



PAW

FABULOUSLY FURRY HOLIDAY ISSUE

Happy Holidays

**From all
of us at
Windsor
Veterinary
Clinic, PC**

AT WINDSOR VETERINARY CLINIC, PC, OUR HOPE IS THAT YOUR FAMILY ENJOYS HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR. OUR PROMISE IS TO DELIVER THE BEST OF CARE TO YOUR DEARLY LOVED PETS.

**The
Complete
Wellness
Exam**

**A dog's
New Year's
Resolutions**

**What do Cats & Dogs
Really Like?**

Enter Our Photo Contest!
I'm gonna get my picture on the cover of The Paw

SEE BACK COVER FOR DETAILS

Start the year off on the right paw New Year's Resolutions

I will let the fresh air in my face be pure ecstasy.



I'll never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.

If what I want lies buried, I will dig in with determination until I find it.



When I'm happy, I shall dance about and wag my entire body.

I will always delight in the simple joy of a nice walk.

When loved ones come home, I will always run to greet them.

When it's in my best interest, I shall practice obedience.



I will never pretend to be something I am not, unless I want a treat.



I will avoid biting when a simple growl will suffice.

I shall play often with gusto and enthusiasm.

When someone is down, I'll be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.



I will always be fascinated by everything.



Above all else, I will be loyal to my loved ones and true to myself.

Pooch Toys Poll #1

For this issue of PAW, we conducted our own "pooch poll" to determine what dogs like and don't like about the things their owners give them for entertainment. Here's what they barked back:

Let's get one thing straight, people: For most of us dogs, toys are not a luxury—they're a necessity. Toys help fight boredom when we're left alone, and can even help prevent some problem behaviors from developing, though we don't personally know of any.

BE CAUTIOUS

We count on you to make our home safe. Toys and other items that are too small can easily be swallowed or become lodged in our throat. We love squeaky toys, but we may feel the need to find and destroy the source of the squeaking,

and could ingest it. And those soft toys should be machine washable.

ACTIVE TOYS

Very hard rubber toys and "rope" toys with knotted ends are cool with us. Tennis balls are great, too, but make sure we fetch 'em, not chew the fuzz off 'em.

DISTRACTION TOYS

Wanna keep us busy for hours? Just lay a Kong®-type toy nearby—especially one that's filled with yummy treats. Double-check with our veterinarian about using peanut butter. And be sure to choose a toy of appropriate size.

COMFORT TOYS

Soft stuffed toys should be small enough to carry around. For dogs that want to shake or "kill" the toy, it should be the size that our "prey" would be



(mouse-size, rabbit-size, duck-size, etc.). Dirty laundry, like an old T-shirt, can be very comforting to us, especially if it smells like you!

GET THE MOST OUT OF TOYS

Rotate our toys by making only a few available at a time. And give us some variety—at least one toy to carry, one to "kill," one to roll, and one to "baby." Many of our toys should be interactive. For young, high-energy and untrained dogs, interactive play also offers an opportunity for socialization and helps them learn about appropriate behavior.

Cat Scratch Poll #2

We asked a focus group of house cats to comment on one of their favorite issues: playtime. Here's what they had to purr on the subject.

Meow out there! Regular playtime is part of your commitment to provide us with a stimulating environment. Play gives us mental and physical stimulation, an outlet for energy, and the chance to satisfy our instinctual hunting drive.

Let's face it: when it comes to amusing ourselves, we're awesome! We can make toys out of pretty much any household item, from paper bags (with handles removed, please) to those empty cardboard tubes from toilet paper and paper towels.

That's not to say you don't have to buy us things! Our wish list includes plastic balls, with or without bells inside; sisal-wrapped toys, which we can dig our claws into; or "fishing pole" toys with a cool lure at the end.

What about catnip, you may ask. Well here's the "411" from those who know. A member of the mint family, catnip contains a chemical that attracts a lot of us. When it's dried and crushed, it gives off an odor that has a powerful effect on some (though not all) cats. The ones that do react usually develop sensitivity to it when they're about six months

old. Although catnip is safe and non-addictive, some cats we know get over-stimulated to the point of aggressive play, while others just "chill."

So my human parents, you're responsible for enriching my life. Give me ample opportunities to exercise my superior mind and stealth body – and you'll be happy, too.



Celebrate the new year by committing to your furry friends' health

The Complete Wellness Exam



Windsor Veterinary Clinic, PC recommends that healthy dogs and cats visit the veterinarian twice a year for a complete exam and laboratory testing. For senior petizens, the frequency of wellness exams should be determined on an individual basis, taking into account the pet's species, breed and environment.

During a wellness exam, your pet will be examined from head to tail to evaluate your pet's general health and help keep him in tip-top shape.

Vital Statistics

Your pet's temperature, pulse, respiration rate and body weight will be recorded. Your veterinarian can help you develop an appropriate diet and exercise plan.

Ears

Your pet's ears will be thoroughly examined. Ear canals protect the inner ear, but can also become a home for parasites and other foreign objects.

Eyes

Eye examinations—including observation of the inner structures and outward appearances—often

reveal many health issues, including anemia, infections, glaucoma, cataracts, high blood pressure, jaundice, kidney problems and allergies, in addition to eye injuries and ulcers.

Mouth

Inspect your pet's gums, teeth, tongue and palate for tartar buildup, dental abnormalities, fractures, loose teeth, tumors, infection and other problems. Your veterinarian will discuss the importance of regular at-home and professional teeth cleaning to prevent periodontal disease, which can cause bad breath and tooth loss.

Heart and Lungs

A stethoscope is used to listen to your pet's heart and lungs for early signs of heart and respiratory disease.

Reproductive Organs

If your pet has not been spayed or neutered, your veterinarian may discuss the many health benefits

VACCINATIONS ARE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PREVENTIVE MEASURES YOU CAN TAKE FOR THE HEALTH OF YOUR PET

beyond just birth control. Your pet's reproductive system will be checked for swellings, discharges and lumps.

Skin

Your pet's skin and coat is a good gauge of overall health, and will be checked for fleas, ticks, other external parasites, tumors and wounds, as well as signs of allergies and infection.

Head to Toe to Tail

Your pet's abdomen will be checked for abnormalities to detect problems with the stomach, intestines, kidneys, liver and other organs. They'll also examine your pet's legs and feet, and the condition of your pet's joints, muscles, lymph nodes and nose.

Laboratory Testing

During your pet's wellness exam, your veterinarian may recommend additional testing using a sample of

blood, urine, skin, hair or feces. When your pet is healthy, laboratory tests establish your pet's "baseline" values. Then, if your pet ever gets sick, current results are compared to baseline values to determine any abnormalities, confirm the presence of certain illnesses and rule out other diseases.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are one of the most important preventive measures you can take for the health of your pet. Dogs can be immunized against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvovirus, coronavirus, Bordetella, rabies, and Lyme disease. Cats can be immunized against feline panleukopenia (distemper), rabies, feline rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, chlamydia, feline leukemia, and FIP.

How frequently your pet is vaccinated depends on many factors, based on your pet's species and unique environment and lifestyle. Help your pet start the new year on the right paw with a complete wellness exam. You'll enjoy some peace of mind and your pet will enjoy a happier, healthier life.

Stay warm and fuzzy with your furry friends

Have yourselves a very happy new year

'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, **Windsor Veterinary Clinic, PC** offers some guidelines of good will to help protect your pets from holiday hazards.

TIP #1: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Visions of sugarplums may dance in their heads, but be sure to hide the chocolate. Two of its active ingredients—caffeine and theobromine—are potentially deadly toxins. Even small



portions of cooked turkey and ham are too rich, causing distress to their digestive systems.

TIP #2: DANGEROUS DECORATIONS

Some holiday plants, including mistletoe, poinsettia and holly, are as poisonous as they are pretty. Instead of metal ornament hooks, use small lengths of ribbon, lightweight twine or yarn. Bows on presents look good enough to eat—but aren't. Ingesting tinsel could cause choking or intestinal blockage. Needles—live or artificial—are indigestible.



TIP #3: RING IT IN—SOFTLY!

New Year's celebrations present additional challenges: noisemakers and noisy company can frighten any pet, causing panic and defensive behavior.

TIP #4: EXERCISE CAUTION

In many areas, winter brings bitter cold and numbing wetness. Salt and other chemicals used to melt ice can irritate your pet's feet. Wipe the pads with a damp towel before your pet licks them.

TIP #5: SAFETY THAT'S AUTO-MATIC

Warm car engines attract cats and small wildlife that may crawl

up under the hood. To avoid injuring hidden animals, bang on the hood before starting your engine. Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that may attract animals and children. Use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol; if swallowed in small amounts, it will not hurt pets, wildlife, or your family.

Being alert and recognizing potential disasters before they become real ones will ensure the happiest of holiday seasons for you and your ENTIRE family.





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**Congratulations to
Dr. Robin on being
selected President of the
American Association
of Human-Animal Bond
Veterinarians.**



M... I... C... C... A... T M... O... U... S... E !



PHOTO CONTEST

Get your pet on the cover of The Paw!

Submit your pet's photo for a chance to be featured
on the Spring cover

Contest deadline: February 14, 2011

Email photo entries to: pawcasso@pawstreet.com

All entries must include your veterinarian's business name, your pet's name and your name.
Photos must be jpeg format.