



FALL/WINTER EDITION

Fain & Smathers Veterinary Hospital., Inc.

2009

Holiday Household Hazards

Don't forget that the holidays and visitors can pose a special challenge to your pets. Discourage well-meaning guests from spoiling pets with extra treats or scraps from the dinner table. Fatty, rich or spicy foods can cause vomiting and diarrhea and lead to inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis). Poultry or other soft bones can splinter and damage your pet's mouth or esophagus.



While trick or treating is fun for children, it can be dangerous to pets. Halloween treats such as chocolate or candy sweetened with xylitol can make a harmful snack. Certain Halloween and Christmas decorations (especially tinsel, ribbons, and ornaments) also pose a hazard to pets so make sure nothing is left on the floor or on tables within reach.

String-like items can damage your pet's digestive tract and could prove fatal if not surgically removed. While poinsettia is not deadly as popular legend would have it, it could still cause an upset stomach if consumed. Christmas tree water treated with preservatives (including fertilizers) can also cause an upset stomach. Water that is allowed to stagnate in tree stands contains bacteria and if ingested can lead to nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.



Please visit our new website!!!

www.fainandsmathersvet.com

We are in the process of updating our hospital website. Please visit www.fainandsmathersvet.com for current hospital news and information regarding your pet's health. We welcome your comments so visit the "contact us" page to share your comments about our website with us!

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY FROM 8-12 AND 1-5
CLOSED FOR LUNCH
SATURDAY FROM 8-11:30
CLOSED ON ALL MAJOR HOLIDAYS

We offer a 24-hour emergency service to our clients. After-hours emergencies please call (409) 384-8731. The answering machine will give you a phone number to contact one of our on-call veterinarians.

Hospital points of interest

- *24-hour emergency service*
- *Walk-ins Welcome*
- *Covered large animal facility*
- *Indoor heat/air-conditioned runs*
- *Up-to-date anesthesia*
- *Blood profiles for your pets health and safety*
- *ECG and Ultrasound capabilities*
- *Radiograph capabilities*
- *Equine Center*

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The HOLIDAYS are a time for adding a new puppy or kitten to the family....

The Holiday Season brings about a special time to add a new, lovable, furry friend to the family. Here are some important points we would like for you to consider with picking out and bringing home the newest member of the family.



There are many different breeds to select from and not every breed may be the type of pet to fit your home. Please visit our web-site (www.fainandsmathersvet.com) under the "medical articles" section to see information about selecting a new pet (dog, cat, bird, rodent, etc.) for your household.

When purchasing a pure-bred puppy or kitten, it is good to buy from a reputable breeder. Previous deworming with the first set of shots is always a plus along with a veterinary health check. Some puppies from breeders will have already been to a licensed veterinarian for a health check, the first set of shots, and a fecal preformed. The breeder should give you that information with certification from the veterinarian and information of when the next shots, etc. are due. It is pertinent that you continue to booster your new puppy or kitten as directed by your veterinarian. Our hospital recommends 3-4 Distemper/Parvo boosters during puppy-hood and 2-3 Distemper/Leukemia boosters for kitten-hood. Rabies vaccinations are to only be given by a licensed veterinarian starting at the age of 12-weeks in our furry friends. Deworming and getting started on heartworm and flea/tick prevention is also very important.

If you have no history of vaccinations, etc. after purchasing your new family member, we recommend your first stop be to the veterinary office for a full health check, fecal, and beginning vaccinations. If you cannot make it by within a couple of days, we recommend separating the new family member from other household pets until a veterinary check can be performed so as not to spread potentially contagious/infectious diseases to your other family pets.

****Please Remember.....new family pets need vaccinations, booster shots, heartworm and flea preventative, and yearly check-ups. Having your pet on a monthly heartworm preventative is a cost-effective way to prevent intestinal worms (hooks, rounds and whips) as well as heartworms. A heartworm infestation is devastating to a pet's health and treatment is VERY costly compared to that of monthly preventative. Intestinal worms can be life-threatening as well so PREVENTION IS THE KEY!!!!



February is Dental Month at Fain & Smathers!!!

Dental disease is the most common illness encountered in veterinary medicine today and affects 9 out of 10 pets. Unfortunately, it is also the most untreated disease. Pets often go for years with painful gingivitis or even severe tooth root abscesses without noticeable clinical signs to the owner. Dental disease puts tremendous demands on your pet's organs, weakening the liver, kidneys and heart. This additional stress can lessen your pet's quality of life and shorten life expectancy.

After your pet has eaten a meal, plaque begins to accumulate on the teeth within four hours. This plaque is material consisting of bacteria, saliva, and food particles. The bacteria begins excreting toxins and enzymes that break down the gum tissue. As a result of this bacterial infection, the gumline becomes inflamed and you will notice a very foul-smelling odor from your pet's mouth.

Over time, if plaque is allowed to remain on your pet's teeth, it mineralizes into brown tartar that you can see. This tartar contributes to abscessed teeth, which must be extracted. Other serious medical problems may develop from the build-up of bacteria, which can be carried throughout your pet's system. Plaque and tartar accumulation can also lead to periodontal disease.

Signs of Dental Disease...

- **Bad breath**
- **Yellow or brown discolored teeth**
- **Red inflamed gums**
- **Loose or missing teeth**
- **Reluctance to play or chew toys**
- **Swelling around muzzle or jaw**

Cleaning your pet's teeth at our hospital involves:

1. **Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork:** Blood tests that detect major organ and metabolic abnormalities that may complicate the anesthetic procedure.
2. **Anesthetic Monitoring:** This includes monitoring of the heart, respiration and blood pressure.
3. **Anesthesia:** Inhalant gas anesthesia provides a safe and comfortable dental cleaning.
4. **Dental Scaling:** The process that removes the calculus and plaque from the tooth surface and below the gum line.
5. **Dental Polishing:** Necessary for finishing the scaling and cleaning process. Provides a smooth tooth surface after scaling and delays the reattachment of plaque causing bacteria.
6. **Pain Management:** Based on the needs of your pet and the procedure done.
7. **Extractions:** The health of each tooth is individually assessed and any tooth that is diseased should be extracted.
8. **Antibiotics:** Pets scheduled for dental cleanings will need to pick up antibiotics 2 days before their schedule anesthetic procedure.



Please schedule a consultation today with one of our veterinarians to review you pet's dental health and discuss a dental cleaning!!!! February is Dental Month at FSVet and a 10% discount on dental cleanings applies!!



Holiday Boarding for Your Pet

The Holiday Season always brings about time for travel to see family and friends. Sometimes it is not convenient for your furry friend to travel with your family. To provide better service to you and your pet, we provide indoor heated and air-conditioned runs and cages for your pets' comfort. While staying with us, your pet is given all the comforts of home....a warm bed, a full tummy, and lots of love and care.

Our full-time kennel staff spends the day with your pet making sure they get the TLC they deserve and need. All pets entering our boarding kennels are up-to-date on their vaccinations, on a heartworm preventative, and tested for internal parasites (intestinal parasites, as well as heartworms) within the past year to ensure your pets' health and safety. Pets with external parasites such as fleas or ticks must be treated before entering our boarding facilities.

Unlike a lot of boarding facilities, we take special care to make sure that your pet is in clean, dry, and deodorized runs or cages at all times. Remember, that boarding is not only for when you go out of town, but also for when the temperature is too hot or cold for your pet to safely stay outside.

If you have any questions about our boarding facility, would like a tour, or would just like to know how your pets does while boarding, please feel free to talk with one of our kennel staff at anytime.



Reserve Holiday Boarding
EARLY!!!



Please remember to reserve boarding times with our receptionists in advance (especially during Holidays). Thank you!!!

Pet Photos with SANTA!!!
Thursday, December 10, 2009
2-4p.m.

\$5.00/photo

Proceeds go to our hospital's NEEDY PET FUND

About the Needy Pet Fund:

Homeless or low-income pets are often presented to Fain & Smathers Veterinary Hospital in need of urgent care. These pets need medical or surgical care, but they have no owner at all or they have an owner who is not capable of providing for them at this time. We make every effort to help these pets in their time of need.



There is nothing harder than having a loving friend that becomes ill and owners having difficulty affording proper treatment. Veterinary medicine is unlike human medicine because insurance isn't the first form of payment in most circumstances. We are only able to help so much and the needy pet fund is a collection of funds from clients that is used to help those in need.

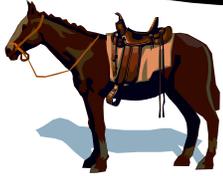
Also, to raise money for the NEEDY PET FUND we are raffling off a "GOODY/GIFT-filled" Box.

Tickets are \$1.00 each and can be purchased from one of our friendly receptionists
Raffle drawing to be held December 21.

The winner will be awarded all items in the box which include flea/tick preventative for up to 3 pets, heartworm preventative for up to 3 pets (provided they are current on heartworm preventative and yearly testing), fleece blankets, science diet dog/cat food, water/food bowls, lots of dog & cat toys, and MORE!!!!!!

We're on the Web

www.fainandsmathersvet.com



- **Horses NEED DENTALS, TOO!!!** - Is your horse loosing feed when chewing? Is your horse losing weight? - Schedule a consultation, exam and teeth floating for your Equine friend today!
- **Internal parasites** can be a real problem in large animals. It's a good idea to check a fecal on horses or show animals yearly, but especially if they are loosing weight or those that have a abnormally loose stool.

- Do you have a show heifer or steer with scurs or horns? Schedule a **Cosmetic Dehorn** with our receptionists today.
- Our veterinarians are available for **out-calls**. Please schedule to have your herd vaccinated or horses tube-wormed with an out-call appointment through one of our friendly receptionists.
- It's show season. Be sure you are watching your goat carefully. Goats fed high potency diets are susceptible to **urolithiasis** (stones/blockage). If you suspect your goat is blocked, this is a medical emergency and you should call us immediately.
- Don't let your show **pig's cough** get serious. If he/she is coughing consult us for an exam and proper treatment as soon as possible.



Arrival of Foal Season.....



Winter and early Spring are prime times of the year for foaling. While most mares have normal deliveries, it is still crucial to keep a close eye on a pregnant mare.

If a mare is in labor and pushes with no results for greater than 30 minutes, she may be having difficulties and veterinary care may be warranted.

A mare that does not pass her placenta within 30 minutes after birth of a foal is considered to have a retained placenta. If the placenta has not passed within 12 hours, the mare's life could be in danger due to toxemia. This is considered a medical emergency. If you notice a retained placenta in your mare, call us early on....do not wait until the crucial period.

A foal should receive colostrum within the first 2 to 4 hours of life. If longer periods persist, the foal could develop a failure of passive transfer and could be subject to a number of detrimental consequences. Veterinary care is essential if your new foal is not nursing his mother.

Many different disorders of the early equine neonate will be manifested by similar clinical signs. If any abnormalities are observed, the foal should be attended to immediately as deterioration of the general condition and metabolic status occurs at a very rapid rate in newborn foals. Some of the early clinical signs include a decreased suckle reflex, decreased appetite, mild lethargy, and dehydration. Following these signs the foal can develop subnormal temperature, depression, breathing abnormalities, hypotension and increased heart rate, diarrhea, colic, and pale or bright red mucous membranes. If you notice your newborn foal is not thriving as well as it should, please contact us immediately. Once foals get too far in a disease process, it can be very difficult to save their lives.

We recommend that every foal have a tetanus antitoxin within the first 24 hours of life. If he/she does not pass a stool within this time, an enema may be necessary as well.

Also be sure that your mare is up to date on vaccinations and deworming. She also needs to be on a high quality feed (mare/foal diet or a brood-mare diet) and a vitamin supplement to help her retain her condition during lactation and raising the foal. —Dr. Lindsay Syler