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Centreville Animal Hospital Newsletter

www.CentrevilleAnimalHosp.com

"Helping you Experience the Unconditional Love"

Centreville Animal Hospital

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News and Views

Helpful hint for tick removal Spring will be here soon and the ticks will soon be showing their heads. Here is a good way to get them off you, your children, or your pets. Give it a try. A School Nurse has written the info below -- good enough to share -- And it really works!!

I had a pediatrician tell me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great, because it works in those places where it's sometimes difficult to get to with tweezers: between toes, in the middle of a head full of dark hair, etc.

Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20), the tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away.

This technique has worked every time I've used it (and that was frequently), and it's much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me.

Unless someone is allergic to soap, I can't see that this would be damaging in any way. I even had my doctor's wife call me for advice because she had one stuck to her back and she couldn't reach it with tweezers. She used this method and immediately called me back to say, "It worked!"

Poison Control 2008 Report In 2008, the ASPCA's Poison Control Center received more than 140,000 telephone calls concerning household pets that had been exposed to toxic substances. Following is a list of the ten poisons most frequently handled by the center last year.

#1. Human Medications: prescription and OTC drugs such as pain killers, cold medications, antidepressants, and dietary supplements.



#2. Insecticides: most commonly involving the misuse of flea and tick products. And using dog only products on cats.

#3. Human food: consumption of such foods as grapes, raisins, avocados, certain citrus fruits and chocolate.

#4. Rodenticides: ingestion of rat or mouse poisons.

#5. Veterinary medications: formulated for animals, but incorrectly dispensed by owners to their pets.

#6. Plants: too numerous to write all of them down and regional differences also.

#7. Chemical hazards:

#8. Household cleaners:

#9. Heavy metals: and

#10. Fertilizer.

All of the above could be prevented by a little more care by all of us in and around our home. (www.dogwatchnewsletter.com) Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Accreditation for Online Veterinary Pharmacies. Ordering products online is more the norm than buying at a location with bricks and mortar. Pet supplies, drugs, and products are included in this trend. How do you know if a retailer you are searching for your pet's needs is reliable? The Association of Boards of Pharmacy plans to extend its VIPPS (Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites) seal-of approval to retailers that meet the association's highest standards. Veterinary Internet pharmacies that have met and exceeded these standards will have a seal-of-approval ("Vet-VIPPS" with a little paw print) visible on their web page. If the site does not have this seal-of-approval, ask them to provide you with proof that the company has met and exceeded these pharmacy standards. If they can't produce that for you I highly recommend to shop elsewhere. The approval is not easy to obtain and to maintain but it is the best source of confidence you and I have to obtain exactly what we order to keep our pet's healthy.

Equally important the web site, www.nabp.net has a feature of "Not Recommended" rogue retailers of both human and animal medications. This list is unbelievable! They do list reliable pharmacies for us to purchase products from with confidence. Cornell University Dog Watch Vol. 13, No. 6 June 2009

Rabies In Skunks A report in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA) (Vol. 234, No. 5) warns us about rabies and this species' habits when the disease affects a particular skunk. "Typical behaviors of rabid skunks were entering dog pens, appearing outside during daytime, and attacking pets." Although this article dealt with skunks in Texas, the mentioned abnormal behaviors are present in Fairfax County skunks. Our accurate answer to an inquiry about a client telling us they see a skunk in the daytime anywhere is that it must be



considered to have rabies first before any other concern. Please call the non emergency police phone number, 703-691-2131, to have animal control officers trap and remove the skunk from your community.

Saving Pets From Fire Network

Dr. Jim Humphries, Veterinary News

Fire is a very scary thing! We use controlled fires to heat our water, cook our meals and power our cities, but for most people, fire is a wild, ravaging beast. And, despite educational programs that start in pre-school, every year more than three thousand people die in house fires. Sadly, those who survive a house fire often lose cherished four-legged family members to the smoke and flames.

According to the US Fire Administration's website (www.usfa.dhs.gov), more than 1.7 million uncontrolled fires occur annually in the US. The Fire Administration does not keep tally, but other groups have estimated that more than 500,000 pets are killed by house fires each year. Why are we so good at saving human lives, but our pets seem to perish?

One potential answer is the presence of smoke alarms in our homes. For more than 30 years, laws have required the presence of these life-saving devices in any home or apartment. In fact, the Public/Private Fire Safety Council has called for an elimination of residential fire deaths by the year 2020 and smoke alarms figure prominently in their plan. But the high pitched alarm that saves so many human lives is not helpful for saving our pets.

We all realize that it's time to evacuate when the alarm sounds, but our pets don't know that. Worse yet, the unknown sound could scare a pet into hiding, increasing our own risk for harm as we search for the missing kitty or pup.

And, the sad fact is that many pets will die in house fires because they are unable to get out of the home. This often happens when the family is away. Rescue personnel are frequently unaware of pets needing help.

The heroic efforts of firefighters may save some pets from the flames, but damage from smoke or carbon monoxide inhalation can overwhelm many. Life-saving equipment, such as oxygen masks, is usually designed for people meaning some animals may die enroute to the veterinarian.

Fortunately, many diverse groups are working to improve the survival chances of pets caught in fires. Many concerned groups, from alarm



monitoring companies, like ADT Security, to local veterinarians and humane organizations are looking to save the half a million pets lost each year.

As with many tragedies, preventing the occurrence is the best first step. Pet owners are urged to “pet proof” their home and look for potential fire hazards. Always extinguish open flames before leaving your home and consider keeping younger puppies and kittens confined to prevent them from accidentally starting a fire.

Firefighters are trained to look for window alert signs and make attempts to save pets. These “window clings” are often available from the American Kennel Club or visit ADT’s website (www.adt.com) to obtain a free one. Beyond using the signs, you should always update them as new pets arrive in your family!

If you return home to a burning building, you should not attempt to enter, trying save your pets! This is difficult but you need to let the professionals do their job and rescue your animals.

As mentioned, working smoke alarms are helpful to the humans, but if you aren’t there to hear the alarm, your pets could be trapped inside. According to Bob Tucker, PR Director of ADT Security, pet owners should consider monitored smoke detection services as an extra precaution. By alerting the fire department more quickly, these services increase the chances that your pets will get out safely.

Finally, due to the efforts of local veterinarians and animal volunteers, many rescue services across the nation now have access to “animal-appropriate” oxygen masks. These devices help deliver life-saving oxygen more effectively and will increase the chance of your pet’s survival. Other veterinarians teach courses on effective animal CPR techniques to first responders.

Saving pets from the horrors of fire will be easier thanks to dedicated fire fighting professionals, alarm companies, veterinarians and humane organizations all working together.

We welcome your comments and concerns because, in the end, we share a common goal: Happy and contented pets that are members of your family for a very long time.