



180 Sagamore Parkway W
West Lafayette, Indiana 47906

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAFAYETTE, IN
PERMIT # 488 ZIP
CODE 47905

Or Current Resident

Current topics in this issue >>>

Wise Internet Research
Human meds bad for pets
Pet mental fitness
Easter Hazards
Heartworm Testing
Low Stress Feline Visits



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page!

Some human medications are poisonous to pets

Nearly 50% of the poisoning cases managed by Pet Poison Helpline involve human medications—both over-the-counter and prescription drugs. Our cats are just as likely to get into the medication as our dogs. Sometimes the mishap comes from the pet chewing open the bottle or “cleaning up” the pills we may have spilled on the floor. Other times the ingestion happens when individuals try to home-medicate. In all cases, awareness is key; so if your pet eats any of these medications, call us or the emergency clinic immediately. Check out our blog post on this topic for more information.

- Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs
- Acetaminophen
- Antidepressants
- ADHD Medications
- Albuterol
- Estrogen based drugs

6 Helpful Tips for Using Google Wisely

Everyone uses the internet for research on a new topic. We do to! But there are a few things to remember when using the internet to ensure that you are getting safe and accurate information.

1. The most accurate places to search are .org, .edu, and .gov sites.
2. Find more than one article from various reputable sources. High-quality material has citations of original studies or other articles.
3. Be skeptical of any advice that tells you your veterinarian is doing something to hurt your pet.
4. Beware of catchy captions and info that feels like a tabloid headline.
5. Veterinarians, bound to uphold professional standards and have reputations at stake, are less likely to jeopardize their medical licenses by spreading untrue rumors or recommending unneeded services.
6. Call us if you have a question about something found on the web! We're happy to explain why we make the recommendations that we do.

Maintaining your pet's mental fitness

Dogs

- Take your dog to new places with you. The sights, smells, and noises stimulate their brain.
- Play interactive games with your dog. Puzzle toys and hide and seek are great!
- Teach your dog a new trick or command. It can boost your dog's confidence and can help increase focus and impulse control!

Cats

- Try hiding your cats food in a new place. Helps them use their hunting instincts to find it.
- Close a small box and cut holes in the sides, place treats inside so that your cat has to use their paws to get them out
- Fetch is not just for dogs! It is another great way to stimulate your cats hunting and pouncing instincts.

Low Stress Kitty Visits - yes, they do exist!

There are several things we can do to help our feline friends have less stressful visits.

First is making the carrier a friendlier place. *Leave it out all the time *Put in their favorite toy or blanket *Use the carrier as their meal location *Give treats in the carrier *Hard carriers with removable tops are preferable for ease and comfort.

Pheromone spray helps to calm the situation with some cats. We carry the Feliway spray and diffuser.

In some situations, medications are the key! We have some calming medications in stock now that have proven very useful. They make our kitty patients calm and receptive to our touches, without sedating them so much that they are unaware of what is going on.

If you have a stressed kitty, please don't hesitate to give us a call to discuss which one(s) of these options will be best for you!

Easter Hazards!

- Chocolate - although yummy to us, it can be extremely toxic to pets
- Plastic Easter Grass - it is non-digestible and can become lodged in the stomach or intestines, requiring emergency surgery.
- Plants - keep an eye out especially for lilies, but many others can cause toxicities. www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants
- Fertilizers/Herbicides - most of us start gardening around Easter; be aware that these products are dangerous if consumed!

Don't forget to download The Creekside App!

3 reasons to do an Annual Heartworm Test

Even if you faithfully give your pet heartworm prevention year round, we still recommend annual testing. Here's why!

1. Protection Limits - preventions kill the heartworm larva while they're still young. Any lapse in prevention allows the worms to get too old for the prevention to kill.
2. Testing Limits - because of the complexity of the heartworm lifecycle, it is possible for your pet to test negative while still having heartworms; that next years test is imperative to confirm negativity.
3. Insurance - prevention manufactures guarantee their product only when it has been bought from a veterinarian, given as labeled, and if testing has been done annually. If those 3 requirements are met and your pet comes up positive, the company will at minimum cover the cost of treatment.