



We wish everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year, and thank you for trusting us with the care of your best friends.

Compassionate, well educated staff and advanced equipment helps us give the very best quality treatment and care for our patients. Within our modern, newly constructed hospital, we maintain the equipment and technical staff needed to provide state-of-the-art preventive medicine, diagnostics, treatments and surgical procedures.

Let your pet stay with us while you're away!
We offer boarding services to our clients with excellent accommodations for dogs and cats.

Highest Quality Pet Care Products. We carry a full line of dental items, shampoos and conditioners, flea and tick control, and effective stain and odor removal products.

Special Discounts. We extend discounts on veterinary services to senior citizens. Discounts also are available for service animals and to members of the Dearborn police and fire departments.




From all of us at Dearborn Family Pet Care **Happy Holidays to the Fabulously Furry**

'Tis the season for family, food and festivities. It's also when furry family members can be injured by frolicking in the proverbial forbidden fruit. To make things merrier, **Dearborn Family Pet Care** offers some tips on reducing the holiday stress on your pets.


- Mistletoe and holly may look intriguing, but they're also toxic, as are amaryllis bulbs. Poinsettias may not be poisonous, but their leaves and sap can cause severe gastric distress.
- Lighted candles should never be left unattended. A swinging tail or a swatting paw can quickly cause flying hot wax.
- Never feed them steak, turkey or chicken bones, which can lodge in the throat, stomach or intestinal tract.
- Keep ornaments and aluminum foil out of reach – they're dangerous if consumed.

- Safeguard string objects, especially tinsel and ribbons. They're thin and sharp and can wrap around intestines or ball up in the stomach.
- Closely examine indoor and outdoor lights. Check electrical cords for any signs of bite marks, loose or frayed wires, proximity to the tree's water supply or evidence of short circuits. Use grounded three-prong extension cords and follow manufacturer's guidelines for maximum tolerance.
- Holiday guests coming in and out are an inviting temptation for pets to escape. Make sure they're wearing collars and tags (the pets, not the guests).
- Keep an eye out for pets under foot, and remind people that your normally friendly pet may be less so with enthusiastic children and unfamiliar faces.
- Provide a special quiet place with a blanket and fresh water for your pets to retreat to when the festivities get too stressful.



Easy-to-fill winter chill prescription for four-legged friends

1. Don't stay outside when the temperature drops. You can be sensitive to severe cold and at risk of hypothermia and frostbite.
2. Have your humans wipe your paws with a damp towel to clean off salt and other ice-melting chemicals.
3. Avoid antifreeze. Like holiday punch, its aroma is pleasing, its flavor sweet. But antifreeze aftertaste is awful—and deadly. It takes only a few tablespoons of ethylene glycol—a toxic ingredient in most brands of antifreeze—to seriously jeopardize your health.
4. Don't hang around driveways, garages or alleys where you could stumble upon some "freeze."
5. Ask for more food; keeping warm depletes energy.
6. Little creatures and cats: Avoid those inviting, warm engines in parked cars, and don't crawl up under the hood. In case temptation strikes, ask the guests to bang on their car's hood to scare you away before starting the engine.
7. Take 2 biscuits and call me in the morning.



May Substitute
as blank
FACES WITH HEAT

Remember: Pets Are Not Gifts

Though we believe companion pets are rewarding additions to a home and family, we believe in ownership responsibility even more.

A pet is not the latest novelty toy that a child, or adult for that matter, loses interest in once the batteries run out. That adorable kitten or puppy wearing a big, red bow around his neck, comes with a commitment that requires a thoughtful discussion with the entire family before he is brought into the home.

NO BULL ZONE



Dog Obesity

Lay off the snacks, Jack. You're givin' us "big boned" dogs a bad rap.

Showering dogs with love by means of big meals and lots of tasty treats is sweet, but misguided. In dogs, as with you humans, overeating and extra weight can lead to serious health problems.

Obesity develops when energy intake exceeds energy requirements. This excess energy is then stored as fat. The majority of obesity cases are caused by simple overfeeding coupled with lack of exercise. Specific breeds, such as Labrador retrievers and pugs, are particularly prone to obesity, as are senior dogs of all breeds.

The overweight dog, with many added stresses upon his body, is now at an increased risk of diabetes, liver problems and joint pain.

How to Tell if Your Pet is Overweight

With an animal of healthy weight, you should be able to feel the backbone and touch the ribs. If you cannot feel your pet's ribs without pressing, there is too much fat.

When looking at your pet from above, you should see a noticeable waist between the back of the rib cage and the hips. When viewed from the side, there should be a "tuck" in the tummy, meaning the abdomen should go up from the bottom of the rib cage to inside the thighs. Dogs who fail these simple tests may be overweight.

How to Help Manage Your Dog's Weight

Here are a few tips that can help your pet shed the extra padding. Be sure to consult with your vet before beginning any weight loss program.

Correct your pet's diet. Overweight animals consume more calories than they require. Work with your vet to determine your pet's caloric requirements, and to select more suitable foods. The diet should contain a normal level of a moderately fermentable fiber and fat to prevent the skin and coat from suffering during weight loss.

Increase regular physical activity. This can be valuable to both weight loss and weight maintenance. Regular exercise burns more calories, reduces appetite and changes body composition, and will increase your pet's resting metabolic rate.

A successful weight management program includes changing those factors that have contributed to your pet's weight gain. For example, you may be giving your pet too many treats or not enough opportunities to exercise.

Commit to Your Pet's Weight Loss

- **Remove your pet from the room when the family eats.**
- **Feed her several small meals throughout the day.**
- **Reduce snacks and treats, and feed all meals and treats only in their food bowl.**
- **In everything you do together, include generous amounts of affection.**

Grooming Your Pet to be an International Traveler

Last May, Johnny Depp got in a lot of doggie doo with the government of Australia. The *Pirates of the Caribbean* star and his wife were accused of smuggling their two Yorkshire terriers – Pistol and Boo – into the country on a private jet without proper documentation and medical clearances. Depp flew the pooches back to the U.S., but the couple still faces various charges associated with the Great Down-Under Canine Caper.

International travel with a pet involves a complex and time-consuming set of regulations, restrictions and procedures. Australia, in fact, has some of the strictest biosecurity laws in the world, but with good reason: the country is one of the few that remains rabies-free. And the Aussies would like to keep it like that.

If you are taking your pet on an international trip –

permanently or for a visit – a USDA-endorsed international health certificate and any other related documents are often required.

As soon as you know your itinerary, call **Dearborn Family Pet Care.** We'll be happy to help with the process, including:

- **Getting a health certificate**
- **Updating vaccinations**
- **Completing disease testing**

Visit aphis.usda.gov for more information on International Animal Product Export Regulations (IREGS), and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

If you intend to bring your pet back into the U.S., there may be certain re-entry requirements, depending on where you traveled. Plan ahead.

- Your carrier (air, rail, cruise line, etc.) may



impose additional requirements to transport animals. Check for these well in advance in order to get your paperwork completed and approved.

- Each country has a specific health certificate and establishes its own rules for entry of animals from the United States.
- The process could take several weeks to complete, depending on the requirements of the importing country.
- Some countries require an isolation or quarantine period, lasting from weeks to months, before an animal is eligible for entry. You should start investigating the requirements of your destination country as soon as you can.

Pets Are Welcome!

If you welcome pets, you're also welcoming a pool of great residents.

According to a 2014 survey by apartments.com, 72 percent of renters have pets. Most pet parents consider their pets part of the family, and would never move somewhere that wouldn't allow them to come, too. So why not welcome them to your property?

The Facts on Welcoming Pets

- Fifty years ago, pets in apartments were somewhat rare. Now, pets are allowed in most properties, with policies that are affordable and fair.
- Pet-owning residents typically do not cause more damage or other financial concerns. However, a special pet deposit or slight increase in rent may offset costs.
- Size is not indicative of a pet's behavior or potential to cause damage. Some large dogs are couch potatoes, while some small dogs are highly active. Meet the whole family first and make a decision about each pet individually.
- There's no such thing as "a dangerous dog breed." Breed is not predictive of an individual dog's behavior or suitability for rental housing. Therefore, banning specific breeds does not reduce risk.
- Federal and state laws recognize the value of the human/animal bond and include legal protections. Be familiar with the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure your pet policies aren't violating them.

- Setting clear standards of care is more effective than setting arbitrary limits on the number of animals a renter may own. Sixty-two percent of pet-owning renters have more than one pet.

Becoming a "Pets are Welcome" Property

- Make it clear that you welcome pets as valued members of the family, but certain conditions may apply to protect the property.
- Provide tips to your renters about how they (and their pets) can succeed as residents.
- Eliminate inhumane policies. Never require devocalization or declawing; these practices hurt animals.
- Unaltered pets are more likely to spray urine or mark territory, so providing spay/neuter information is a win-win for you and your residents.
- Make compliance with your policies easy! Offer dog-walking stations with waste bags and a disposal bin; reserve units near exit doors or elevators for dog-walking families; and recommend cleaning products that safely remove stains from carpets.
- Enforce your pet policies uniformly, fairly and equitably, so residents are clear on expectations.
- Charge a fair and affordable pet fee and/or fully refundable deposit to support the amenities you provide. Excessive fees can discourage good renters from applying to live in your community.



Our furry friends have a permanent coat to help them keep warm, but Winter Can Still be a Bit Itchy

Summer, too. Since dogs and cats don't bathe daily with soap and water, and they have fur to protect them from the elements, dry skin or coat is often an indication of poor health or nutrition, or physical problems. Flaking, dandruff or excessive shedding can be addressed with diet change, nutritional supplements or medication.

By examining the skin and coat, a vet can often tell whether your pet is eating quality food. Many cheaper brands lack fatty acids that help produce necessary skin oils, and may not be nutritionally complete in other ways as well. Feeding them the best food you can afford is recommended to promote healthy skin and coat.

Fatty acid supplements are available in gel capsules or liquids. Within 2-4 weeks of starting those supplements, or switching to more nutritious food, a dramatic improvement in the skin and coat is often clearly visible.

Here Kitty!

When pets with dry skin need bathing, it is important to use soap-free or moisturizing products. There are light oils available that can be sprayed on, or used as a rinse after bathing, to moisturize the skin. Sprays are especially useful for cats, as they usually don't appreciate a full bath (no kidding).

With severe problems, use medicated shampoo

and cream rinse once or twice weekly, in addition to fatty acid supplements.

Many diseases and conditions that affect overall health also affect the skin. These include low thyroid levels, allergies, kidney and heart disease, and seborrhea. Correcting the underlying problem will usually lead to improvement in the skin within a few weeks. Persistent dry skin, despite a good diet and fatty acid supplements, is an indication of something more serious, and is worth investigating.

Ask your vet about products that will work, taking into consideration the severity of your pet's dry skin and your ability to bathe him.



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Hours

Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri. 8am–6pm
Thur. 9am–6pm
Sat. 9am–1pm
Sun. Closed

Dr. Cheryl D. Good
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*Dear Paw,
I just got my first dog and I want to buy him a cool present for Christmas.
I know it should be safe for him to play with, but I don't know which ones
are best. Please help me decide.*

– Sally

Dear Sally,
Good thinking. When dogs are left alone, toys can provide comfort and help fight boredom. They can even help prevent your dog from developing certain problem behaviors. We can't guarantee the safety of any specific toy—for the dog OR the toy—but we can offer these tips:
Toys should be appropriate for your dog's size. If toys are too small, they can be swallowed or become lodged in his throat.
Avoid or alter any toys that aren't "dog-proof" by removing ribbons, strings, eyes or other parts that could be chewed and/or ingested. For example, any toy that contains a hidden "squeaker" is fair game for a dog bent on finding the source of the squeak—and swallowing it. Discard toys that start to break into pieces or are torn.
So Sally—what DOES make a cool present for your very first dog?

- A ball! Dogs love to chase, chew or just carry them.
- Hard rubber toys, such as Nylabone® and Kong® products, are also fun for chewing and carrying around, and they are available in a variety of shapes and sizes. Some can be filled with treats or peanut butter, but check with your vet first.
- "Rope" toys are usually available in a bone shape with knotted ends.
- Soft, stuffed toys, which some dogs will carry around like it was their baby. On the other hand, other dogs prefer to shake or "kill" their toys, so choose one that's large and sturdy enough to prevent accidental swallowing and withstand the dog's attacks.
- And finally: dirty laundry, such as an old T-shirt, pillowcase, towel or blanket, can be very comforting to a dog, especially if the item smells like you!

*Happy Holidays
– Your Paw*

