

October 2017

FALL / WINTER SENIORS

Inside this Issue:

PARVOVIRUS 1

WINTER AND YOUR PETS 2

SENIOR WELLNESS 3

SPECIALS 4

PARVOVIRUS: PUPPIES ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES

This year our clinic has seen several cases of Parvovirus in older dogs that did not get a complete series of puppy vaccine, or that have had a break in coverage of the series, by one year of age. With these incidents we have decided it would be important to talk about Parvo and what our current vaccine recommendations are.

What is Parvo? Parvo is a highly contagious and potentially fatal virus that is most likely to affect young dogs or dogs that are unvaccinated. Young puppies are at the highest risk of getting Parvo because their natural immunity that they receive from their mother's milk may wear off before the puppies own immune system can fight off infection. Some breeds like the Rottweiler and Pitt breeds are also at a higher risk.

How do you protect your new puppy? The puppy should have its first vaccine at eight weeks of age followed by boosters at 12 weeks and 16 weeks after the initial vaccine. Even if your puppy has had one vaccine that DOES NOT make them safe/protected from the virus and he/she should not be taken to any public areas or be around any other dogs.

Annually (one year from last vaccine) your dog needs to be taken in for a follow up vaccine. We recommend giving an annual Distemper Parvo combination vaccine to dogs under seven years of age. After your pet turns seven this vaccine should be given at least every three years depending on exposure risks like the time your dog spends with other dogs, if they are traveling with you, or if they spend time in boarding or doggie day care facilities.

How is Parvovirus spread? Parvo is spread by the fecal-oral route. Parvo is shed through a dogs feces and can be shared through direct contact with an infected dog but also through objects that have come in contact with the virus. An example of some of these items would be tennis shoes, water bowls and bedding.

This virus can live long periods of time in the soil and also survives freezing temperatures, so this virus will not "die" in the winter! Therefore, this virus can contaminate any environment for years

What are the signs of Parvovirus? Parvo effects the gastrointestinal tract of a dog and damages the lining making it hard to digest food and nutrients that your dog needs to survive. Parvo can be deadly, but if caught early and given treatment you dog can survive this awful virus. Early signs include lethargy, loss of appetite, fever or low body temperatures, diarrhea that can be bloody, and vomiting. If you think your dog is showing these signs please contact us as soon as possible.

Cats do NOT get Canine Parvovirus, they CAN however spread the virus, walking through feces therefore transmitting it on their feet. Cats get Feline Panleukopenia which is the feline form of parvo. These viruses do not cross between the two species.

Neither Canine Parvo or Feline Panleukopenia can affect humans.





HOLIDAY MOVIES FEATURING PETS

- How the Grinch Stole Christmas
- A Charlie Brown Christmas
- Santa Buddies
- A Dog Named Christmas
- The Nightmare Before Christmas



WINTER AND YOUR PETS– BURR, ITS COLD OUTSIDE

With the changing weather upon us this means that your pets’ outdoor needs will have to change a little. Here are some tips to help this winter!

Dogs:

-limit time outdoors in freezing temperatures.

-If your dog is used to being outside set up a warm location for him/her to sleep in. Provide blankets and even a heat lamp.

-Check your dogs pads daily for snow and ice build-up. Trimming the hair from between his pads will help prevent ice and snow buildup.

-Watch out for antifreeze! This is extremely toxic to pets and is more prevalent in the colder months.

-Wipe down your dog after walks. Your dogs feet can collect toxic materials that are placed on snow and ice during the

cold/freezing weather.

Cats:

-If your outdoor cat has a shelter raise it off the ground. This will allow it stay warmer then if it was located on the ground.

-If your cat has access to a garage be careful before starting your vehicle as cats like to hide in engines.

-Check your cats water multiple times a day. Cats must have access to water to stay healthy.

-If your indoor cat normally sleeps on the floor try moving the bed to an elevated location.

- If your cat is older and has arthritis the cold

weather will often make them uncomfortable. They make joint supplements for cats, ask us about it!

Signs your pet is too cold.

- Shivering
- Slow movements
- Listlessness
- Frostbite on tips of toes, tail, tips of the ears, scrotal area, and the bottom of their feet. Frostbite will appear as scabs or raw areas on the ear tips, foot pads, and toes. The will get hard and be completely black in color. If you suspect frostbite in your pet you want to slowly warm the extremities and call the DVM ASAP!

ALWAYS have fresh water available. Animals drink more water when its cold.



HOLIDAYS AND HOURS– IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Halloween: We recommend that you keep your pets indoors during this time, especially black pets.

Thanksgiving: Please do not share any of your feast with your pets. This can cause multiple issues including pancreatitis.

Christmas: Tinsel and decorations can be a ingestion hazard to dogs but mostly cats.

Closure Notice:

November 23-26, 2017- Closed for Thanksgiving
 December 25, 2017– Closed for Christmas
 January 1, 2018– Closed for New Year’s Day



THE SENIOR WELLNESS PACKAGE: AGE 6 +

When does a pet become a senior? There is no real answer or formula for that question. Most Veterinary Professional will agree that a giant breed dog like a Great Dane is considered a senior much earlier than a small breed dog like a Shihtzu. Cat breeds age equally across the board.

One of our winter specials is the senior wellness panel, this panel is being offered to both dogs and cats over the age of six. We like to use this wellness package as a screening tool for the older pets to try and catch diseases early. Some examples of disease that can be caught are: Kidney disease, liver disease, glaucoma, diabetes, high blood pressure, Addison's and Cushings are just a few.

This panel includes a complete physical exam, complete blood count, chemistry panel, thyroid determination, intraocular pressure, blood pressure determination, and a urinalysis.

The physical exam is an important part of this package as it gives the Doctor a good overall view of your pet. The blood work that is run (chemistry pan-

el, complete blood count, and thyroid determination) allow us to get a good look at what is happening on the inside of your pet. A pet can often mask signs that something is wrong with them but the lab work will reveal areas of concern.

Intraocular pressure is used to detect glaucoma. Which is when the eyeball is retaining fluid causing high pressure. Signs of glaucoma include redness to the eye, vision loss, and the eye having a bulging appearance. Early detection of glaucoma can preserve the vision. Some breeds of dogs that are more prone to glaucoma are the Chihuahua, Cocker Spaniel, Dachshund, Maltese, Miniature Poodle, Beagle, Boston Terrier and many more.

Hypertension in pets most commonly develops when there is another underlying medical condition. High blood pressure (hypertension) occurs when blood flows with more force against heart and blood vessels than normal. At this point we need to look

at your pets heart function as well as kidneys. We can easily find out if your pet has high blood pressure by using an inflatable cuff around its leg, just like human doctors do!

The Urinalysis is another important test as it gives us information on how well the kidneys are working and will also identifies inflammation and infection in the urinary tract. Older pets area at a much higher risk of kidney disease because their kidneys begin to wear out as they age.

Running this package on your senior pet is a simple and effect way of monitoring your pets health. Early detection of medical problems will help keep your pet health as they enter their golden years.



Relative Age of Pets in Human Years

PET'S AGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
0-20 lbs.	15	23	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96
21-50 lbs.	15	24	29	34	38	42	47	51	56	60	65	69	74	78	83	87	92	96	101	105
51-90 lbs.	14	22	29	34	40	45	50	55	61	66	72	77	82	88	93	99	104	109	115	120
over 90 lbs.	12	20	28	35	42	49	56	64	71	78	86	93	101	108	115	123				

Growth Senior

Holiday Warnings

During this busy time it is important for us to remember that the holiday seasons can be harmful to our pets.

We need to be on the look out for ingestion of ornaments and tinsel. These can cause GI blockages. Christmas lights can cause burns, possible electrocution, and also pets can get tangled in the wiring.

Other holiday items that we need to be on the watch for are candles and potpourris; below is a partial list of other potentially toxic items:

- Poinsettia
- Lilies
- Holly
- Mistletoe
- Alcohol
- Chocolate
- Grapes
- Snow globes
(Contain antifreeze)
- Christmas tree needles





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Specials

DENTAL SPECIAL – 25% off total procedure & free 15 count box of Oravet chews with dental.

SENIOR WELLNESS PANEL(\$220) – Pet must be 6 years of age or over , Senior Wellness Panel Includes: Exam, complete lab work, Intraocular pressure (IOP), complete urinalysis, and a blood pressure. This is a savings of \$80.00!

