

Lake Country Veterinary Care Newsletter



Nov. 2009

The Holidays are Here!

Once again we are nearing the end of the year and the big Holidays will be here before we know it. We would like to caution all our clients to keep particular holiday items away from pets. Cats are drawn to sparkly, quick moving objects. Things like ribbons, decorations, tinsel, hanging down things that they can bat at, are definitely not safe for a cat to play with. Everything seems to end up in their mouths and that can be deadly. They can also be "counter surfers", just like dogs. It is wise to keep high fat content, really delicious smelling food put away so they are not tempted to help themselves. It is hard to resist turkey and ham with all the fixins. Dogs also seem to be drawn to chocolate and baking chocolate can be lethal. It is very important to be really careful around the holidays and not too trusting that your pets will "leave it alone". Foods people may not be aware of that could adversely affect their pets include sugarless gum, nuts, especially macadamia nuts, onions, raisins, grapes and garlic. These may cause systemic problems as well as a host of digestive problems. Make sure all guests into your homes don't leave medications or their purses open for animals to get into. Many plants also cause toxicity in animals, for a complete list go to www.asPCA.org.

We would like to share some end-of-the year statistics with you that the lab we use has compiled for 2008. There were 39 positive cases of heartworm disease in Waukesha County. Leptospirosis has been in the news as a big concern lately. Leptospira are bacteria commonly found in contaminated drinking water but can also be shed from urine, saliva, or ingestion of infected tissue. Approximately 23% of dogs tested were positive. Although there are several strains, many dogs tested positive for several types. The first sign of a problem includes stiffness, fever, hypothermia, not eating, etc. It can lead to more severe problems and affect kidneys and liver. This mimics some other diseases and can be difficult to diagnose. We recommend an annual vaccine for Leptospirosis which will generally reduce any symptoms if your pet is exposed.

We would again like to mention we have received Canine Influenza vaccine and if you would like to schedule an appointment to have your dog vaccinated please do so. It is a series of 2 vaccines initially and then annually. It is very similar to the human vaccine and will greatly reduce symptoms if exposure occurs. We recommend any dog that comes in contact with other dogs outside their home environment have the vaccine. The virus can be shed before any symptoms are evident.

Thanks to all of our clients that have passed on towels and blankets to us. They keep the troops here very comfortable and are put to good use! We can always use them so feel free to donate your old one to us.

Help Others and Save

Holiday help (or any day help) is here.

We are supporting the Waukesha County food pantry and would encourage all of our clients to help us. For every 2 nonperishable food items donated, we will credit your account \$1.00 on services. Donations accepted 11/16/09 - 12/31/09.

We Appreciate Your Referrals!

A \$10 Credit will be added to your account for referring others to Lake Country Vet.
Thank you for your support!

Let's Talk About:

- ◆ Holiday Cautions
- ◆ End-of-Year Stats
- ◆ Canine Flu
- ◆ Thank You!!
- ◆ Food Drive

Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow.



Give Thanks for Our Animal Friends!