



Paws for News

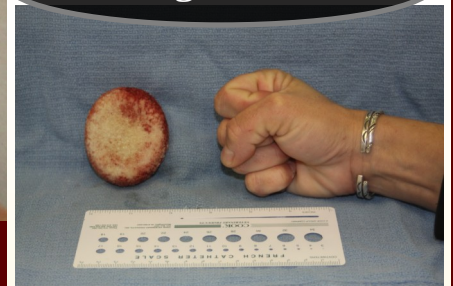
Adair County Animal Hospital 270.384.6113
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Don't forget our contest!



Tell us what it is and WIN!

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When is an illness or injury an **EMERGENCY**?

Emergencies never happen at convenient times or places. Our office has a doctor available around the clock, but it is good to have some guidelines at home to help you determine if you really have an emergency. **Eyes** always need to be seen by a veterinarian, but injuries are not necessarily life threatening. **Vomiting and diarrhea** can be treated at home if it is not continuous and the pet is not depressed, under 16 weeks or a senior pet. **Bloat or stomach** swelling can be life threatening and should be seen immediately. **Allergic reactions** are usually non life threatening and we can help you ease your pets discomfort with over the counter medications. However, if your pet has any trouble breathing or is unconscious then he/she needs to be seen immediately. **Wounds or cuts** can look dramatic. If your pet acquires a wound that is bleeding, apply pressure for at least 5 minutes before lifting the cloth/pad used to cover the wound. Call our office after applying this wrap and pressure. **Trauma** is one of the most common reasons we come in on emergencies. Hit by cars, mowing accidents, etc. Almost always require a doctors attention. Sometimes pain medication / first aid can be administered if there are peripheral injuries (broken bones, lacerations etc.). **Seizures** can be life threatening. Depending on the cause and the length of the seizure. Pull you pet away from furniture / steps etc. and call us immediately. **Poisoning** can be treated. It is an emergency and immediate action should be taken for a positive outcome. *Always feel free to call us with any question. If you feel you have an emergency then we will see you.*



Christmas Gift Ideas

Visit our website

adairanimalhospital.com

for more ideas and look for
our online store coming soon!

Why vaccinate for Leptospirosis? What is it?

Leptospirosis is the most common zoonotic disease worldwide and is now considered re-emerging.

At the Adair County Animal Hospital we recommend vaccinating your dog every 6 months (after initial booster series) for the Leptospirosis bacteria. We use a 4 way vaccine (this means it protects against 4 strains of leptospira).

Urban wildlife is raising the risk to all dogs in their own backyards. Small breed dogs are testing positive more and more because of lack of vaccination and overlap of town living and wildlife.

It is our responsibility as veterinarians to educate our owners about this disease and how to prevent it. All dogs are at risk. Cats do get the disease but clear the bacteria from their system on their own.

Signs of Leptospirosis infection can mimic other diseases. The first signs can be very non-specific. They include depression, loss of appetite, vomiting, weakness and generalized muscle pain. Affected dogs can even have painful eyes. The disease can range in severity from one dog to the next. There can be almost no symptoms... to brain and heart inflammation. The liver and kidneys are commonly damaged in dogs.

Dogs that drink from standing puddles of water are more likely to get sick from contraction of the bacteria than dogs that swim in waters that contain the bacteria. The bacteria is generally shed through the urine and can be contracted through abrasions, contact with mucosal membranes or ingestion.

Treatment can be fairly simple if caught early, but testing can be difficult. It requires two tests 2—4 weeks apart. By that time the infection can cause irreversible damage to your pets kidneys.

Old vaccines only protected against 1-2 types of leptospira bacteria. There are only a few manufacturers that produce a vaccine that protects against 4 of the leptospira bacteria. *It is an out dated practice to only be giving the 2 strain vaccine at this time.*

I had a client that chose to skip vaccinations one year due to cost. The dogs were in a fenced yard in town. 6 months later I was treating one of their 4 year old dogs for leptospirosis that had damaged over 75% of his kidney function. We treated him successfully at that time (several hundred dollars of treatment in the hospital) but did loose him 2 years later secondary to the kidney damage from the Leptospira bacteria. This was a very hard lesson learned for everyone involved." Dr. Rexroat

The bottom line with vaccination protocol is that you should have a good working relationship with your veterinarian. We (the veterinarians) should understand what the day to day risk is for your pet (do they go outside, swim, get ticks on them?). This will help us tailor your pets' personal vaccine protocol. Not all dogs / cats need the same vaccinations. We as veterinarians are the only professionals trained to determine what is right for your pet.

Our focus as veterinarians is not just to protect your pet, but also protect you and



Resistance to heartworm preventatives has been found along the Mississippi River, specifically in the south. The Companion Animal Parasite Council believes that this may be due to off label treatment of positive heartworm cases.

What does this mean to you as a pet owner? This means that you need to make certain you apply your monthly heartworm preventative, document it somewhere on a calendar or personal organizer and have your pets tested once annually. Treatment for heartworm (when done properly) can be very expensive not to mention life threatening in advanced cases. The manufactures' of all major heartworm preventative products have guarantees on their products when purchased in a veterinary office. This means that if your pet tests positive and you have met the requirements listed above, they will pay for your pets treatment. With this looming threat of resistance it is more important than ever to apply / administer your pets monthly heartworm prevention.

Heartworm Disease; Potential for product resistance



Dr. Shannon Blair





Christmas picture by Dr. Rescoat @ Dollywood 2010

Common Pet Toxins

Many toxins are found around the home and in the garden.

The most common Cat toxicity reports to the Pet Poison Helpline were related to human medication ingestion.

(Cat) Toxins commonly called about were:

***Methylxanthines** (Chemicals found in chocolate, tea and coffee products)

***Insect bait stations**

***Rodenticides** (Not all toxins require induction of vomiting, make certain you know which rodenticide you have given when you call us. Some can be toxic to humans if vomiting is induced.)

***Fertilizers**

***Xylitol-containing products:** Sugarless gums particularly those with xylitol listed in the top 5 products. Poisoning can occur in the first 15 minutes of ingestion.

***Ibuprofen:** Most people do not realize that there is no safe dose for dogs or cats for this medication.

***Acetaminophen:** Tylenol kills cats! There is a treatment however if your cat is accidentally given this medication.

***Silica get packs**

***Amphetamines (such as ADD/ADHD drugs)**

***Household cleaners**

Top calls for Canine poisonings were:

- Rodenticides
- Methylxanthines

Plant toxicosis

Household cleaners: flushing of the mouth may be needed at home immediately, before seeking our help at the animal hospital. A lot of these items cause corrosive damage to the lining of the mouth and intestines.

Met aldehyde

Insecticides/organophosphates

Heavy metal poisoning

Toad Poisoning

Antifreeze: Accidental or Maliciously administered; 1 tablespoon can kill an adult dog. However, if caught within the first 12 hours of ingestion, the poison can be successfully treated.

Walnuts

Alcohol

Strychnine

Holiday Nutrition: a challenge for us all

Just a little advice over the holidays based on calorie counting. Ugly words I know, but we **can** have will power for our pets and this information may help us with their nutrition choices.

Pet

Human

1 oatmeal cookie 1 hamburger

One ounce of cheese for cat Four chocolate bars for a human

One potato chip for a cat Half a hamburger for humans

Undetected Pain: Dental Disease

Good Dental Health benefits all aspects of your pets life. One of the most important things we do is keep your pet's teeth clean.



Half this tooth is missing. This cats mouth was very painful.



from the Doctors and Staff of the Adair County Animal Hospital