



Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

"We'll treat your pet like family!"

Newsletter

April – June 2010

A Cat's Guide – Training Your Human

1. CHAIRS AND RUGS:

If you have to throw up, get into a chair quickly. If you cannot manage in time, get to an Oriental rug. If no Oriental rug is available, shag is good.

2. DOORS:

Do not allow closed doors in any room. To get a door opened, stand on hind legs and hammer with forepaws. Once door is opened, it is not necessary to use it.

After you have ordered an outside door opened, stand halfway in and out and think about several things. This is particularly important during very cold weather, rain, snow, and mosquito season.

3. GUESTS:

Quickly determine which guest hates cats the most. Sit on that human's lap. If possible, arrange to have "Friskies Fish n' Glop" on your breath.

For sitting on laps or rubbing against clothing, select fabric color which contrasts well with your fur. For example: white furred cats go to black wool clothing.

For the guest who claims, "I love kitties," be ready with aloof disdain; apply claws to stockings or use a quick nip on the ankle.

When walking among the dishes on the dinner table, be prepared to look surprised and hurt when scolded. The idea is to convey, "But you always allow me on the table when company isn't here."

Always accompany guests to the bathroom. It isn't necessary to do anything. Just sit and stare.

4. WORK:

If one of your humans is sewing or writing and another is idle, stay with the busy one. This is called helping, otherwise known as hampering. Following are the rules for hampering:

A. When supervising cooking, sit just behind the left heel of the cook. You can't be seen and thereby stand a better chance of being stepped on, picked up and consoled.

B. For book readers, get in close under the chin, between the human's eyes and the book, unless you can lie across the book itself. If it is a news paper, claw at it until shredded. Your human will appreciate a home-made toy!

C. For knitting projects, curl up quietly onto the lap of the knitter and pretend to doze. Occasionally reach out and slap the knitting needles or split yarn. The knitter may try to distract you with a scrap ball of yarn. Remember, the aim is to hamper work.

5. PLAY:

It is important. Get enough sleep in the day time so you are fresh for playing catch mouse or king-o-the-hill on their bed between 2am and 4am. It is important though to maintain one's dignity at all times. If you should have an accident during play, such as falling off a chair, immediately wash a part of your body as if to say "I MEANT to do that!" It fools those humans every time. Within paper bags dwell the Bag Mice. They are small and camouflaged to be the same color as the bag, so they are hard to see. But you can easily hear the crinkling noises they make as they scurry around the bag. Anything, up to and including shredding the bag, can be done to kill them.

MOST IMPORTANT: Begin people training early. You will then have a smooth- running household. Humans need to know basic rules. They can be taught if you start early and are consistent.

Mudd Volleyball

It's that time of year again...the time of year when the Funkstown Hellcats get down and dirty for the Washington County Community Free Clinic!



Join us on Saturday July 17th at Citigroup for the annual Mudd Volleyball Tournament. The tournament begins at 9:00 a.m. lasting until there is just one team standing. This is our 9th year

participating in this annual fundraiser. We will gladly be accepting donations and we always love having a cheering section the day of the event.

The community free clinic hosts over 16,000 patient visits from working Washington County residents who do not have insurance every year. They dispense 36,000 prescription medications yearly with a value of over \$2.9 million dollars. According to the

Census Bureau reports, the number of US citizens that are uninsured number 47 million, an almost 5% increase from 2005. The community free clinic is not a government funded organization and therefore relies heavily on their fundraisers throughout the year.

We beseech you to open your hearts and wallets to help us support such a worthy cause. Please feel free to drop off your donation at any time. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

CRITTER'S CHRONICLE



*“We all know that
the best way to
get healthy is. . .”*

Obesity –

As the last of the snow melts away and the tiny plants peak their heads through the thawing soil we all breathe a big sigh of relief. Just as we do, our pets can suffer detrimental effects from the winter; most notably extra pounds! We are all guilty of it....over indulging during the holidays, less exercise (because let's face it, who wants to be outside in sub zero temperatures), eating because there is nothing better to do. Sound familiar? Our pets are subject to the same problems...extra treats (maybe some turkey or a piece of pumpkin pie), less exercise, and eating because it's there.

Now is the time to get out of those nasty habits and get your pet (and possibly yourself) back in shape! We all know that the best way to get healthy is to eat better and exercise more. Your dog is the perfect exercise partner because not only is he/she always ready when you are, but he/she can also be a great motivator. You don't have to wait for the gym to open because your dog will be ready and willing at a moment's notice. Some things as simple as playing fetch or taking a walk can reap spectacular benefits for both of you; not to mention strengthening your bond with each other.

But of course there is the issue of overeating. Studies show that 25-30% of dogs and 40% cats are overweight or obese. An animal is considered obese when it is more than 25% over its ideal body weight. Our doctors can help you determine what a healthy weight for your individual pet would be. So some things to consider when it comes to feeding your pet: How much are you feeding? How often are you feeding? What brand of food are they getting? How active is your pet? What life stage is your pet in? What breed is your pet? How many treats are you AND your family giving per day? What kind of treats are they? So let's explore some of these questions and their importance.

1. How much are you feeding? This is important to know because you should be feeding according to what your pet should weigh not necessarily what they currently weigh. For instance if your pet is 20 pounds but should weigh 15, feed according to the recommendations for a 15 pound pet. If you are thinking, "Well I only feed Rover a cup of food a day." I want you to now think: Is it an actual measured cup or a Big Gulp cup from the convenience store? This makes a huge difference. Most pet food bags will give you recommended guidelines according to your pet's weight. So the first thing you need to do is make sure your cup or ½ cup is actually that.

2. How often are you feeding your pet? Some possible responses may be "He's got food down all the time" or "I feed him

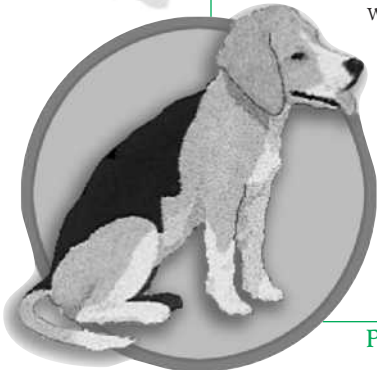
whenever he is hungry." I cannot stress enough the necessity of meal feeding, meaning certain times the pet is fed. This does go along with the amount as well. For instance if your pet should get 1 cup of food per day it is a good idea to split that up into at least 2 meals, ½ cup each, per day. Any excess causes an increase in calories and therefore extra weight. If you are not currently feeding your pet meals, a good way to begin is to decide how much your pet should be getting per day and then decide how many meals you are going to feed and divide it up accordingly. Now when meal time comes, place the allotted amount of food in your pet's bowl and allow him/her 15 minutes to eat. Whatever is left over after 15 minutes is taken away. At the next meal time, repeat the same steps. Your pet will catch on, probably rather quickly, that they need to eat when food is offered. This will eliminate the problem of eating out of boredom.

3. What brand of food is your pet eating? For a more in depth look at brands and how to read food labels, visit our website at www.funkstownvet.com. Depending on the quality of the pet food will depend on the amount of actual nutrition your pet is receiving. A lot of lesser quality brands use fillers which in turn causes increased stool production and less benefit for the pet.

4. How active is your pet and what life stage is your pet in? These 2 questions go hand in hand. Younger animals (who are normally more active) will need a higher calorie food whereas older animals who do not exercise as much will need less calories as a rule. However if you have an older animal who is still very active, perhaps doing agility or such they will need a food with higher calories and protein as well. ALL puppies and kittens should be on a high quality puppy or kitten food. An adult animal should be placed on an appropriate diet: Adult active, adult indoor, a light food if needed, etc. Senior pets should be on a senior diet; yes there is such a thing. We would be glad to discuss your pet's nutrition needs with you.

5. What breed is your pet? Obviously a Chihuahua and a Great Dane are very different and as such they have different nutritional needs. Most pet foods, at least the better quality ones, make foods specifically for small, medium, and large breed dogs.

6. How many treats are you AND your family feeding per day & what kinds of treats are you feeding? You may be thinking "I only give 2 treats a day" but perhaps the other 4 members of your family do the same. So while you are only giving 2 treats in reality your pet is getting 8! Limiting treats is a simple and effective way of reducing calories. It is difficult to break habits when it comes to treats so a way to get around giving extra treats is to instead give a portion of your pet's daily allowance of food. Keep it in a special "treat jar" and give it at treat time instead of other treats. More often



“It has a sharper personality and is a tougher breed than”



than not the pet just wants your attention not the treat itself.

One of the most important things you can do is get everyone who comes in contact with your pet on board with your weight loss goals. This includes your immediate family, your veterinary staff, the groomer, and even the bank teller! Simply explain to everyone that you have committed yourself to keeping your pet healthy by maintaining an ideal weight.

If all other efforts fail, there are prescription diets that your pet can be prescribed that can assist with weight loss. We will be happy to help you in any way that we can.

Breed All About It –



The Chesapeake Bay Retriever is similar in form and function to the Curly Coated Retriever. Its origins can be traced back to the small water dogs of Newfoundland but there is also English or Irish Water Spaniel, or English Otterhound blood in its history. Its eyes are wide set and the ears are small, set well up on the head and hang loosely. Its short thick hair is wavy, not curly and its medium length tail has slight feathering.

The Chesapeake Bay Retriever is used not only along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay but also in Canada, Scandinavia, and Great Britain. It has a sharper personality and is a tougher breed than the Labrador Retriever but is gentle with children and cordial to strangers. It excels at retrieving game and would prefer a country setting.

In general its weight ranges from 55-75 pounds, it stands 21-26 inches tall and has a life expectancy of 12 to 13 years. The colors for the Chesapeake Bay Retriever are straw, red-gold, and brown. These beautiful dogs work well as water fowl retrievers or the family dog.

Kitten Kindergarten –

Calling all kittens...you and your family are invited to attend our 2 part kitten kindergarten. The first class will be held on Tuesday April 6th with the second class being the following Tuesday April 13th both beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what is really behind your kitten scratching your furniture? Or maybe what the different little sounds or body gestures they make mean. Would you like to teach your kitten how to sit or come? Don't laugh because it can be done.

These classes are a wonderful opportunity to socialize your kitten as well as learn some tricks of the trade to owning a kitten. Please R.S.V.P. by April 4th if you are planning on attending. See you there!

Calendar of Events –

April –

Tuesday April 6th –

Part 1 of Kitten Kindergarten – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday April 7th – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Tuesday April 13th –

Part 2 of Kitten Kindergarten – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday April 14th – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Saturday April 17th –

MS Walk at Antietam National Battlefield

Wednesday April 21st – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday April 28th – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

May –

Sunday May 2nd – Saturday May 8th –
National Pet Week

Wednesday May 5th – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday May 12th – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday May 19th – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday May 26th – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Monday May 31st – Memorial Day – Office Closed

June –

Wednesday June 2nd – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday June 9th – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday June 9th – Puppy Luau

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday June 16th – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday June 23rd – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday June 30th – Staff Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Office Closed



Puppy Luau –

ALOHA! Join us on Wednesday June 9th at 6:30 p.m. for our annual Puppy Luau! Let's hula down for an evening of fun, socialization, and all out chaos! We invite you to join us for puppy games such as musical beach towels and the LIMBO! All puppies 3 months to 1 year old with current vaccines are encouraged to participate.

Please make sure all puppies are on leashes and come dressed for the occasion. This is a rain or shine event. R.S.V.P. by June 2nd if planning to attend.



Employee Spotlight – Kim Stouffer

We would like to highlight Kim Stouffer as this issue's employee spotlight. Kim started working as a technician with us in September of 2009. Before coming to AHC she worked for 9 years at New Bolton Center, the Large Animal Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Kim now resides in Hancock with her husband Jesse and 2 daughters Emma and Hannah. Pet children consist of 3 ponies, "Daisy", "Holly", and "Pete", 1 goat "Betty", 12 chickens, 1 cat "Newt", and her newest addition a rambunctious English Springer Spaniel puppy named "Waylon."



She has been a welcome addition to our clinic family. Her sweet and gentle nature, have made her a favorite among our patients and their pet parents. We look forward to having Kim around for a long time.

Satellite Adoptions

We would like to introduce "Marco Polo" a beautiful long haired grey cat that was found right here in Funkstown. He has been neutered, is current on his vaccines and has been dewormed. All he needs now is a forever home. He was named after the great explorer after having a weekend romp here at the clinic. Although very skittish when he first arrived, he came out of his shell very quickly and is the most loving cat we have ever had. He wants nothing more than to be held and petted. He is cautious about dogs and would work very well in a cat only household. He will need a lot of attention so a home without children or with older children will probably work best although nothing is out of the question. If you are looking for a fabulous companion or know someone who is, please keep Marco in mind.

www.funkstownvet.com



Animal Health Clinic
of Funkstown
26 East Baltimore Street
P.O. Box 669
Funkstown, Maryland 21734

