




The Pet Dominion Quarterly


Budgeting For Wellness Care

There's a lot to budget for nowadays but don't let Mittens and Fido go by the wayside. Remember that Pet Dominion's annual and senior wellness packages include a comprehensive physical exam with routine bloodwork and urinalysis. This is the best way for us to give your pet a clean bill of health both inside and out. So please include this annual or semi-annual cost for veterinary care in your budget. You will enjoy package discounts as well as peace of mind. 



Holiday Raffle

Pet Dominion is happy to announce the return of our holiday raffle. Every pet getting their Annual or Senior Wellness Package between December 1st and 31st will be entered in the raffle. The drawing will be held at the beginning of January.

Prizes are centered around dental care, just in time for dental month in February. As many of you know, our pets need dental care to keep their mouths healthy. We are happy to make that easier for our lucky winners! 

Seasonal Reminders From Our Doctors

- ♥ **Antifreeze** can kill your pet, even in small amounts. It crystallizes in the kidneys causing renal failure.
- ♥ **Holiday foods** that are high in fat, alcoholic beverages, and chocolate or sweets can cause serious illness in pets.
- ♥ **Decorations** such as tinsel, glass ornaments, spray on snow, ribbons or anything small your pet may swallow can be toxic or cause a serious intestinal obstruction requiring surgery.
- ♥ **Plants** including poinsettias, holly, mistletoe, philodendron and dieffenbachia are toxic.
- ♥ Pets are susceptible to **hypothermia and frostbite**. Elderly and young animals are more sensitive to cold.
- ♥ **Road salts and ice melters** can be caustic to your pet's skin. Wipe paws off and use pet-friendly products.



Prevention Before Outbreak: Canine Influenza Virus

Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) is a highly contagious flu virus that affects dogs and is spreading throughout the United States. There have been recent outbreaks in Northern Virginia and surrounding states though not yet in Maryland. Pet Dominion taking preventative steps to ensure the protection of our canine patients from this potentially severe respiratory illness when it does rear its head in our area.


CIV was first documented in greyhound racing tracks in Florida in 2003. It spread quickly to area shelters and veterinary hospitals causing widespread respiratory symptoms in those facilities. Since then CIV has spread to over 30 states. Because this virus is new, dogs have no immunity to it unless they have already had the virus and recovered from it. This means that 100% of dogs are susceptible to CIV. While 80% of dogs will show signs of infection, dogs who do not show signs still spread the virus to other dogs.

Signs of CIV can include persistent cough, either dry or productive, high fever, and in some cases pneumonia.

Though the disease usually presents itself with mild symptoms treatable with a course of antibiotics, in 20% of cases a high fever of over 104 degrees and pneumonia occur. A small percentage of cases are fatal.


CIV is highly contagious. It can be spread through direct contact with an infected dog, by a cough or sneeze, or by clothing or objects contaminated with the virus. CIV can remain infectious on clothing for up to 48 hours. The virus is most infectious 2-4 days before symptoms begin, before you know a dog is even sick.

Dogs at risk include those who go to dog parks or daycare, grooming, boarding, visit other dogs, live in homes where owners are exposed to other dogs, or have recently come from an animal shelter. A good rule of thumb is if your pet is vaccinated regularly for kennel cough (bordetella) then they are in a risk group.

We are one of the leaders in our area encouraging prevention of this virus before there is an outbreak. We recommend the CIV vaccine developed by Intervet Schering-Plough to all dogs who fall into the risk group. It consists of two vaccines 3-4 weeks apart, and peak immunity is achieved 2 weeks following the second booster. Please call to schedule your dog's CIV vaccine. 

New At Pet Dominion

Many of you know Tommy from his friendly service in our kennel. For several years he has been training in our hospital with great aptitude and will now be working with you and your pet in the exam room as a technician. He looks forward to completing the AAHA technician program and becoming registered in 2011.

Carlos brings expertise as an ER and critical care technician. He moved here from Peru in 2004 and has worked at a local referral hospital and also as a volunteer at the shelter. We are glad to have him on our team. 

Fun Animal Fact

Brought to you by Erin, RVT


Dogs have about 100 different facial expressions. Most of them are made with the ears. Because of their build bully breeds like bulldogs only have 10 expressions. This can make it hard for other dogs to understand their true feelings and intentions.

Product Spotlight - Grooming

Medical Technologist and RVT Pam spotlights products that we find helpful and we think you should know about.

Most pet owners are familiar with the vacuuming and hair removal that our pets impose on us when they lose their winter coat in the warmer spring months. Did you know that they also shed in the fall to prepare for those heavy winter coats? Many dogs and cats need some regular grooming care. We can suggest the right grooming tools for your pet to remove the shedding hair and keep up their glorious coat.

Clean ears, clipped nails, and expressed anal glands (yuck) are grooming details that you may need help with. If you look in your pet's ears and see brownish waxy material or smell any odor those ears probably need to be cleaned. Dogs who go swimming or get bathed should have their ears wiped out with an ear cleaner to prevent infection from too much moisture. Nails should be trimmed frequently so that the 'quick' or blood supply to the nail doesn't grow so long that the nails cannot be trimmed short without bleeding. Notice your pet scooting? They may need their anal glands expressed. These are glands that produce a foul brownish material normally expressed when a dog eliminates. Many dogs need theirs to be manually expressed by our trained technicians so that they don't become irritated or infected.

If you would like any of these services performed or to learn how to do them yourself, make an appointment with one of our technicians and we can help. 

Favorite Websites

Veterinary technicians Franca and Joana pick their favorite animal websites. Check them out!

Protect your pet from common household dangers.

www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/protect

Sponsor a classroom emphasizing such concepts as kindness, compassion, respect, and responsibility through the Humane Society Youth Program.


www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/teaching_children_to_be_kind_to_animals.html

Senior Care

There are a few things we can do as pet owners to help our dogs and cats stay healthy and happy through their senior years. Technically your pet is considered a senior at age 7, though they are truly still young at heart.

Here are some helpful tips:

- ♥ Feed a senior formula diet so that as your pet's activity decreases their weight doesn't increase.
- ♥ Consider a joint supplement to maintain healthy joints.
- ♥ Keep up your pet's exercise routine to maintain strong muscles.
- ♥ Bring your pet to the vet for their semi-annual wellness exam and diagnostics.

Remember that your pet ages 7 years for every one of our calendar years. Performing a physical exam and checking bloodwork and a urinalysis every 6 months will help find and treat many age related conditions. 

Featured Pet

by Inga, Hospital Manager and RVT

Pet Dominion Kittens!

We want to go home with you!



After being dumped in the woods and roaming around starving these lucky kittens stumbled upon our practice manager's mom on her daily walk.

After a bath and few good meals these two brothers settled right in. They start to purr the moment they're touched and love to play and wrestle with one another. They arrived at Pet Dominion at the end of October and have been vaccinated and deemed healthy by our vets.

Please call Kim at Pet Dominion if you are interested.