

Pet Gazette



Lakewood Animal Hospital

Summer, 2016

Announcements

- We have launched our new online pharmacy, VetSource. You can access our online pharmacy by going to our website, www.lakewoodanimalhospital.org and clicking on the button on the lower right column. It looks like this...



Inside this issue:

Announcements	1
Did Ya Know?	1
Does My Cat Really Need an FVRCP?	2
Grain-Free Food	3
Heartgard App	4
Summer Tips	4

Once you are on the VetSource website, you can register for an account. You can browse items and pricing before signing up. Please call us if you need assistance or have any questions.
540.972.2203

DID YA KNOW?

- * At age one; dogs have the same level of physical development that humans have at age 15.
- * Cat's rough tongues enable them to clean themselves efficiently and to lick clean an animal bone.
- * If your cat's eyes are closed, it's not necessarily because it's tired. A sign of closed eyes means your cat is happy and pleased.
- * A single elephant tooth can weigh as much as 9 pounds!
- * Dogs have better eyesight than humans, although not as colorful.

Just for laughs!

- Why was the cat sitting by the computer?
To keep an eye on the mouse!
- How do fleas travel from place to place?
They itch hike!



DOES MY CAT REALLY NEED AN FVRCP VACCINATION?

The FVRCP vaccination is an important part of your cat's routine. It prevents three potentially deadly viruses: rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia.

Rhinotracheitis is triggered by the common feline herpes virus. Symptoms include sneezing, a runny nose, and drooling. Your cat's eyes may become crusted with mucous, and he or she may sleep much more and eat less than normal. If left untreated this disease can cause dehydration, starvation, and even death.

Calicivirus has similar symptoms, affecting the respiratory system and also causing ulcers in the mouth. It can progress to pneumonia. Kittens and seniors are especially vulnerable.



Panleukopenia is also known as distemper and is easily spread from one cat to another. Distemper is so common that nearly all cats—regardless of breed or living conditions—will be exposed to it in their lifetime. It's especially common in kittens who have not yet been vaccinated against it, and symptoms include fever, vomiting and bloody diarrhea. This disease progresses rapidly and requires immediate medical attention. Without intervention, a cat can die within 12 hours of contracting the disease.

These three viruses can be contracted by cats at any age. Kittens should receive their first FVRCP vaccination at 6 to 8 weeks of age, followed by a booster every three weeks until 16 weeks of age. Adult cats should receive a booster once every three years. Adult cats with unknown vaccination records should receive a FVRCP vaccination, plus a booster three weeks later.

Rarely a cat may contract a disease from the vaccine or experience a side effect such as fever or vomiting. These instances are an exception, and for the vast majority of cats FVRCP is a safe and effective vaccination.

Whole Grains, No Grain -- Ouch! My Brain Hurts!

The Facts About Grains in Pet Food

Amy Olson, DVM

We frequently discuss pet nutrition with owners and we have noticed that the marketing strategies of some food manufacturers are working! In trying to do what is best for their pet(s), many people are feeding grain-free foods these days. Some are shocked to learn that we don't recommend that for all pets. In fact, the Olsons have never fed a grain-free food to any of their own pets. We want to share some facts about grains in pet food. This article comes from the Cummings Veterinary Medical Center at Tufts University where veterinarians who specialize in nutrition have put together a wonderful Clinical Nutrition website based on science instead of marketing. Happy reading!

FAQ: "My friend says that grains are bad for dogs; is she correct?"

Whole grains, rather than being fillers, contribute valuable nutrients (including vitamins, minerals, essential fatty acids and fiber) to diets while helping to keep the fat and calories lower than if animal products were used in their place. Even refined grains such as white rice can have beneficial healthy implications depending on the type of client and the pet. The vast majority of dogs (and cats!) are very efficient at digesting and utilizing nutrients from grains. While some dogs are allergic to specific grains, these allergies are no more common than allergies to animal proteins such as chicken, beef and dairy, and tend to reflect the prevalence of the ingredient in commercial diets rather than enhanced antigenicity.

It is becoming more common in the saturated pet food market for manufacturers to perpetuate myths to sell diets and increase market share. Grain-free diets are often an example of this strategy. Many of these diets merely substitute highly refined starches such as those from potatoes or tapioca (cassava) in place of grains. These ingredients often provide fewer nutrients and less fiber than whole grains, while costing more."

Feeding a quality diet is one of the best ways to keep your pets healthy, but it can be hard to know what to feed when you are standing in the pet food aisle at your local store. If you have any questions about what to feed your pets, please give us a call.

"Frequently Asked Questions about General Pet Nutrition". *Cummings Veterinary Medical Center at Tufts University - Clinical Nutrition Service*. Retrieved from vet.tufts.edu/nutrition/faq/frequently-asked-questions-about-general-pet-nutrition (June 9, 2016)





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A HEARTGARD APP FOR YOUR SMARTPHONE

Do you ever forget to give your pets their monthly heartworm preventatives? We do!

That's why we're excited to inform you about the Heartgard application for your smart phone. Just download the app from your app store. The app will send you a monthly reminder.

You can also sign up for monthly reminders at www.heartgard.com. Choose the "Easy To Give" tab at top of page and Merial will send you an email message every 30 days to remind you to give the Heartgard.

Free of charge! Easy peasy!



Enjoy your summer!

Tips to Keep Your Pets Cool this Summer!

- *Do not ever leave pets unattended in a car, even with a window cracked!*
- *Beat the sun! Play and walk outdoors early or later in the day when the sun is lower in the sky. If your pets are outside during the day, provide shaded areas for them to rest.*
- *Keep plenty of water available at all times!*
- *Dogs pant to keep themselves cool. Cats sweat through their paws.*
- *If you have a brachycephalic dog (Bulldog, Boston or Pug) keep them indoors except for short potty breaks on cool days in the shade.*