

How to Protect Your Pet in Cold Weather

- **Use Pet-Safe Antifreeze** - Antifreeze has a sweet smell that attracts animals and can cause kidney failure and death if ingested. Use pet-safe antifreeze, dispose of old antifreeze properly, and clean up any spills immediately.
- **Monitor Your Pet's Paws and Pads** - To prevent irritation from frozen surfaces, rock salt, and ice-melting chemicals, clean your pet's paws after each walk, apply petroleum jelly or pet-sized boots, and remove any snow or ice clumps. Check your pet's paws frequently on snowy or icy days to avoid irritation or frostbite.
- **Limit Outside Time on Freezing Cold Days** - On very cold days, pets require extra protection. Dog houses don't provide enough insulation, so bring them indoors instead. Consider a sweater for short-haired, hairless, old, young, frail, or sick pets.
- **Ensure Your Pet Wears Tags** - During winter, searching for lost pets can be difficult and dangerous, so it's important to put an ID tag on your pet's collar. Tags can help reunite lost pets with their owners faster than relying solely on microchips, as not everyone has the tools to read them.
- **Protect Your Pet from Indoor Hazards** - To protect pets from potential fire hazards, enclose them with a baby gate, keep kerosene heaters away, and use battery-operated flameless candles.
- **Don't Leave Your Pet in a Cold Car** - The ASPCA recommends taking pets with you or leaving them at home if you'll be away from your car for more than 10 minutes in winter, as cars can act as refrigerators and hold in the cold.



Animal Hospital & Wellness Center

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Or Current Resident

Health Certificates

If you plan to travel with your pet, especially to another country, it is likely that you will need a health certificate. This is issued by a licensed veterinarian after a thorough examination of your pet. The certificate includes information about your pet's vaccination history, certification that your pet is free from contagious disease, and any other required information depending on the destination country (such as a rabies titer),

Health certificate requirements vary depending on the country you are traveling to. It is important to do your research ahead of time and confirm you have all the needed documentation as well as enough time to complete all requirements, as some steps take several weeks. To prepare, visit <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel> to find out your specific requirements.

Laparoscopic Spay

A laparoscopic spay is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that we can use to sterilize large breed female dogs. It involves making small incisions in the abdomen and inserting a laparoscope, which is a small, flexible instrument with a camera, to visualize the reproductive organs. This process allows the veterinarian to examine the dog's reproductive organs without the need for a large incision. The veterinarian then uses specialized instruments to remove the ovaries.

Compared to traditional spaying methods, the laparoscopic method has several advantages. It results in less pain, discomfort, and scarring, and allows for a faster recovery time. Overall, the laparoscopic technique is a safe and effective option for pet owners who want to spay their female dogs. Give us a call to discuss the procedure and to decide if it is the right choice for your dog.



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New Year
2024



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email to receive
reminders and
newsletters
digitally.

Diagnostic Testing for your Pet's Health

To ensure optimal health for your pet, a comprehensive physical examination and a thorough medical history can help identify any areas of concern. Early disease detection is crucial and can lead to a more positive outcome. Diagnostic tests, such as blood tests, may be recommended to help identify any potential issues. However, not all blood tests are the same.

A basic wellness blood test is used for animals perceived to be healthy and may be recommended prior to a general anesthesia or to establish "normal" values in a pet. More extensive blood tests are used for ill or geriatric patients. Blood tests evaluate two main components: the first component evaluates organs such as the liver, kidneys, pancreas, and thyroid. The second component checks for changes in an animal's red/white cell and platelet counts. Lower counts or anemias can be identified, while an elevated white blood cell count may provide evidence of infection or an inflammatory process.

Diagnostic tests may point us in a direction to choose appropriate further testing, or may indirectly hint at the cause of a pet's illness. In some cases, these tests may not give us answers, but rather rule things out. A urinalysis is another valuable diagnostic tool that quickly identifies underlying health issues and can support a diagnosis of diabetes or kidney disease.

Our wellness panels also include fecal testing to rule out intestinal parasites as well as a blood test to detect the presence of heartworms or tick borne diseases.

Benefits of Pet Insurance

Pet insurance can be a lifesaver for pet owners who want to manage the cost of veterinary care. It's designed to provide financial coverage for unexpected veterinary expenses arising from illness, injury, or accidents.

Typically, pet insurance policies cover a wide range of services, including diagnostic tests, surgeries, hospitalization, and medications. Some policies may even include routine care, like annual check-ups and vaccinations.

However, before purchasing a policy, it's important to review the policy's terms and conditions. Be sure to check the coverage limits, deductibles, and exclusions. Additionally, choosing a reputable insurance provider with a proven track record of paying out claims in a timely and fair manner is crucial.

Pet insurance provides peace of mind for pet owners, ensuring they are financially prepared for any unexpected health issues that may arise with their furry companions.

Update Microchip Information

It's essential to keep your pet's microchip information up to date to ensure a quick reunion if they are lost. Be sure to review and update your information regularly, including all your current contact details and an emergency contact.

If you're unsure where your pet's chip is registered, bring your pet in to be scanned, and we can identify which company holds the registration. Then, update your information and be assured that your pet is safe.

Feline Urinary Obstruction

Feline urinary obstruction is a condition that occurs when a cat is unable to empty its bladder. This can be due to a variety of factors, including bladder stones, urinary tract infections, or tumors. The condition is most common in male cats, as their urethra is longer and narrower than in female cats.

Symptoms of feline urinary obstruction can include: straining to urinate, frequent trips to the litter box, and vocalizing while trying to urinate. If left untreated, the condition can become life-threatening, as the buildup of urine in the bladder can lead to kidney failure and even death.

Treatment for feline urinary obstruction typically involves catheterization to remove the blockage, as well as medication to manage pain and prevent further blockages from forming. In some cases, surgery may be necessary to remove bladder stones or correct abnormalities in the urinary tract.

Preventing feline urinary obstruction involves ensuring your cat has access to plenty of fresh water, feeding a high-quality diet, and providing regular veterinary care. Owner of male cats should monitor their urinary habits closely.

If you notice any symptoms of urinary obstruction in your cat, it is important to seek veterinary attention immediately. Early detection and treatment can greatly improve the cat's chances of recovery.



Lyme Disease



Lyme disease affects not only humans, but also our furry friends.

Dogs can contract the disease through tick bites. Symptoms of the disease in dogs include fever, lethargy, joint pain, and loss of appetite. If left untreated, it can lead to severe conditions, such as kidney damage and heart problems. Pet owners should regularly examine their dogs for ticks and seek veterinary attention if they notice any signs of Lyme disease.

Prevention measures such as tick repellents and vaccines are also available to help protect dogs from this potentially dangerous illness.

Give us a call to discuss which prevention methods are best suited to your lifestyle.

What is a VCPR?

A valid veterinary client-patient relationship (VCPR) is an essential component of veterinary medicine. It is a legal agreement between a veterinarian and their client, which outlines the professional responsibilities of both parties in providing quality medical care for the animal. This VCPR is what legally permits our veterinarians to prescribe medications and preventions for your pet. In order to establish a VCPR, the veterinarian must examine the animal in person, have sufficient knowledge of the animal's health, and maintain regular communication with the client. This relationship is important because it ensures that the veterinarian has a full understanding of the animal's medical history and current health status, allowing them to make informed decisions about the animal's care. It also provides a framework for clear communication between the veterinarian and the client, which can help to prevent misunderstandings and ensure that the animal receives the best possible care. Overall, a valid VCPR is essential for providing high-quality veterinary care and ensuring the well-being of animals.