



Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

"We'll treat your pet like family!"

Newsletter

October – December 2010

Online Pet Pharmacies –

There are some widely known online pet pharmacies that are selling flea, tick, and heartworm medications at "reduced" prices with a prescription from your veterinarian. There are even listings for pet medications on well-known internet auction sites. While you are certainly free to make your own decisions regarding your pet's health, we would strongly recommend against purchasing products from any online retailers.

We are certainly sympathetic with the need to economize during this difficult time, however consider the fact that when purchased online:

If the drug is counterfeit, it will not be providing your pet with the protection or treatment that is needed.

There is no guarantee about how the medication was handled or stored (many medications are temperature sensitive).

Because the medication is not purchased directly from the manufacturer, the product efficacy is not guaranteed and therefore treatment is not covered as it would be if purchased through a licensed veterinarian.

Breed All About It - The Pug –

The pug is a widely known, popular breed. Originating in China, the pug was miniaturized from the mastiff family in the Far East at least 2400 years ago. Buddhists priests used the pugs' ancestors as companions. They were introduced to Holland in the 1500s through the Dutch East India Company where they then became the companions of kings and aristocrats.

In general pugs come in three distinct colors: silver, apricot or fawn, and black. Their life expectancy is from 13-15 years and they stand anywhere from 10-11 inches tall and weigh 14-18 pounds at adulthood. They have a tightly curled tail and large, dark, dominant eyes. Their wrinkled face and short body are supported by strong, straight legs. Their smooth coat is neither woolly nor hard.

As a pet they tend to be very opinionated and hard headed. As a breed, pugs are independent but affectionate toward their human family. Due to their playful and vibrant nature, pugs make wonderful, amusing pets.

Many products are purchased overseas where regulations are not as strict as in the United States.

Often times expiration dates are fabricated and therefore the medication may be dangerous or simply ineffective.

Online pharmacy's websites are not protected areas and therefore your personal information is not protected either.

The manufacturers of many of the most popular flea, tick, and heartworm preventions run specials including free product and rebates if purchased from your veterinarian.

We also realize convenience is important and would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we can mail medications to you. You can order directly through us or through our online store which can be accessed through our website, www.funkstownvet.com. We at Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown have your pet's best interest at heart, and want nothing but health and happiness for our patients. Please think twice before ordering your pet's medication online.

Employee Spotlight –

Sharon Shrader is our do-it-all person here at the clinic. She started in 2007 as receptionist but found her true calling to be everywhere but the front desk. We are grateful for this revelation as she now does everything from cleaning to maintenance to caring for animals that are hospitalized or recovering from surgery.

Before coming to Animal Health Clinic, Sharon worked for 8 years at Cumberland Valley Veterinary Clinic in their kennels. Sharon resides in Williamsport with her crazy Jack Russell Terrier, "Bonnie" and 2 cats, "Nala" and "Josephine." She is mother to 4 grown children; 2 boys and 2 girls. Her daughter Stephanie worked here briefly as a technician while attending Virginia Tech to become a veterinarian.

Sharon is always willing to lend a helping hand and we are glad to have her as a part of our team.



CRITTER'S CHRONICLE



“...they are doing pretty well, except for one thing... their weight.”

Pet Fair & Fall Festival –

It's that time of year again....time for our Annual Pet Fair & Fall Festival. We are celebrating on Saturday October 16th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. here at the clinic. For the 10th year now, we will be celebrating the human – animal bond with a day of entertainment, education, and FUN!

This year's celebration will include:

Kid's Korner with pumpkin carving, face painting, crafts, games and prizes.

Pet & Owner Costume Parade and Contest at 12:00 p.m. with prizes awarded for:

Cutest, scariest, prettiest, most original, and pet/owner costumes

Pet portraits by Photography by Dale – portraits available for purchase online.

K-9 Unit demonstration by Washington County Sheriff's Department

Grooming demonstration by Briar Patch Pet Salon – providing free nail trims

M.A.S.H. Unit – children assist our doctors in “surgery” to stitch up their favorite stuffed animals.

Raffles - \$1.00 per chance, 6 for \$5.00 or an arm's length for \$10.00

The Reptile Crib – reptiles on site

Humane Society of Washington County – pets for adoption

Mason & Dixon Kennel Club – flyball & agility demonstrations

Little Wonders Animal Rescue – certified wildlife rehabilitators

Bulldog Club of America Rescue Network

All pets from birds to goats are invited to attend.

Please make sure pets are properly restrained at all times for their safety.

Admission is free although a donation of a pet related product is greatly appreciated and will benefit Operation K-9 Military Care or Little Wonders Animal Rescue. All proceeds from raffles and refreshments are also being donated to both of these worthy causes. We look forward to seeing you there!



Santa Pictures –

Ho! Ho! Ho! Are those sleigh bells we hear coming this way? Santa Claus is coming back to Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown to have his picture taken with our patients!

Join us on Friday December 10th from 6-8 p.m. for pet pictures with Santa and enjoy Funkstown's Annual Olde Tyme Christmas celebration. We are accepting appointments only to reduce wait time and confusion with having too many pets in the



same place at the same time. A \$15.00 sitting fee per pet per picture includes an 8X10 printed photo as well as a photo CD with additional poses. All proceeds from the night will be donated directly to Operation K-9 Military Care which supports our K-9 soldiers and their handlers stationed overseas.

Please feel free to bring any props or costumes for your pet to wear as well as any special treats or toys that might help us keep their attention.

Unfortunately due to the small area where the pictures are taken, we cannot allow owners to be with their pets. Rest assured, however, we have many years of experience and can ensure a beautiful photo you can treasure for years.

Appointments go fast so if you would like to schedule an appointment, please call the office as soon as possible. Happy Holidays!

Chubby Critter's Weight Loss Club –

It's time for your pet's yearly examination and vaccines and they are doing pretty well, except for one thing....their weight. You got the “he's too chubby” speech last year from the doctor and here we are, a year later, and your pet is just as, if not more, chubby than he was last year. It happens to the best of us.

We are excited to introduce our Chubby Critter's Weight Loss Club. Inspired by Dr. Caldwell and her tireless efforts toward her patients' well-being, the weight loss club



“Everyone is dedicated to getting and keeping their pets happy and healthy.”



offers recommendations and support for its members. Upon enrollment into the weight loss club, your pet’s “before” pictures will be taken and initial recommendations will be made. We will recommend a diet (possibly the same one the pet is currently eating), an amount to be fed each day, the amount of treats and treat suggestions, ideas for increasing exercise, and an estimated amount of weight loss per week. We can provide measuring cups to ensure the pet is receiving an accurate amount of food as well.

We are happy to answer any initial questions you may have and once enrolled, your pet will be scheduled a follow-up appointment for 2 weeks to 1 month with a technician for a weigh in and recommendation adjustments. There is no charge to these follow-up consultations; they are simply a way to assist you further. Our goal is that the pet will have lost weight in this time frame, however if they have not (and this does happen) we will be able to adjust things further for you.

Each time your pet comes in for a consultation and weigh-in, they will be entered in a monthly drawing. Our July winners were “Ellie Mae” Wagner, “Miley” Smith, and “Walter” Rice who all received a free dose of Frontline Plus. You may view their pictures as well as other information about the weight loss club on our website, www.funkstownvet.com. Our winners for August were “Rascal” Martin, “Boo” Galliker, “Aaliyah” Koontz, and “Davey” Cristol. The K-9 winners all receive a free dose of Frontline Plus and the feline winners are awarded a small bottle of Oxyfresh dental solution, a toy, and a free toe nail trim. Congratulations to everyone and keep up the good work!

As with many people, weight loss for our pets can be a very lengthy and sometimes frustrating endeavor. The most upsetting part of weight loss for our pets are the longing looks we get from them wondering why we are suddenly “starving” them. Take heart in knowing that, although this is a big change for your pet, they will get used to their new lifestyle and will, in the long run, live a longer, happier, and healthier life. To enroll your pet in the weight loss club, even if it’s not time for their yearly exam, you can call and schedule a technician consultation anytime.

We are all very excited and proud of the hard work our pet-parent club members have put into the health of their pets. Everyone is very dedicated to getting and keeping their pets happy and healthy. Good job!

Calendar of Events –

October

Wednesday October 6th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Saturday October 9th – Pet CPR/First Aid Class at Funkstown Fire Hall – given by Dr. Tara Cumley

Wednesday October 13th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Saturday October 16th – Pet Fair and Fall Festival 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday October 20th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday October 27th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Thursday October 28th – Funkstown Halloween Parade – parking limited

Friday October 29th – Funkstown Trick or Treat – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

November

Wednesday November 3rd – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday November 10th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday November 17th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday November 24th – Office Closing at 4:00 p.m. – NO STAFF MEETING

Thursday November 25th – HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Office Closed

Friday November 26th – Office Opens at 10:00 a.m.

December

Wednesday December 1st – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday December 8th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Friday December 10th – Santa Pictures 6-8 p.m. – BY APPT. ONLY (no waiting)

Friday December 10th – Funkstown’s Olde Tyme Christmas 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday December 15th – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday December 22nd – Staff Meeting 1:30 – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed



Friday December 24th – Christmas Eve - Office Closing at 12:00 p.m.

Saturday December 25th – MERRY CHRISTMAS! Office Closed

Friday December 31st – New Year's Eve - Office Closing at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday January 1st – HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed

1st Annual Charity Yard Sale –

We want to thank everyone who helped to make our 1st annual charity yard sale a HUGE success. Everyone was so generous with their donations both of things to sell and monetary donations as well. We were able to split over \$400 between Little Wonders Animal Rescue and Operation K-9 Military Care. We look forward to doing it again next year with an even bigger turn out! Thank you again!

Facebook –

We have added many new friends to our facebook page, but encourage anyone who hasn't checked it out to do so. We have included fun pet facts, pictures of some of our pets, updates on our events here at the clinic and much more. There is even a place where you can share pictures of your pets with us. Check it out!

A Puppy's Christmas –

It's the day before Christmas
And all through the house
The puppies are squeaking
An old rubber mouse.

The wreath which had merrily
Hung on the door
Is scattered in pieces
All over the floor.

The stockings that hung
In a neat little row
Now boast a hole in
Each one of the toes.

The tree was subjected
To bright-eyed whims,
And now, although splendid,
It's missing some limbs.

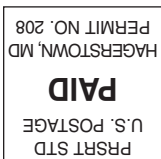
I catch them and hold them.
"Be good", I insist.
They lick me, then run off
To see what they've missed.

And now as I watch them
The thought comes to me,
That theirs is the spirit
That Christmas should be.
Should children and puppies
Yet show us the way,
And teach us the joy
That should come with this day?

Could they bring the message
That's written above,
And tell us that, most of all
Christmas is love.

-Anonymous

www.funkstownvet.com



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