

THE PAW

STREET JOURNAL



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A NOTE FROM ANIMAL CARE VETERINARY HOSPITAL:
We wish you and your pets a happy and safe summer.

Traveling in hot weather can get a bit steamy for your pet. Protect them under the sun with a few simple rules.

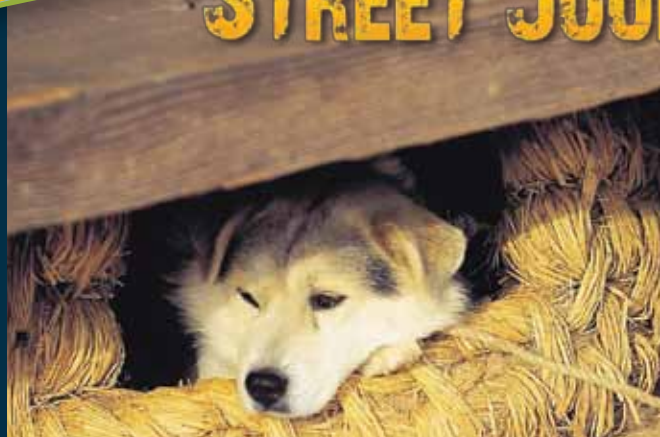
Keep in mind that some animals are not suited for travel because of temperament, illness, or physical impairment. If you have any doubts about whether it is appropriate for your pet to travel, please talk to your veterinarian.

Your pet should be up-to-date on all vaccinations and in sound health.

If you're staying overnight somewhere, be sure to have reservations at a place that welcomes pets. Don't hope to hide your dog in your room or try to appeal to the motel owner's sense of sympathy if you show up with your baby Great Dane.

HEATSTROKE

The biggest summertime hazard for pets is when they're left inside parked cars. Don't ever leave them alone in a car. Even if it seems cool outside, and even with the windows partially open, the sun can raise the temperature inside your vehicle to 120 degrees in a matter of minutes. Your pet can quickly suffer heatstroke, which can be fatal. If you think there's a problem, it's imperative to get to the vet immediately for professional evaluation and treatment.



Love is a Many-Legged Thing

They just wanna, they just wanna have fun. They know how to relax. They forgive and forget. And they scratch where it itches. They really know how to live ... and love.

Why do we love animals so much? Maybe it is because they love us so much. It's true. Dogs, cats, even horses have shown a marked reduction in heart rate when their human "loved one" is close by. Other signs of a healthy love are many. When the bond is solid, however, the benefits are boundless. Pet owners feel happier, healthier, more sociable and more optimistic. Studies involving pets consistently prove their contribution to the well-being of people, especially the very young and very old.

When a dog exhibits trust and respect without fear – or food – as motivation, the bond becomes a true two-way street. Cat owners are treated to affectionate kneading, head-rubs, squinting and that soothing purr.

What's love got to do with it?

It comes from a bouncing, jumping, tail-



wagging, face-licking bundle of joy with a bell on its collar. It comes from a growing, four-legged shadow that follows you everywhere. It comes from an innocent-faced, brown-eyed ball of fur that has made itself at home in our hearts.

Inmates in prison, the sick in hospitals, and even patients in mental institutions will lower their defenses and offer their love again when a dog appears. Children, teenagers, adults, and the elderly all live brighter, happier, and healthier lives because dogs are in them.

Love lessons from our four-legged friends.

Let us offer our love freely, openly and happily to all those around us. Let us share our joy, energy and enthusiasm with everyone we meet. Let us play, laugh and enjoy just being alive. Let us live our lives with a smiling face and open arms, just as they do with a wagging tail and a nuzzling nose. Let us be a glorious gift to ourselves, our loved ones, and everyone else, and make the world a better place. Let us follow our pets' wise example and just love.





DOG PET PEEVES ABOUT HUMANS

1 Yelling at me for barking. Hey, I'm a dog!



3 The sleight of hand, fake fetch throw. You fooled a dog! What a proud moment for the top of the food chain.



2 Taking me to the vet for "the big snip," then acting surprised when I freak out every time we go back.

I didn't do it. The dog did it. Kitty, how could you? The Science of Flatulence

There is really no way to ignore the odors coming from an unusually happy dog. Jokes abound, but really, everyone wants a solution to this problem, especially when it is ongoing.

Somebody's got to talk about it

Flatulence is a normal biological function. Even for people, just eating means you swallow air. If the air is not burped out, gas exits through the other end. When dogs (and people!) feel they must eat quickly, they swallow more air.

Flatulence comes from an excess of gases in the intestinal tract. Gases may be produced in the biochemical process of digestion, from diffusion in the bloodstream, or by the bacteria that populate the intestinal tract. The more offensive odors are from gases that typically contain hydrogen sulfide.

Really stinky gases are produced by bacteria in the colon (large intestine).



Dietary fiber in pet food is not readily digestible by your pal's enzyme system, but is digested by the bacteria of the colon. As these fibers are broken down, gas happens.

What to do about it

The following are easy changes that can be made to your pet management:

- ☑ Feed smaller meals several times daily.

- ☑ Feed a mixture of dry and canned foods.
- ☑ Discourage rapid eating by placing an overturned small bowl inside the pet's regular food bowl. This prevents the pet from taking as large a mouthful.
- ☑ Avoid soy and peas.
- ☑ Avoid any treats containing milk, cheese or other forms of lactose.
- ☑ Avoid fresh or dried fruit.
- ☑ Change to a high digestibility/low residue diet. There are therapeutic diets sold at most veterinary offices that would be perfect.
- ☑ If possible, walk the dog within 30 minutes of eating so as to encourage passing gases outside.
- ☑ Avoid canned foods containing the texturing ingredient carrageenan.

Medication may be needed

Any type of medication that reduces flatulence is known as a carminative. Unfortunately, most carminatives are

not helpful or not even labeled for animal use. What's most important for reducing flatulence, is changing the diet and ruling out actual intestinal disease. If your pup needs further therapy, the following products might be helpful:

Yucca schidigera supplementation

Currently this extract is labeled as a flavoring agent for pet food. It is also available as an oral supplement. Several studies have shown that it helps decrease the odor in flatulence.

Zinc acetate supplementation

Zinc binds to sulfhydryl compounds in flatulence ultimately serving to deodorize the gas.

Non-absorbable antibiotics

Such antibiotics serve to kill the gas-forming bacteria of the colon and may be helpful as long as their use is not ongoing.

For additional information, take a deep breath and call your veterinarian.



Positive Reinforcement 101:

Training Your Dog with Treats and Praise

We all like to be praised rather than punished. The same is true for your animal friend. Appropriate praise is the practice behind the theory of positive reinforcement. That means giving your pet something pleasant or rewarding immediately after she does something you want her to do. Because your praise or reward makes her more likely to repeat that behavior in the future, it is one of your most powerful tools for shaping or changing your pet's behavior.

Correct timing is essential when using positive reinforcement. The reward must occur immediately – within seconds – or your pet may

not associate it with the proper action. For example, if you have your dog "sit" but reward her after she's already stood back up, she'll think she's being rewarded for standing up.

Using Positive Reinforcement

For your pet, positive reinforcement may include food treats, praise, petting, or a favorite toy or game. Food treats work especially well for training your pet. The treat should be enticing and irresistible to your pet. It should be very small, so that she will immediately gulp it down and look to you for more. Experiment a bit to see what works best

for your pet. Each time you use a food reward, couple it with praise. Say something like, "Good girl," in a positive, happy tone of voice.

Some pets may not be interested in food treats. For them, the reward could be a toy or brief petting and play

Consistency is Essential.

Consistency means always rewarding good behavior and never rewarding undesired behavior. Everyone in the family should use the same commands. It might help to post these where everyone can use them.

The most commonly used commands for dogs are:

"SIT"

"STAY"

"DOWN" (WHICH MEANS "LIE DOWN")

"OFF" (WHICH MEANS "GET OFF OF ME" OR "GET OFF THE FURNITURE")

"STAND"

"COME"

"HEEL"

"LEAVE IT"

"SETTLE"



4 Taking me for a walk, then not letting me check stuff out. Exactly whose walk is it anyway?

5 Any trick that involves balancing food on my nose. Stop it, would ya?



6 Dog sweaters. Have you noticed the fur?

7 Any haircut that involves bows or ribbons. Now you know why we chew stuff up when you're not home.

8 Using me to be your personal Babe-Magnet.



Will ya still need me, will ya still feed me ...

When I'm 64

As your pet reaches his golden years, which come roughly seven times faster than ours, he may already be demonstrating changes in behavior, ability or appearance. Their metabolism slows and they may gain a few pounds. Daily exercise will help keep your pet slim and flexible, and will maintain blood circulation and muscle tone.

Excess weight can be unhealthy for your pet, and can aggravate existing medical problems such as arthritis or heart conditions. If your pet is looking a little chunky, it's a good idea to ask your vet about switching to a diet specifically designed for senior pets.

The Tooth be Told

Pay special attention to her teeth, too. Over 85 percent of senior dogs and cats have serious dental problems, including gingivitis and periodontal disease. If left untreated, these diseases can affect the heart, liver and kidneys. Keeping them clean and free of tartar can significantly decrease chances of bacterial infections from diseased gums. When brushing their teeth (you DO brush their teeth, don't you?) always check for red or swollen gums and excessive bad breath.

Fill the Water Bowl

Many animals naturally drink less as they age, which can lead to dehydration. If your pet has trouble getting around, keep fresh water bowls in a few locations in your home so she'll always have easy access to them.

Even the best-trained pet may start urinating inappropriately as she ages. Some diseases, such as diabetes, can also cause increased urination, so if you notice that your pet is having a real problem, see your veterinarian.



A comprehensive geriatric health examination may include vaccinations and preventive medications, as well as blood and urine laboratory screenings and other diagnostic testing. These tests can provide early detection of many serious conditions. Have your senior pet examined by your veterinarian every six months.

develop, or her hearing may diminish as the nerves in her ears degenerate. She also may not be as responsive to you as she once was, and may startle more easily.

Be Understanding

Like people, elderly pets can get a bit cranky and may be irritable around children or younger animals. Be understanding and learn to recognize the warning signs of grumpiness and how to calm your pet's anxiety. Try to keep to a consistent daily routine – older (and younger) animals find a great deal of comfort knowing what to expect.

Give your elderly pet just a little extra care, consideration and attention and the "golden years" can be memorable and happy for both of you.

Keep Her Close, Comfy and Safe

You may notice that your pet seems stiff and sore when getting up, has trouble going up and down stairs, or even limps a bit. Arthritis could be the problem. Ask your veterinarian about medications that can help soothe those aches and pains. See that your pet has a soft, warm place to sleep and avoid activities that will put stress on sore joints.

Your pet's vision may become fuzzy as cataracts

When Is a Pet Old?

The general threshold for old age in cats is 8 years.

In dogs, the answer is not as simple. Large breed dogs are considered seniors when they reach 7 years.

Small dogs, such as toy poodles and Chihuahuas, are considered elderly when they reach 12 years.



Here's what you can do to help me in my Golden Years:

Take me for walks and daily exercise.

Give me a soft, warm place to sleep.

Take me to the vet twice a year for a comprehensive examination.

Play with me often.

Feed me a high-quality diet.

Warming my food can make it more appetizing

Use elevated bowls for my food and water.

Make sure I have plenty of fresh water. It's my most important nutrient.

Give me only prescribed medications.

Give me a good massage - it works wonders. Oh, and check for lumps and bumps while you're at it.

Apply warm compresses on my sore spots.

A dog ramp for steep climbs is cool - like into a warm bed?





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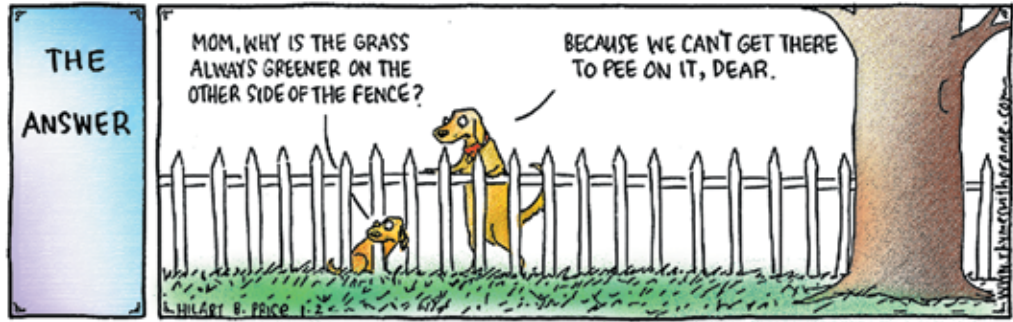
Monday & Thursday - 7:00AM - 8:00PM
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday - 7:00AM - 5:30 PM
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Sunday - Closed

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***Our Mission
is to glorify God by
providing peace of mind
to you through world-
class care for your beloved
animal companions.***

ACCREDITED PRACTICE



Advice from the Top Dog

Dear Paw,
I'd like to know more about Ticks and Lyme Disease
–Ticks MeOff

Dear Ticks,

Ticks are tenacious bloodsuckers. They inflict painful bites, they cause anemia and can transmit serious diseases to people and to our companion animals. Ticks prey on the blood of dogs, horses, deer, birds, rodents and people. There are hundreds of kinds of ticks, including the dog tick and the deer tick.

The diseases that ticks can transmit to companion animals include Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis (a bacterial infection), and babesiosis (a blood disorder).

Ticks live in cracks and crevices in the home or outside in vegetation, such as grassy meadows, woods, brush and weeds. They cannot fly or jump, but they have a knack for finding a host. Ticks can also detect the carbon dioxide given off by warm-blooded animals.

Lyme Disease

The first human outbreak of Lyme disease was identified in Lyme, Connecticut in 1975, when an unusually large number of cases of arthritis resembling rheumatoid disease occurred within a small geographic area. Although Lyme disease is an illness common to humans and animals, there is no evidence that it can be transmitted from one to the other.

Clinical signs of Lyme disease in pets include loss of appetite, lameness, lethargy and fever. Scientists believe the disease can affect humans for a long time, causing problems to the joints, heart and central nervous system.

Lyme disease vaccinations are available for dogs. If you live in an area that is prone to Lyme disease, consult your veterinarian about the availability and use of this vaccine.

– Your Paw