



Chalet Veterinary Clinic Newsletter - Vol 3 Issue #1 Spring © CVC 2011

CVC Newsletter Spring 2011

Tips for your Healthy Pets !

Why are physical examinations important for your puppy or kitten ?

When you first get a puppy or kitten, it is important to set up a visit with your veterinarian. Not only can he or she get your pet started on a vaccine protocol to protect them against viruses, but their overall health can be discussed as well.

Can you remember when you got your first pet? You most likely had a lot of questions. Your veterinarian can help you determine an adequate feeding ration for your growing puppy or kitten. This is important for your pet in order to maintain a healthy weight. They can also answer your questions regarding housebreaking and training tips, since our staff has extensive experience with raising their own pets. They will always be willing to find the answer for you.



With your first visit, please bring a stool sample. It is important that we run a fecal check to determine if your pet has any internal parasites. Some parasites can cause minor inconveniences like diarrhea,

while others can be more dangerous to a pet's health. Curious children and lack of hygiene skills can make humans susceptible to contracting roundworms, hookworms, and giardia from their pets. With a simple fecal flotation, your veterinarian can detect and treat parasites early in your puppy or kitten's life, giving

you peace of mind that your pet and your family are safe.

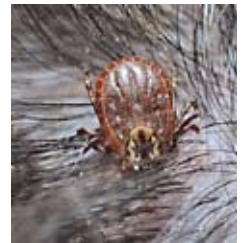
Another benefit of physical examinations is that your veterinarian can check for any congenital defects that your pet might

have, such as umbilical hernias and heart murmurs. These both need to be assessed in order to determine whether they are of significance to your pet's health, and will need to be closely monitored while they grow.

So although vaccines and spaying / neutering is what usually comes to mind when you first get a puppy or kitten, remember it is important to have the first check-up soon after you get your pet to evaluate these important health factors. This will give your puppy or kitten a great start on health and well-being for the future.

Why is my pet itching, scratching, licking, and chewing so much at themselves?

Is your dog or cat keeping you up at night itching and licking their paws constantly? Although this might bother you, imagine how your pet feels.



There can be numerous medical causes for this that need to be tended to.

Allergies can prompt your pet to have



such behaviors, either due to food or environmental triggers. Pollen and mold are two common environmental factors. Inhaling these can make the skin become irritated and uncomfortable, so the only relief your pet gets is from itching and licking. A blood test can help determine if your pet is reacting to outdoor allergens. The most common trigger for animals with a food allergy is the protein source, such as beef, poultry, or even lamb. A trial of a prescription diet can rule this out.

Animals with outdoor allergies may get relief from their symptoms in the cooler months to come, but during this time if you notice flaking or dander and your pet continually scratching, they might suffer from dry skin. At times it can be from a lack of fatty acids in their diet. After consulting with your veterinarian, you can decide if it would be beneficial to supplement your pet's diet with these essential fatty acids.

At times, if you notice that your pet is scratching or licking at themselves and there are small red dots apparent on their skin, it could be allergies. However, it could also signify that your pet's body is not producing enough thyroid hormone or putting out too much cortisol, leading to skin infection and irritation.

It is even possible that pets can suffer from obsessive compulsive disorder that is related to boredom or anxiety. In response to this psychological upset, they can lick and chew at themselves and cause damage to their skin.

Lastly, parasites are always kept in the back of one's mind when these behaviors are present. Fleas, ticks, and mites can

cause these symptoms as well. Although you can see ticks, fleas often go undetected until there are a large number of them living on your pet and in your house. Mites are microscopic, so only your veterinarian can determine if your pet suffers from these nasty little bugs.

Despite the variety of reasons why your pet might be keeping you up at night, know that when you see these symptoms persist, you should give your veterinarian a call. Often with a physical exam, he or she can rule out probable causes and determine which one your pet might be suffering from.

Staff member profile – Dr. Amy Horn-Delzer

Dr. Amy Horn-Delzer grew up on a dairy farm in central Wisconsin where she rescued baby bunnies and nursed sick kittens back to life. As she grew older, her responsibilities changed into raising calves, milking, and feeding cows. Along with the daily chores, Amy was actively involved in 4-H and FFA where she showed dairy, beef, and dogs.

College was never a question in Amy's mind and she knew from the qualities instilled in her at a young age of caring for animals that she wanted to pursue a career in Animal Science. She attended the University of Wisconsin-River Falls majoring in Animal Science while fulfilling her requirements for veterinary school. After three years of undergraduate studies, Amy took an internship opportunity at Solvey Labs in Charles City, IA helping to develop swine biologics. After this, she entered veterinary school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Upon graduation, Amy took a job at the Waconia Veterinary Clinic in Waconia, MN while her husband finished his PhD at the University of Minnesota. There, she practiced mixed animal routine and emergency medicine and surgery. Upon completion of her husband's schooling, he was looking to stay within the Corn Belt for his career. In turn, Amy wanted to stay close to the dairy industry, so they moved



back to their home state of Wisconsin.

Amy and her family moved to Edgerton where Dr. Johnson happened to service a dairy farm next door. He saw her truck and knocked on her door and she ended up landing a job here at Chalet in 1992. She primarily practices large animal medicine, but you might see her on an emergency basis with your pets as well. She enjoys her fellow staff members and the clients she works with. She is also thankful that she has the ability to practice veterinary medicine part time while raising her family.

In her rare spare time, Amy enjoys baking, reading, sewing, quilting, and gardening. She raises laying hens and meat birds and just harvested her first crop of honey from her bees. She also is president of the Edgerton School Board, leads the Sunday School choir at her church, and directs the AWANA Girls Club. If that couldn't be enough to keep her busy already, she also took up long distance running. Amy shares these interests with her husband of 21 years, Brent, and four children- Hannah (18), Clark (16), Michaela (12), and Grant (10). Her critters include a goofy 18-month-old chocolate lab named Tori, her 3 cats- Elmer, Nanny, and Max, and her flock of 27 hens.