

Fisher Glen News



The warm, sunny weather is finally here! Take time to stop and smell roses while the summer days last. Why not get out with your pet to burn off those excess winter pounds?

Holiday Hours

We will be closed Tuesday July 1st, for Canada day as well as August 2nd, 3rd and 4th, for the Civic Holiday weekend. Please make sure you pet



Leptospirosis



We are now recommending all dogs be vaccinated against leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is spread primarily by raccoons. This is a serious disease, which can cause liver and kidney failure in both pets and humans. Moist weather conditions are a perfect breeding ground for this disease.

FIV/FELV Testing and Your Cat

Feline leukemia virus and feline immunodeficiency virus (cat AIDS) are contagious viral diseases that can affect any cat, either through transmission from the mother or direct contact with other cats (fighting, sharing food or water). We recommend that all kittens be screened via a simple blood test, and that at-risk outdoor cats be checked annually.



Did You Know?

According to the results of a study done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 14% of the U.S. population is infected with *Toxocara*, or roundworms, contracted from dogs and cats.

We recommend running a fecal test at your pet's annual exam, and deworming your pet a minimum of four times a year.

What I Should Know About . . . Cognitive Dysfunction in Senior Pets

Cognitive dysfunction, or CD, can be compared to Alzheimer's disease in humans. CD causes behaviour and mental changes in geriatric dogs and cats, such as eliminating inappropriately, loss of mobility, or confusion. Currently there are no diagnostic tests for CD. Instead, veterinarians must rely on owner observations of changes in mood and behaviour to rule out other possible causes for these changes.

Treatment for CD, once diagnosed, is multi-pronged. Owners who are frustrated or angry with behavioural changes must first understand why they are happening. Medication may be prescribed to dogs in certain instances, but unfortunately there are currently no medications to treat cats. Diet is also important in slowing the progression of CD. A diet that is rich in antioxidants can help to increase alertness and learning ability and be very beneficial for aging pets. Environmental and behaviour modification can help with the quality of life of both pet owner and pet. Cats that are eliminating in inappropriate places because they don't remember where the litter box is may benefit from being taken to the litter box regularly. Geriatric cats can also benefit from adding litter boxes to every floor of the house, or moving the litter box next to where the cat spends most of its time so that the boxes are easily accessible. Treating senior dogs that are eliminating in the

Heartworm and Fleas

Make sure that your outdoor pet is on a heartworm and flea prevention program for the summer. The positive results in this area increase every year. If you haven't started, it's not too late! Speak to veterinarian for more information.

house as if they were puppies can be a useful approach. They should be taken outside frequently and praised profusely when they eliminate outside. Owners should avoid making major changes in the senior pet's home environment if possible. Mental stimulation is also important, owners should provide a stimulating environment with new toys or games, or training. Regular training, positive reinforcement of desired behaviour and ignoring undesired responses, stimulates mental activity.

In all cases, the family's routines and living situation, as well as the pet's needs, must be considered when making a plan to modify living arrangements for aging pets.

[Look for our next edition in September.](#)