

AUGUST 2011

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Are Your Pets Ticked Off By Ticks?
- Mac's Mews

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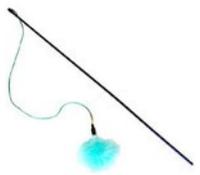


Safe Toys = A Happy Pet

To keep your pet safe, it's important to know about pet toy hazards and how to avoid them.

If you are worried about the safety of your pet's toys, talk to your veterinarian.

Contact your veterinarian if you see your pet swallow a piece of a toy or if your pet vomits, has diarrhea, or has abdominal pain after playing with a



toy.

Pet toys, whether homemade or purchased, can pose hazards to your pet, so it's important to know what the hazards are and how to avoid them. When possible, supervise your pet while he plays with a toy. In addition, help keep your pet safe by following these toy safety tips:

- Read and follow all instructions that comes with a toy.

- Avoid toys with small parts that can become detached and become a choking hazard.

- Avoid toys with sharp edges and points.

- Never give your pet balloons.

- Never give your pet balls small enough to swallow.

- Never point a laser pointer directly at your pet's eyes.

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A Message From Dr. Mattox



It's that time of year when the kids are headed back to school. Parents are

busy with shopping for school supplies and getting ready for another school year. Because parents are so busy with other school related tasks, August is traditionally a slow month

here at the hospital. So, for those of you that have your kids ready for school, or don't have kids, now is a good time to schedule those appointments for your pet that are due, or overdue.

Now that we are using vaccines that can last longer than one year we have many pets that are overdue for other

recommended treatments, such as yearly exams, heartworm tests and stool checks for intestinal parasites. Missing exams is especially risky in senior pets that tend to have age related conditions that are much easier to manage when diagnosed early.

Have we seen your pet recently?

Safe Toys = A Happy Pet (continued from page 1)

Laser pointers can damage a pet's (or person's) eyes.

- Purchase well constructed plush toys with tightly secured parts.



- Toys with strings, ribbons, straps or cords could wrap around your pet's neck. Always monitor your pet when he plays with these types of toys.

- Discard all packaging for toys as soon as they have been opened.

- Regularly inspect your pet's toys

to ensure that they are not damaged. Repair or discard damaged toys before your pet plays with them again.

- Do not use your hands or fingers as pet toys. Teaching your pet that hands and fingers are toys could lead to unwanted biting or scratching of any person's hand or fingers.

- Use Frisbees specially made for dogs.



Frisbees for humans are too hard and could chip a dog's tooth.

- Do not let your pet play with Christmas garland or icicles, rubber bands, ribbons, paperclips or plastic bags.

- Give your pet toys that are indestructible or are designed to be safely digested.

- Do not give your pet chicken bones which can splinter when chewed and possibly result in damage to the gastrointestinal tract.

Feel free to ask our veterinarians for advice in choosing safe toys for your pets.

Disaster Preparedness Checklist

We're right in the middle of hurricane season and so far it's been a quiet one.

However, being prepared ahead of time is important.

Place current pictures of your pet, along with vaccination records into

a Ziploc bag. Store these with the other important documents you will take with you in case of an evacuation. Have 3-7 days worth of pet food on hand along

with food and water dishes, litter pan and litter, harness and leash,

a travel crate with a blanket. Be sure your pet has ID tags that have an alternate phone number listed, ie: your cell phone.

Visit www.aspc.org for more disaster preparedness information.

Mac's Mews.....



Mac

Statistics indicate that diabetes is on the rise among both dogs and cats. "State of Pet Health 2011 Report" a study of 2.1 million dogs and 450,000 cats, shows that this condition

increased 32 percent in dogs and 16 percent in cats from 2006 to 2010.

Likewise, Trupanion, a pet insurance company, reports a 106 percent increase in diabetes claims from 2009 to 2010.

Diabetes mellitus, which affects glucose levels in a pet's blood can be

debilitating for pets, but it is manageable.

Common signs include: increased drinking and urination as well as weight loss despite a good appetite. Your veterinarian can test your pet's blood for the condition and may recommend a diet

change and insulin.

If you notice a change in your pet's behavior, drinking, bathroom activities or weight, contact our office immediately. Early intervention is key!

Until next month...

Mac

Is Your Pet Ticked Off By Ticks?

Ticks have a well-deserved reputation as an annoyance for your pet -- and you. These ugly little pests, closely related to spiders, feed on the blood of animals (including dogs, cats and



humans)! They can transmit a cocktail of diseases, including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and bacterial infections called ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis.

Most tick-borne diseases can pose a lethal threat to your dog if left untreated.

The good news is that most dogs receiving prompt medical attention have an excellent prognosis and with ongoing vigilance and the use of topical tick products, you can help keep your pet safe from ticks.

3 things to know about ticks:

1. Ticks are not just a summertime nuisance.

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Just For Fun



Adoptable Pets

WE HAVE KITTENS!!!!

Our \$50 adoption fee includes initial vaccinations, spay / neuter & microchipping.

See our kitten videos on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/sanantonioanimalhospital

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Is Your Pet Ticked Off By Ticks?

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They're a year-round threat in most climates.

2. Ticks don't respect geographic boundaries. They have carried Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever well into the southern United States.

3. Ticks don't just live in the woods. The biggest myth about ticks is that they are only a problem for woodland hikers.

Almost any outdoor activity, such as a stroll in the park, could make your pet the unhappy victim of a tick bite.

Check your pet regularly for ticks. Starting at the base of the tail, run your hands through the animal's coat. Pay special attention to the head, neck and paws. Look for lumps under the fur. If you find a tick, use gloves and tweezers to grasp the tick gently as close as possible

to the skin. Pull it straight off, being careful not to crush it.

Never try to burn a tick with matches or suffocate it with nail polish or petroleum jelly.

If you're unable, or unwilling, to pull the tick off yourself, the staff at San Antonio Animal Hospital are happy to remove these pests for you!

Call us for more information.