

Elk Neck Vet Clinic Spring Newsletter

What's New?

As we move into spring, we have several new faces around the clinic. Jessica and Julia are training as front desk receptionists and Ehrin is training as a phone receptionist. They are doing very well and we know they will make a great addition to our team. As our kennel becomes busier this summer, we also plan on training new kennel staff to make sure your pets get plenty of attention!

Seasonal Reminders

Spring has sprung! We're sure your pets (and kids!) can't wait to start playing out in the fresh air again after such a cold winter. Even the most lazy of pets can be tempted to roam too far away from home while enjoying the warm weather. If your pet is micro chipped, make sure the registration is current. If your pet is not micro chipped, call us today to make an appointment or for more details. The micro chipping process is quick and safe, providing a method of permanent identification should you ever be separated from your pet. In addition, make sure your cat or dog has a sturdy collar and tags on at all times. Cats should wear break-away collars to prevent injury if they are caught on something. ID tags should include at least two contact phone numbers, as well as a name and address. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! Make sure your furry friends are on a leash or enclosed in a safe yard or pen at all times.

Continue using year round monthly flea, tick and heartworm preventative for your dogs and cats. These buggers carry a variety of diseases, some fatal, including Lyme Disease, Ehrlichia, Tapeworms and Heartworms. Our pets can also contract parasites from drinking contaminated water. As the snow melts, be sure to offer your pets plenty of fresh water and discourage drinking from puddles. Some parasites and diseases that our pets carry can be passed on to people as well. Keep your pets and family healthy by monthly preventatives and annual visits to our clinic. Call anytime during office hours for more information.

Easter:

Certain Foods that seem delicious to us are actually very harmful to our pets. Be sure to keep the following foods out of reach from your pets; ham, coffee, raisins and grapes, onions, garlic, products sweetened with Xylitol (an artificial sweetener) and fatty foods.

Keep candy – especially chocolate - away from pets. Candy is not meant for pets and can cause internal distress. The ASPCA lists the following symptoms of chocolate poisoning: vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors and seizures. In severe cases, chocolate poisoning can be fatal. Don't let your pets life be at risk!

Many plants can be harmful to your pets as well. While you should always be on the look-out for possible health hazards, holidays can bring in new hazards which you may not be aware of. Make sure to keep any bouquets or other flowers well out of your pets reach, especially if you don't know what type of plants they are. A few seasonal plants to keep away from pets are: tulips, buttercups, clovers, daffodils, and the Easter Lily which can be fatal. For a more extensive list visit our website at www.elkneckvetclinic.com and click on the "Poisonous Plants" tab.

Fake grass and plastic toys can also be a source of harm for your pets. If ingested they can be choked on or cause intestinal blockage. Consider pets to be very small children – they don't know not to put things in their mouths, so it's up to you to make sure that they don't.

Healthy Pets, Happy Owners

Did your pet pack on a few extra pounds this winter? Call or come in today to enroll in our weight loss program. Receive an information packet full of tips and suggestions as well as a weight loss tracking sheet to keep a record of how your pet is doing. Receive a free bag of Purina OM (overweight management) food to get you started on the right path. Remember, that extra weight doesn't just keep your pet out of the show ring. It can also cause serious health problems. We want your pet to be a lean-mean-healthy machine!

Allergies also start to become more common as the warmer weather hits us. If your pet suffers from allergies, keep the following in mind.

Common symptoms of allergies are: sudden increase in itchiness, new rashes, odor, sores, loss of fur, or head-shaking. If your pet is experiencing any of these call us for an appointment.

Try to limit the time spent outdoors during the day. After outdoor activities wipe the face, ears, legs, belly and between the toes with baby wipes or a clean washcloth.

Bathe weekly or twice-weekly with a veterinary hypoallergenic or oatmeal-based shampoo.

Shampoos help to remove pollen, mold spores, and dust from the coat.

Administering a veterinary omega-3 essential fatty acid supplement may be helpful.

An antihistamine may also be helpful, contact us for further information.

Special Offers

As usual, we are running a variety of specials this spring.

Preventatives: *Heartgard* - buy 12 month supply and get a \$5.00 mail in rebate.

Frontline – buy 2 boxes and get a free tube. *Advantage Multi* – buy a 6 month supply and get a month free.

Medications: *Atopica* – buy 2 boxes and receive a \$5-\$15 rebate. *Rimadyl* – receive a \$10 rebate with any prescription. *Deramaxx* – buy 30 or more pills and receive a \$10 rebate.

We are running dozens of specials on **boarding** and **services** throughout spring time. Many include a free night of boarding or discounted products and services. We also have several specials planned for products such as **toys** and **pet care supplies**. Call or sign up for our email list by visiting our website to find the latest special. <http://www.elkneckvetclinic.com> .

Homeless Pets

Elk Neck Vet Clinic provides a temporary home to a number of pets who would love to find a loving home this spring. If you or someone you know would like to get another pet (or their first pet!), please consider one of our strays for a new member of your family.

If you are unable to adopt, please consider donating to our Good Samaritan Fund to help care for the lost or abandoned pets we house. All of our clinic pets must be spayed, neutered, vaccinated and cared for medically. Every little bit helps!

Clinic Pets

Fluffy: Fluffy is a 9 year old male kitty with kidney failure. He requires prescription food, daily fluid treatments and medication as well as periodic blood work to monitor his kidneys. Fluffy has the amazing ability to tell time. Every night at 6p.m. he follows the technicians around meowing for his dinner.

Pumpkinhead: Pumpkin is a gorgeous 7 year old long haired orange cat. He came to us with a severely infected head injury. He has recovered nicely after a lot of TLC and now spends most of his time stealing pens and coating Dr.Lackey's office in a thick layer of hair. Pumpkin is very affectionate and would make a perfect house cat. He is up for adoption and would be happy to have a loving family to take him home. ADOPTABLE

Lucki Snorkel: Lucki is a 4 year old black and white female cat. She came to us impacted with birdseed and seriously injured. Eventually she needed to have one of her front legs removed. Lucki is Queen of the Clinic and only graces certain people with her affection. She is smart and knows how to get what she wants. Her only weakness is her fear of the vacuum cleaner. She has been known to hide for hours during and after nightly vacuuming.

Squinky: Squinky is a 3 year old tabby cat. She came to us as a kitten with infected eyes. Both of her eyes have since been removed, but you would never know it watching her play. She can catch flies and run around without ever hurting herself. She is wonderful therapy for grieving pet owners and seems to sense when people need a soft cat to cry on. Lucki and Squinky are great friend and can often be found wrestling together.

Momba: Momba is a teeny tiny kitty. At 3 years old she weighs less than 6 pounds! She is all black and very cute! When she came to us she was so scared, no one could get near her. Now she has free rein of the whole lower level, and her and her boyfriend Dick (a client's cat) roam around together all day. Now she loves to have affection from 'her people', and hangs around the Staff Meeting room during our meeting. ADOPTABLE

If you are interested in any of our clinic pets, stop by for a visit any time during our office hours. Call for more details. (410)287-6670.