser treatment for your pet. There is no patient sedation or restraint required for Laser Therapy and the experience is usually pleasant and comforting. The treatment usually only takes a few minutes to complete during a regular office visit. The Laser only interacts with cells that are abnormal, so normal cells and tissue are not affected or have any adverse effects. Effectiveness of Laser therapy has been demonstrated by hundreds of rigorously controlled, scientific studies. Laser therapy can relieve pain, reduce swelling and increase range of motion. Often the patient will exhibit renewed energy and freedom of movement. Dr. Hill will advise you when your pet can return to full activity. The treatment has been shown to help in the following medical problems: Osteoarthritis, Tendinopathies, Ligament, Sprains, Joint

Pain, Puncture Wounds, Edema and Congestion, Muscle Strains, Post-Surgical Pain, Post-Traumatic Injury, Neck and Back Pain, Hip Dysplasia, Burns, Chronic Wounds, Post-Orthopedic Surgical Recovery, Gingivitis, Neurologic Injuries and more.



Refer a NEW friend & receive a gift.

Existing Client: _____ recommends Kirby Animal Hospital because they care about your pet as much as you do.

The cost of your first office visit is on Kirby Animal Hospital.

To show we care Kirby Animal Hospital is also providing a \$5.00 credit to the account of your friend and referring client. Come join the Kirby Animal Hospital family and recommend a friend yourself.

Clip this coupon and give to a friend.