

December Newsletter



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December 2011

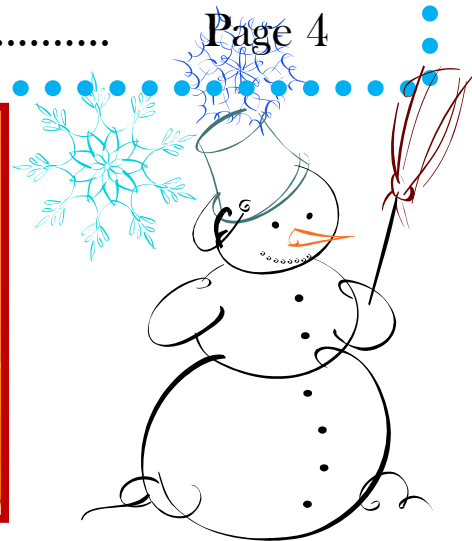
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HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon.-Fri.: 8:00am-12:00pm
1:00pm- 5:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am-12:00pm
Sunday: Closed

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HOLIDAY SPECIAL

December 1-January 31st

**35% OFF
Dog & Cat
Spays & Neuters!**

Call for Pricing! (541) 567-6086
Appointments Required.

Pop Quiz Question:

A human has about 206 bones in their body, how many does a cat have?



**Pet of
the
Month**

"Dolly"

GIVING PETS AS GIFTS: CONSIDER THE CHOICE CAREFULLY

When the holiday season is upon us and the flurry of shopping takes over, we might be tempted to get a pet for someone on our list.

Pets can bring joy and companionship into someone's life, but they are also a responsibility. They require time, energy, and money in order to be cared for properly.

It is important to remember that the main reason animals are abandoned or taken to shelters is because they are unwanted.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING BEFORE GIVING A PET AS A GIFT

- Does the person want a pet?
- Can the person afford a pet? Ongoing expenses for a pet include: food, bedding, litter, leash, toys, licenses, grooming, regular and emergency veterinary care, and, possibly, pet insurance. The ASPCA estimates the annual cost for these items at \$580 per year for a small dog, \$875 per year for a large dog, and \$670 per year for a cat. Of that amount, annual veterinary expenses can range from about \$190 for a cat to \$350 for a dog.
- Does the person have room for a pet? If you are thinking about giving a dog, does the recipient have a fenced yard?
- Does the person have time to properly train and care for a pet?
- Is the person allergic to animals?
- Is the recipient allowed to have a pet in their home? Will they have to pay a pet deposit?
- Will the person have to make a drastic lifestyle change to accommodate the pet?
- Does the recipient have the time to properly care for a pet? Average time required for minimum daily care can range from 30 to 60 minutes for a cat to 1 hour or more for a dog.
- Are they ready to care for a new pet during the cold, wet winter months? During cold weather, puppies and kittens should not be left outside for extended periods and should not sleep outside. Pets that live primarily outside require proper care and shelter from the elements.

THE BEST HOME FOR A PET IS A HOME FOR LIFE

If, after giving much thought to these questions, you still think a pet would make a good fit, consider doing some research to find out which animal might make the best pet for that person.

Also, consider waiting until after the holiday rush so that you can take the person with you to pick out the pet. Your recipient will get the pet he or she wants, and the animal will go home to a much more welcome and calm environment.

Talk with your veterinarian if you have any questions about getting someone you know a pet as a holiday gift.

Holiday Tips

GUESTS & STRESS

Pets can become overexcited, confused or frightened by holiday guests. Keep pets in a quiet part of the house. When guests are over, watch for open doors and make sure your pets have ID tags and/or microchips in case they do get out. Remind your guests that your normally friendly pet may want to be left alone.

The holidays can be a stressful time for everyone, even your pets. Even though your routine might change, try to keep your pets on their normal routine of feeding and exercise.

THE NEW PET

Holidays are not the best time to introduce a new pet to the household. All the excitement, noise and deviation from the normal routine could make it difficult for a new pet—and any existing pets—to make the adjustment.

LEFTOVERS

Don't feed your pet holiday turkey or chicken, as the small bones or fragments can lodge in the throat, stomach, or intestinal tract. Fatty leftovers such as turkey skin can trigger inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis), a life threatening disease. At the very least, too much human food may give your pet an upset stomach.



FOOD, ALCOHOL, CHOCOLATE & TREATS

CANDY

Keep holiday treats and candies out of your pet's reach as they can make your pet quite sick. Candy wrappers can cause digestive upset if eaten.

FRUITCAKE

Holiday fruitcake with ingredients such as grapes, raisins, currants and alcohol should be kept away from pets.

ALCOHOL

Because alcohol is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream, it affects pets quickly. Ingestion of alcohol can cause dangerous drops in blood sugar, blood pressure and body temperature. Intoxicated animals can experience seizures and respiratory failure.

CHOCOLATE

Chocolate, particularly unsweetened, dark, bittersweet and baking chocolate, can be toxic to pets, especially dogs, who are more prone to eat it. If your dog eats chocolate, call [your veterinarian](#) or an [animal poison control center](#) immediately, as treatment may need to be rendered immediately. Symptoms of toxicity include excitement, nervousness, trembling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst or urination, muscle spasms and seizures.

XYLITOL

Keep gum, candy or breath fresheners containing the sweetener xylitol away from your dog. When a dog eats even a small amount of xylitol, it causes a surge of insulin, and the animal's blood sugar may drop quickly and dangerously. Cases of liver damage have also been associated with ingestion of xylitol. If your dog ingest xylitol, contact [your veterinarian](#) or an [animal poison control center](#) immediately.

OTHER FOODS

Potentially harmful foods include: coffee grounds, tea, alcohol, hops, salt, onions and onion powder, grapes and raisins, avocado, garlic, and macadamia nuts.



CHRISTMAS TREE

Make sure your tree is well secured. Avoid adding preservatives, aspirin or sugar to your tree's water, or keep the water covered. Tidy up around your tree and wreaths as sharp pine needles can puncture your pet if ingested.

HOLLY

The spiny and leathery leaves of Christmas or English holly can result in significant damage to the stomach and intestines of dogs and cats. The holly's berries have mildly toxic properties, but are fairly tolerable in most pets.

MISTLETOE & POINSETTIA

While not toxic, American mistletoe leaves/berries and poinsettia plants can cause gastrointestinal upset if eaten.



February National Pet Dental Health Month!

15% OFF

Dog & Cat DENTALS!



Pop Quiz Answer: A cat has more than 230 bones in their body compared to humans who only have about 206.



Whippet



Breed Spotlight

A medium-sized sight hound giving the appearance of elegance and fitness, the Whippet denotes great speed, power and balance. In fact, the Whippet, an English Greyhound in miniature, is the fastest domesticated animal of his weight, capable of speeds up to 35 m.p.h. A very versatile breed, they can appear in a wide variety of colors and markings. Although keen when racing or coursing, they are quiet and dignified in their owner's living room.

A Look Back

Having evolved for over a hundred years, it was not until 1891 that official recognition was given to the Whippet by the English Kennel Club. Used for racing early on, the breed was nicknamed "the poor man's racehorse." Whippets were first brought to America by English mill operators of Massachusetts, which for many years was the center of Whippet racing in this country. Later the sport moved south to Maryland, particularly in Baltimore.

Right Breed for You?

The Whippet is a natural athlete and needs regular exercise. As with any breed it is also important that the Whippet has proper nutrition, vaccinations, and regular veterinary visits. Whippets are particularly well adapted for human companionship and make excellent house dogs.



Rachelle

Ashley

Happy Holidays from Dr. Burgess & Staff

Gen

Alicia