

San Antonio Tail Mail

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
SAN ANTONIO
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Cats Myths vs. Facts
- Don't Ignore That Lump

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Help...It's Allergy Season

Are your allergies acting up this spring? A lot of people are suffering with itchy, watery eyes and sneezing.

There are ways for allergy sufferers to be more comfortable this spring.

Allergens collect in rugs, drapes and upholstery, so do your best to limit or eliminate them and take care to regularly steam-clean whatever fabrics you do keep as part of your décor.

You can create a pet allergen-free space by preventing pets from entering your bedroom.

This will ensure at least 8 hours of freedom from pet

allergens every night. It's also smart to use hypoallergenic bedding and pillows.

Clean the litterbox frequently, using low-dust, perfume-free litter—clumping litter is a good choice.

Vacuum frequently, using a vacuum equipped with a HEPA filter or disposable electrostatic bag.

Worried your allergies are so bad that you may have to give up your pet? Most people are allergic to several things besides pets, such as dust mites, molds and pollens.

Allergic symptoms result from the total cumulative

allergen load. That means that if you

eliminate some of the other allergens, you may be able to live comfortably with your pet. If you suspect that you or a member of your family has allergies, contact your physician to get help determining the exact cause of your symptoms and help alleviate them. Medications and desensitizing shots can often allow you and your companion animal to live happily together.

(Information provided by www.asPCA.org)



A Message From Dr. Mattox



As Easter approaches, many of us look

forward to the excitement of Easter activities. But Easter baskets filled with plastic grass and chocolate bunnies can mean danger for your pets.

Unfortunately, curious pets enjoy eating everything in the basket, even the plastic grass, toys and chocolate.

Be sure to keep Easter baskets away from your dog and cat.

The plastic grass is non-digestible and can get caught in the intestines, leading to blockages and possible

perforation. Cats love string-like objects and often play with the grass before eating it.



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Cats.....Myths vs. Facts

Do you pause when a black cat crosses your path? While some myths about cats are harmless, for others, it's important to know the facts.

Black cats are unlucky.

Black cats might be an unlucky color, but only for themselves. Humane societies have warned for years that black cats are sometimes the targets of those who practice rituals that include the torture and killing of animals. Many shelters refuse to adopt black cats around Halloween for this very reason. Black cats may be unlucky for another reason, visibility. Countless numbers of cats are killed each year by cars. The ability of the drivers to see the cat as it dashes across

the road is more difficult when the cat is black.

Cats need to drink milk.

On the contrary, some cats, like people, can't tolerate cow's milk. For these cats, a saucer of milk becomes a case of gastric upset.

Cat's purr when they're happy.

Cats also purr if they're injured, when they're giving birth, even when dying.

Cats are a danger to babies.

Cats do not maliciously smother or suck the breath out of babies, as the myth holds. Animal experts remind new parents that common sense dictates that no animal be left unattended with a small child.

This is for the protection of both the pet and child.

A well fed cat won't hunt.

The ability to hunt is hardwired into cats, but the level of desire varies by each cat's genetics and early experiences, not by the rumbling in his tummy. The play of kittens, pouncing and jumping on anything that moves, is really hunting behavior. Putting a bell on your cat won't protect wildlife, but keeping it in the house will.



A Message from Dr. Mattox (continued from page 1)

Once ingested, the grass, as well as small plastic toys, can cause choking or become lodged in the stomach or intestines causing an obstruction.

If you suspect your pet has ingested something that may not pass through his intestinal tract or if you notice a sudden

loss of appetite, vomiting, excessive drinking or abnormal bowel movements, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Remember, even a small amount of chocolate can be fatal to your pet. Keep those chocolate bunnies and eggs out of reach!



The Doctors and Staff of San Antonio Animal Hospital wish you a safe and happy Easter season!

Mac's Mews.....



Mac

Spring cleaning leaves your house feeling refreshed, but

remember to

keep your pets safe while you clean and reorganize.

Keep pets away from cleaning products and shut them out of the room while spraying bathroom cleansers.

Keep toilet lids closed to keep pets from drinking the water, especially if you use automatic chemical tank or bowl treatments.



Keep home fragrance products like liquid potpourri and simmer pots out of reach.

Keep all automotive products, like windshield washer fluid, away from pets and immediately clean up any spills.

Dogs like to eat certain lawn fertilizers such as bone meal or blood meal.

Keep bags tightly sealed.

Grub or snail killers can be toxic to pets, avoid them if at all possible.

If you use a lawn service,



keep pets off the lawn until commercially sprayed herbicides are completely dry.

Until next month...

Mac

Don't Ignore That Lump

One of the golden rules of veterinary and human medicine alike, is that early detection of medical problems will help the patient have a better chance to recover .

If your pet develops a lump , there may be several underlying causes. These



include allergic reactions, abscesses, hernias and tumors. The

most serious of these are tumors which are either benign (slow growing and remain in one place) and malignant (fast growing and may spread to other parts of the body).

If you do discover a lump on your pet, it is important that your veterinarian examine your pet as soon as possible to determine the underlying cause and begin whatever treatment that may be necessary.



Remember, frequent grooming and petting of your pet allows you to keep a watchful eye out for any lumps, bumps, fleas, ticks and a host of other problems.

Just For Fun





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Visit our website:
www.sanantoniovets.com

Adoptable Pets



"Cheetah" needs a loving home. Cheetah's a sweet, loving cat in need of a forever home.

The \$50 adoption fee includes the initial vaccinations, spay/neuter and micro-chipping.

Adoption applications are available at our reception desk.