

## Protocol Update for Prescription Medications

New information update for our clients who purchase controlled prescription medications for their pet(s). In January 2021, all veterinary clinics are required by law to follow guidelines to address the opioid crisis in our country. When your pet requires a controlled or monitored substance, we will be required to record your date of birth, your driver's license number, and your signature when you pick up that medication. If you send someone else to pick up the product for you - they will be required to give us that information as well.

Retail pharmacies have been recording this data for years and the scope of coverage has now increased to include veterinary clinics. We apologize for any inconvenience to you as we collect all of the required data and signatures, but these changes are a necessary part of our daily operations now.

Because of these guidelines and additional reporting requirements we are having to follow - controlled substance prescriptions are going to take longer to get filled for your pet. Please allow at least 24 hours for us to complete these for you.



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Or Current Resident

## Keeping your Cat Busy in the Winter Months

If your cat is indoor/outdoor, winter months can lead to a decrease in activity. But it is important to keep our cats busy. This helps avoid weight gain and keeps them from getting into trouble.

- Food puzzles will slow your pet's eating and mentally stimulate them as they try to determine to get their food/treats out of it.
- There are a variety of toys on the market that will appeal to your cat's hunting drive.
- If you are looking for something low cost, think about using the trusty cardboard box and/or paper bags (remove any handles).
- Turn on "kitty tv" or put up a bird feeder for entertainment.
- Cat's love vertical spaces. Consider installing raised walk paths or perches around the house and having a couple cat trees for them as well.
- Finally, remember to incorporate daily play time. Encourage play and activity with a variety of toys that encourage stalking, chasing, pouncing, and kicking.



New Year  
2021

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Call us Message us Directions

vet2pet App

Send us your email  
to receive  
reminders and  
newsletters  
digitally.

## What is the FVRCP Vaccine?

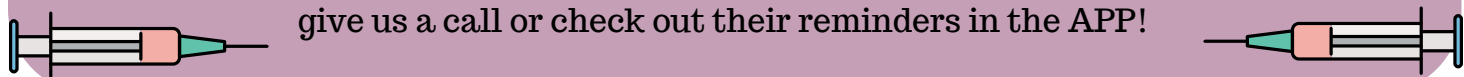
While the name may be hard to remember with all the letters, the FVRCP is a very important vaccine that your kitty needs, whether they stay indoors or have outdoor access. The vaccine protects against 3 highly contagious diseases.

**FVR** - Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis is caused by a herpes virus. Symptoms include lethargy, sneezing, and conjunctivitis, while severe cases may also result in corneal ulcers and pneumonia.

**C** - Feline Calicivirus is also an upper respiratory infection, but commonly produces ulcers in the mouth, especially on the tongue. Sometimes temporary lameness is noted as well.

**P** - Feline Panleukopenia is caused by the feline parvovirus. The bone marrow is attacked, and the white blood cell level is lessened, creating vulnerability to severe infections. It also affects the intestinal tract, causing severe diarrhea.

There are no cures for any of these 3 viruses. We are only able to treat the symptoms that cats develop. Thankfully, the FVRCP vaccine prevents these diseases. Kittens should receive the vaccine at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age. Adult cats should also receive boosters throughout their lives. If you are unsure of your pet's vaccine status, please give us a call or check out their reminders in the APP!



## Old Age Isn't a Disease

While pets certainly have mental and physical changes as they age, old age itself is not a disease.

Some say "you can't teach an old dog new tricks"; however, older pets can be trained quite easily. Older pets have longer attention spans which leads to faster learning. Having new things to learn and do will actually benefit their overall health. Many things can help with mental stimulation: toys, puzzle toys, slow feeders, even taking a different route while walking.

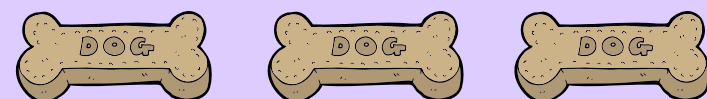
Senior pet foods are also extremely important. Older pets really do have different dietary needs than their younger counterparts. But before you just reach for the first senior diet that you see, asks us if there is anything particular you should look for to attend to your pet's specific health needs and activity level.

Age definitely plays a factor in your pet's physical abilities and appearance, but old age alone doesn't cause sudden weight loss, decreased appetite, dramatic hair loss, or changes in bathroom behavior. Any number of illnesses are likely the real culprit. If you see any of these abnormalities in your pet, contact us immediately. Early diagnosis and treatment/management is the key to a better quality of life for your aging furry family member.

## Ingredients

- 1 cup natural creamy peanut butter
  - NO xylitol!
- 3/4 cup nonfat milk
- 1 large egg
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1/3 cup oats
- 2-3 strips cooked bacon, chopped

## Homemade Peanut Butter and Bacon Dog Treats



## Directions

1. Heat oven to 325 F.
2. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside.
3. Mix all ingredients into a large bowl using your hands, as dough will be thick.
4. Use a rolling pin to roll dough out to 1/4-inch thick.
5. Cut out shapes with cookie cutters, transfer to baking sheets, and bake for 18-20 minutes.
6. When bottoms are lightly browned, flip treats over, then bake for another 10-12 minutes.
7. Remove from oven and let treats cool completely before serving.
8. Treats can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature or in the refrigerator for up to one week.

## Your Dog's Nose Knows!

Your dog's sense of smell is 50 times greater than yours! That's why they are so good at sniffing out treats! Make sure to treat your dog's nose with the respect it deserves.

Monitor for extreme dryness, flakiness, scabs, sores, or redness which could potentially indicate a problem. If your dog has been eating from a plastic bowl and you notice changes in the texture, dryness, or color of the nose, try switching to a stainless-steel dog bowl which is less likely to harbor any harmful bacteria. If the nose is excessively dry, nose balms can help keep the nose in tip top shape.

## Is Milk OK for Kitties?

In general, the answer is no. Although we traditionally think of a cat sitting over a bowl of milk, lapping it up, the truth is that most cats are actually lactose intolerant.

Very young cats and kittens do better with milk because they have the lactase enzyme to be able to fully digest the milk. Normally by 6 months old, cats lose their ability to produce this enzyme, meaning that dairy products can cause some stomach upset, cramps and even diarrhea.

There is commercial cat milk available if you would like to offer a nice treat to your pet that is easily digestible for them.