

Lakewood Animal Hospital



Pet Gazette



Spring 2017

"OUR PERFECT COMPANIONS NEVER HAVE FEWER THAN FOUR FEET."

COLETTE

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5 Strange Facts about Parasites

By Robert R. Hase Jr. DVM
Courtesy of DVM360

Indoor cats *can* get worms

Did you know? Fifteen percent of plant potting soil contains hookworm or roundworm eggs, or both, according to a study in the *Veterinary Record* (Feb. 18, 2006). Cats can also get tapeworms from eating infected fleas. Adult fleas can be infected with the tapeworm cyst and when ingested and then digested, the cyst matures into the adult tapeworm and attaches to the gut. Once mature, the segments break loose and pass in the stool, which is usually what you see in the stool. A piece of "dried rice" found in the hairs around the anal area is usually a dried tapeworm segment and another sign of infection.

Your dog *can't* give you pinworms

Dogs don't get pinworms. Humans get highly contagious pinworms from other people. Pet rabbits or horses can be infected with pinworms, but even those pinworms are species-specific.

Just because you don't see them, doesn't mean parasites aren't there

So you might think, "I don't see any worms in my pet's stool so (a) my pet does not have

worms and (b) my pet doesn't need to be checked for worms." Nothing could be farther from the truth. Regular stool exams are necessary to uncover these uncomfortable passengers.

Pets don't carry bedbugs or lice

You have a better chance of winning the lottery before that would happen! Bedbugs are an environmental problem and are extremely unlikely to infect a cat or dog. For head lice or crab lice, transmission is strictly human to human.

Roaches, aside from being creepy, are carriers of worms

Cockroaches are a source of parasites for cats and indoor dogs. *Physaloptera spp.* (the stomach worm) comes from ingesting the roach—gross! Roundworm eggs can be found on the surface of the roach where they are ingested while pets play with the roach or eat it. Some research also indicates that feline asthma may be associated with cockroach debris.

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Laugh it off!

Take time to smile today

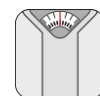
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CATS, CARRIERS AND VETS: TIPS ON MAKING IT EASIER TO GET YOUR CAT TO THE VET

By Dr. Ariana Anderson

Courtesy of veterinarypartner.com

Many cats are fearful of car rides and veterinary visits, which makes it harder for us to give them good medical care. It also makes it difficult for cat owners to decide to take their nervous cats to the veterinarian for routine care and may delay an examination for an illness.

Cats can be trained to be much more comfortable with their carriers, cars, and the veterinary clinic. It takes a little preparation and patience, but will greatly improve your cat's comfort level and your veterinarian's ability to care for your pet. Here are some tips and links that will help you to help your cat!

The steps to improved carrier behavior:

1. **Start carrier training as young as possible.** Starting when they are kittens teaches your pet that the carrier is just another fun hiding place or play area rather than a confined punishment space. Carriers that load from the top or especially those that come apart in the middle are helpful, as veterinarians can then take the top off and start their examination with the cat comfortably sitting in the bottom. Put the carrier in a room that the cat likes to be in, perhaps in a sunny location, with a soft piece of bedding, to encourage exploration and voluntary use.
2. **Encourage daily entry.** Every day, put a piece of kibble or a treat in the carrier. When the cat eats it, calmly praise or pet him, and give him a few more treats. If the cat doesn't take the treat right away, just walk away; if you try to persuade him, he will become suspicious! It may take a few days, but he should start to eat the treats, although maybe when you are not watching.
3. **Gradually close the door.** Once the cat happily goes into the carrier when you are around, gently close the door, give a treat, and open the door so that the cat does not feel trapped.
4. **Extend the door-closure period.** After several days of this, leave the door closed and walk out of the room for a few seconds before returning and giving another treat. Gradually work up to carrying the carrier to a different place in the house.
5. **Begin car rides.** Over days to weeks, move on to placing the carrier in the car, then short car rides, then a ride to your veterinary clinic for a treat and petting from staff, if your cat is comfortable with petting. If at any point your cat becomes nervous and you see crouching, ears back, etc., go back a step and give treats until your cat is more comfortable with that level.
6. **Cover the carrier when traveling.** When you start taking the carrier in the car, place a towel over it; cats usually feel safer this way.
7. **Add toys, treats or bedding into the carrier.** If your cat has favorite toys, treats, bedding, or brushes, bring them to the clinic when you visit (both for training visits and an actual exam). This will give your cat more familiar things that he associates with good feelings.
8. **Consider using Feliway, a pheromonal anti-anxiety spray, just before traveling.** When the time for the examination arrives, the routine will be familiar and your cat will be much more comfortable. With especially nervous or suspicious cats, Feliway can help with the initial training period as well.

Some cats, despite your best efforts, still become scared of confinement or travel. In such instances, additional anti-anxiety medications might be prescribed by your veterinarian to help alleviate the stress.

No Bones about It: Bones are Unsafe for Your dog

By Federal Drug Administration
Courtesy of veterinarypartner.com

You've just finished a big weekend family dinner and you are wondering what to do with the bones from the ham and roast, when in trots your big black Labrador Retriever. It's hard to resist those longing, puppy-dog eyes. Your veterinarian has told you it's a bad idea to give bones to your dog, but you've done so in the past with no harm done.

What to do?

Pet Illnesses Reported

"Some people think it's OK to give dogs large bones to chew on" says Carmela Stamper, a veterinarian in the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). "But giving your dog a bone might lead to an unexpected trip to your veterinarian, a possible emergency surgery, or even death for your pet."

FDA has received about 35 reports of pet illnesses related to bone treats and seven reports of product problems, such as bones shattering when pulled from their packaging. The reports, sent in by pet owners and veterinarians, involved about 45 dogs.

A variety of commercially-available bone treats for dogs—including treats described as "Ham Bones," "Pork Femur Bones," "Rib Bones," and "Smokey Knuckle Bones"—were listed in the reports. Many of these products differ from uncooked butcher-type bones because they are processed and packaged for sale as dog treats. The products may be dried through a smoking process or by baking, and may contain other ingredients such as preservatives, seasonings, and smoke flavorings.

Pet owners and veterinarians have reported the following illnesses in dogs that have eaten bone treats:

Gastrointestinal obstruction (blockage in the digestive tract)

Choking

Cuts and wounds in the mouth or on the tonsils

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Bleeding from the rectum

Death. Approximately eight dogs reportedly died after eating a bone treat.

Things You Can Do

Remember that your dog can pick up bones while out on a walk. He could also get into the kitchen trash and eat bones that you may have thrown away. Talk with your veterinarian about other toys or treats that are most appropriate for your dog," says Stamper. "There are many available products made with different materials for dogs to chew on."

"We recommend supervising your dog with any chew toy or treat, especially one she hasn't had before," adds Stamper. "And if she 'just isn't acting right,' call your veterinarian right away!"

To report a problem with a pet food or treat, please visit FDA's Web page on "How to Report a Pet Food Complaint" or call CVM at 240-402-7002.

This article appears on FDA's Consumer Updates page, which features the latest on all FDA-regulated products.





“OWNERS OF DOGS WILL HAVE NOTICED THAT, IF YOU PROVIDE THEM WITH FOOD AND WATER AND SHELTER AND AFFECTION, THEY WILL THINK YOU ARE GOD. WHEREAS OWNERS OF CATS ARE COMPELLED TO REALIZE THAT, IF YOU PROVIDE THEM WITH FOOD AND WATER AND SHELTER AND AFFECTION, THEY DRAW THE CONCLUSION THAT *THEY ARE GODS.*”

Christopher Hitchens

Your pet needs your help

Show your favorite pet how much you love her by teaming up with your veterinarian to get her to a healthier weight.

By Ernie Ward DVM

Courtesy of DVM360

How do I know Fluffy's a little too, er, "fluffy?"

- You have difficulty feeling your cat or dog's ribs
- Your pet has a sagging stomach, and you can grab a handful of fat
- Your pet has a broad, flat back and no visible waist

Confirm your suspicions with your veterinarian. You might feel guilty—even defensive—but the bottom line is that you're a great pet parent for asking the question.

What if the fat looks fine to me?

The problem is, a couple pounds to a dog or cat is a lot. For example, the ideal body weight for most cats is 8 to 10 pounds. If that cat was a 5'4" adult female, she'd weigh a healthy 108 to 145 pounds. However, if a cat weighs 14 pounds, its 5'4" human equivalent would now be more than 200 pounds. And just like with humans, extra weight causes disease like arthritis, diabetes, pancreatitis and high blood pressure.

How do I help my pet get healthier?

What can you do to help your pet shed the extra weight and decrease its risk for serious conditions? Your veterinary team can help—ask them!

Don't worry. A weight management plan doesn't have to be complicated—or costly—and there are ways to make slimming down seem like the best thing ever to your pet. Here are four ways to keep your pet happy with healthier eats and play:

Don't cut out treats. Ask your veterinarian to recommend a healthy way to treat your pet like with extra attention (that's what they really want, right?) or a veterinarian-approved single-ingredient snack. Believe it or not, most dogs love baby carrots, broccoli, celery, and cucumbers—even asparagus.

Make eating fun—and burn calories. Use food puzzles and other toys, or hide small bowls of food around the house.

Go play. Take walks and play fetch with your pet—get out there and get moving!

Laugh it off!

"A Canadian psychologist is selling a video that teaches you how to test your dog's IQ. Here's how it works: If you spend \$12.99 for the video, your dog is smarter than you."

Jay Leno

"We've begun to long for the pitter-patter of little feet, so we bought a dog. It's cheaper, and you get more feet."

Rita Rudner

A zookeeper is ordering new animals. As he fills out the forms, he types "two mongeese." That doesn't look right, so he tries "two mungoose," then "two mongooses." Giving up, he types, "One mungoose, and while you're at it, send another one."

Poodle: "My life is a mess. My owner is mean, my girlfriend is leaving me for a German Shepherd, and I'm nervous as a cat."

Collie: "Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" Poodle: "I can't. I'm not allowed on the couch."

A horse walks into a bar. The bartender says, "Hey." The horse says, "You read my mind, buddy."

No bugs on me!

Spring Raffle 2017



Many pet owners believe that there's no reason to use parasite preventatives during the colder months. Others simply get a bit lax when they're not *seeing* as many bugs in the yard. At Lakewood Animal Hospital, we stress the importance of consistent year-round parasite preventative use. We see cats and dogs with flea infestations **all year long** in Locust Grove! Prevention is easier on you and your pets and less expensive than treating your pets and your home after the problem sets in.

We're partnering with the great people at **Merial** to add a little incentive and encourage pet owners to use effective parasite preventatives!

Through the months of April and May, we will have a **raffle** with some amazing prizes for those who purchase **Heartgard, Nexgard, Frontline Gold** or **Revolution!** Clients will receive tickets based on the amount of product purchased. Participants could win a **Yeti cooler**, a **Yeti travel mug**, or a **Yeti thermos!**



When you purchase **Heartgard, Nexgard, Revolution** or **Frontline Gold***:

- 6 pack of a single product = 1 ticket
- 12 pack of a single product = 3 tickets



This summer, enjoy the great outdoors with an awesome Yeti product and your pets -- confident that they're protected from those nasty parasites while you're camping, hiking, whatever!



Heartgard, Nexgard and Revolution are prescription medications; we require that pets be current on their wellness exam with the doctor (within the last year). Heartgard or canine Revolution can only be purchased if the pet has a valid heartworm test on file. Frontline Gold is an OTC product without restrictions.