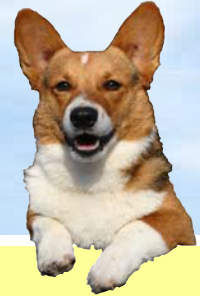


Blue Sky Vet Clinic Newsletter



This Summer, It's All About the Cats!

The Forgotten Feline

Recent studies have shown that, although there are more cats than dogs in American households, far fewer cats visit the vet each year than their canine counterparts. Feline health care is often underrated, and many cats only see the vet when they are sick or injured. But cats need preventative health care too, and even more so as they get older.



As they age, cats are at risk of developing potentially life-threatening illnesses, including diabetes, hyperthyroidism, chronic renal failure, and periodontal disease.

Feline Diabetes

Like people, older (particularly overweight) cats, can become diabetic. Diabetes, a metabolic condition in which the body does not produce enough insulin and is therefore unable to absorb glucose from the bloodstream, is fatal if untreated, but with proper diet and treatment, it can be manageable.

Feline Hyperthyroidism

One of the most common diseases developed by older cats, hyperthyroidism is caused by an overproduction of thyroid hormone. This causes the cat's metabolic rate to skyrocket, consuming body

fat, and if the thyroid production is unchecked, potentially fatal cardiac and liver problems will develop. Hyperthyroidism in cats is very manageable, and is diagnosed by a simple blood test.

Chronic Renal (Kidney) Failure

Another common disease of older cats, chronic renal failure is caused by one or both of the kidneys not functioning as it should. This causes toxins to build up in the bloodstream, and eventually causes death. While the kidneys can never be repaired, if the condition is diagnosed and treated at an early stage it could prolong your cat's life by years.

Periodontal (Dental) Disease

More than 85% of both dogs and cats over four years of age have some form of periodontal (dental) disease. When plaque accumulates on your pet's teeth, it allows bacteria to build up in the mouth. These bacteria excrete toxic waste products, breaking down gum tissue and eventually entering the blood stream. Through the blood stream, these toxins can affect the heart, liver, and kidneys, causing serious medical conditions.

The Importance of Annual Check-ups

Catching illness early is the key to a longer, healthier life. Performing regular blood workups can provide the veterinarian with a baseline for diagnosis when your cat actually becomes ill. It can also show the beginning stages of many life-threatening diseases before your cat begins to show visible signs of illness.

Summer Vaccine Clinic

Join us for our summer vaccine clinic, to be held on Saturday, June 19. As always, all vaccines will be discounted to \$20, and no exam is required. Spots are limited, so please call ahead to schedule at 541-383-3833.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Summer Cat Special

Bring your cat in for a \$75 Cat Health Screening! Normally over \$200, it includes the following:

- Complete blood chemistry panel and CBC
- T4 level to rule out thyroid disease
- Dental health exam & dental kit
- Free nail trim
- Optional urinalysis for only \$20 more!

Some exclusions may apply. Offer expires on July 31, 2010.

Toxic Algae Alert

Central Oregon comes with an abundance of lakes and rivers. Swimming can be a great form of exercise for our canine friends; however, owners should be careful when choosing where they let their dogs swim. Last fall, Oregon had its first confirmed dog death due to ingestion of blue-green algae, and 10 other suspected cases were reported. Toxic algae blooms occur in the warmer months, starting as early May, and lasting throughout the summer. Although not all algae is harmful, you should avoid letting your dog swim in or drink from any water where an algae bloom has been seen. Algae blooms can occur in almost any slow moving or standing water, and dogs can fall ill immediately after ingesting water infected with toxic algae. If you suspect your dog may have ingested toxic algae, contact your veterinarian immediately.



Vaccinating Your Cat—The Truth About Rabies

Most people don't think twice about bringing their dog in for a rabies vaccine; why, then, do so many cats remain unvaccinated for this fatal viral infection? What cat owners may not know is that more cats are infected with rabies each year than any other pet.

The Disease

Transmitted through the bite of an infected animal, the rabies virus can affect all warm-blooded animals (including humans) and it is ALWAYS fatal once clinical signs appear. These signs can take days, weeks, or months to appear. Behavior changes can include staring blankly, being unusually anxious, weak or uncoordinated, or running continuously.

The Risk

Around 300 cases of feline rabies are seen every year, and living exclusively indoors is no guarantee

your cat will be safe. Several cases have been reported in the Central Oregon area of rabid bats that have flown into people's homes and been caught by housecats, and the virus is also carried by other local wildlife. What's more, unvaccinated cats that have been exposed to a rabid animal may be placed in isolation for six months, or even euthanized.

The Vaccine

Rabies vaccines have been around for many years, and they are remarkably effective. Here at Blue Sky Veterinary Clinic, we use the only rabies vaccine designed specifically for cats, which does not contain chemical adjuvants that may cause potential health risks to feline patients. With the safest vaccines on the market, there is no reason not to vaccinate every cat, and some very compelling reasons to do so. So ask yourself, is your cat protected?

Contact Us!

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Please give us a
call if you would
like to be removed
from our email list.

Photo Contest 2010

Have you been saving that perfect picture all year? Well, the time has come at last—our summer photo contest is here, and we can't wait to see those pictures. No categories this time, only the best pictures of the best pets! The top five winners will earn a place on our website, as well as a gift card to be used here at the clinic.

Send your entries to photocontest@blueskyvet.com

*Deadline for submissions is July 31, 2010.
Winners will be announced in our fall newsletter.*

