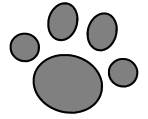


LIBERTY VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Paw Prints Monthly

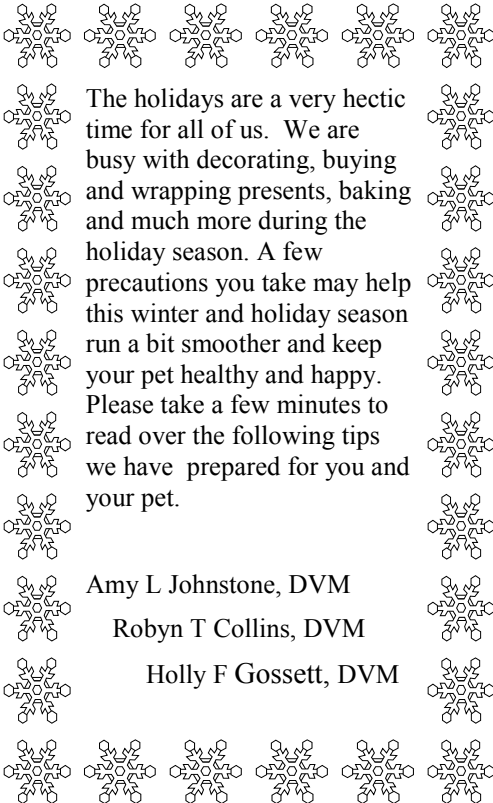


December 2009

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Liberty Veterinary Hospital strives to create a state-of-the-art pet care facility that meets all of our clients' & pets' needs from nutritional supplies, boarding and grooming to the highest level of medical and surgical care. Because our team can only be as good as the sum of its parts, we nurture and educate our staff so that we may all provide uncompromising service, compassion, kindness and caring for each patient as a member

DECEMBER IS COLD WEATHER AND HOLIDAY SAFETY MONTH



The holidays are a very hectic time for all of us. We are busy with decorating, buying and wrapping presents, baking and much more during the holiday season. A few precautions you take may help this winter and holiday season run a bit smoother and keep your pet healthy and happy. Please take a few minutes to read over the following tips we have prepared for you and your pet.

Amy L Johnstone, DVM

Robyn T Collins, DVM

Holly F Gossett, DVM

Visit Our Website
www.libvethosp.com

OUR HOURS:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. 7:30am - 7pm

Wed 7:30am - 6pm

Sat 8:00am - 2pm

Sun Closed

Did You Know ...

- We offer dog obedience class referrals
- We offer full grooming, boarding and surgical services
- We offer massage and rehabilitation therapy
- We offer **free** educational seminars
- We really look forward to visiting with you and your pet!



Winter is a season of bitter cold and numbing wetness. Help your pets remain happy and healthy during the colder months by following these simple guidelines.

Don't leave dogs outdoors when the temperature drops. Most dogs, and all cats, are safer indoors, except when taken out for exercise. Regardless of the season, short haired, very young or old dogs and *all* cats should never be left outside without supervision. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks.

No matter what the temperature, wind chill can threaten a pet's life. A dog or cat is happiest and healthiest when kept indoors. If your dog is an outdoor dog, however, he/she must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his/her body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.

Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm takes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls rather than metal. When the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.

Warm car engines attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe the feet with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates his/her mouth.

Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that may attract animals and children. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze (and all household chemicals) out of reach. Better yet, use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol; if swallowed in small amounts, it will not hurt pets, wildlife, or your family.

Probably the best prescription for winter's woes is to keep your dog or cat inside with you and your family. The happiest dogs are those who are taken out frequently for walks and exercise but kept inside the rest of the time. Dogs and cats are social animals who crave human companionship. Your animal companions deserve to live indoors with you and your family.

Adapted from the HSUS.org website

Gifts for your cat

- Feline greenies
- Cat collars
- Royal Canin treats
- Hypoallergenic treats
- Aquadent

Gifts for your dog

- Tuffy toys
- Reflex leashes and collars
- Hextra Chews
- Gentle lead collars
- K9 travel bowls
- Iams tarter treats
- Hypoallergenic treats
- Veggie dent chews
- Slicker brush
- Aquadent

Gifts for the pet lovers in your life

- Prevent dog problems book
- Candle for car (air freshener)
- Car magnets
- Pet odor candles (lots of scents!)
- Pill pockets
- Nail clippers
- Pill cutter
- Toothpaste and brushes
- Iams premium protection K9
- Shampoos
- Conditioners
- Red dingo tags
- Oravet home kit
- Pet hair rollers

And don't forget— LVH offers Gift Certificates in the denomination of your choice!



Holiday Pet Hazards

While you are busy making your festive plans for Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas, please don't forget to include your pets. The holidays are a time for giving, but there are some things you should not share with your little best friends. Once you know the hazards, a little precaution and prevention will make holidays a happy time for everyone.

Some of the more common holiday hazards include:

Bones: The holiday turkey or chicken will leave a lot of tantalizing bones, but don't feed them to your pet. Beware of steak bones, too. Small bones or bone chips can lodge in the throat, stomach, and intestinal tract.

Fat: Those wonderful potato latkes (watch the hot oil!), gravies, and poultry skin can cause severe gastrointestinal upset as well.

Holiday plants: Holly and mistletoe are extremely

poisonous when eaten. The lovely poinsettia may not be truly poisonous, but its milky white sap and leaves can certainly cause severe gastric distress. With so many hybrid varieties available each year, the best approach is to keep all plants out of your pet's reach.

Electrical cords: Holiday lights mean more electrical cords for kittens and puppies to chew. Be sure you have cords secured and out of the way.

Candles: Lighted candles should never be left unattended and that is even more important if left at kitty's eye level or within puppy's chewing zone. An exuberant tail, a swat of a paw, and candles and hot wax can quickly become disastrous. Anchor candles securely and away from curious faces and feet.

Pine needles: Check around holiday trees and boughs frequently. Ingested pine needles can puncture your pet's intestines if sharp enough.

Holiday tree: Make sure your tree is well secured. If you have a tree-climbing cat or large dog with a happy tail, anchor the top of the tree to the wall, using strong cord or rope. Preservatives often used in the water in a tree stand can cause gastric upsets, so be sure it is inaccessible or not used. Avoid sugar and aspirin additives in the water as well.

Ornaments: Sharp or breakable ornaments, dreidels, and even aluminum foil should be kept out of reach. String objects, especially tinsel and ribbons, are to be safeguarded at all costs. They are thin and sharp and can wrap around intestines or ball up in the stomach.

Stress and company: With everyone coming and going, watch out for open doors and sneaky pets. Make sure your pets wear collars and tags and have been microchipped in case of escape. Ask guests to keep an eye out for pets under foot and remind them that sometimes your normally friendly dog or cat may be less than willing to deal with enthusiastic children and rooms full of unfamiliar people. Provide a special quiet place

with a blanket and fresh water for your pets to retreat to when the festivities get too stressful.

Travel Before traveling with your pets, make sure they have all required vaccinations and health papers. If they are on medications, have enough to last through the trip.

When traveling by air, be aware of airline restrictions regarding outside temperature and number of animals allowed per flight. Someone may have already booked a pet, and there are no more allowed. Check with the airline reservations or travel agent for their requirements well in advance, giving you ample time to obtain the necessary paperwork.

If you have travel plans and are unable to bring your pets with you, remember Liberty Vet offers boarding to our clients. Call us for

