



OAK FOREST Veterinary Hospital



Pet Talk

Summer 2021

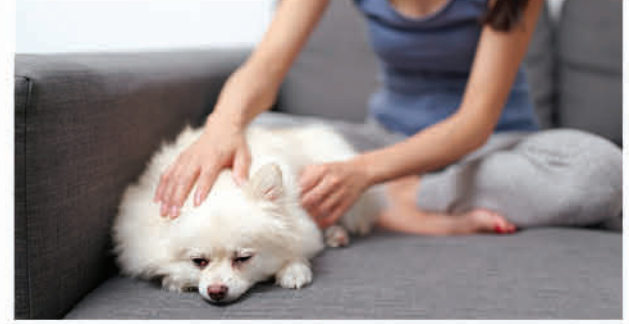


Is This an Emergency?

When to Get Immediate Care

Accidents happen. Some problems need urgent care, and some can wait. Knowing when your pet is experiencing an emergency is key to getting them help in time. The following are signs that emergency care is needed:

- 🐾 Rapid breathing
- 🐾 Unable to urinate
- 🐾 Deep laceration or excessive bleeding
- 🐾 Bloating or distended stomach
- 🐾 Sudden lameness or limping
- 🐾 Ingestion of poison
- 🐾 Crying out in pain
- 🐾 A fever over 104 degrees
- 🐾 Disorientation
- 🐾 Choking
- 🐾 Lethargy or collapse
- 🐾 Difficulty standing or loss of balance
- 🐾 Swollen face or a bulging eye
- 🐾 Uncontrolled vomiting or diarrhea
- 🐾 Snake, scorpion and certain spider bites
- 🐾 Heatstroke/hypothermia
- 🐾 Constant coughing
- 🐾 Pale gums
- 🐾 Seizures



It's also a good idea to keep a list of foods that can make your pet sick. These include alcohol, avocado, garlic, grapes, onions, raisins, spinach, tomatoes, chocolate, caffeine, Xylitol, yeast dough, and some plants. Remember to keep your human medications out of reach.

Some emergencies are obvious; some are not. Be prepared by having a plan in place before you need it. Keep emergency phone numbers available and ask us about our emergency protocol. Anytime your pet is behaving unusually or doesn't seem quite right, don't hesitate to contact us!

Myth or Truth?

Common Feline Fallacies

- 🐾 **Cats like to be left alone.** Many people believe it's okay to leave them home alone for a couple of days. Not so. Cats look forward to your company even if they don't react to your homecoming like dogs do, and they can suffer separation anxiety.
- 🐾 **Indoor cats can't catch diseases.** Indoor cats are exposed to disease through airborne illnesses, anything you bring in on your clothing, and from ingesting insects. It's best to take your shoes off when you come home!
- 🐾 **Cats always land on their feet.** Not always. Landing the wrong way can result in sprains, bone fractures and respiratory issues.
- 🐾 **Cats can have milk.** Many cats get diarrhea from milk, and too much can lead to obesity. Save the milk for your cereal!

- 🐾 **Cats eat only what they need and won't overeat.** Not so! Obesity is increasing among cats. Be sure to feed them proper portions to maintain a healthy weight.
- 🐾 **Pregnant women should avoid cats.** It's safe for pregnant women to interact with cats—it's the litter box that's a no-no. Toxoplasmosis can be spread through their feces.
- 🐾 **Cats have nine lives.** Cats have only one life and need regular checkups, vaccines, and dental care to live out their days in good health!



Goose Honks

Pawsitive News!

Hey everyone! Can you believe it's been a WHOLE year since this pandemic thing has been going on? My mom, Dr. Moore, and her crew at Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital have been working super-duper hard to make sure all the puppies, kitty cats and their people are safe and healthy. Rumor has it that if things keep looking up the humans can re-enter the building if they want to. But everyone is still wearing face muzzles. I don't get it.

There is also lots of changing going on. My mom says there will be a new face soon in the form of a new doctor. Her name is Dr. Krystin Schaack and she smells nice. She's also an Aggie vet and you know my mom and dad are both Aggies, so I bet she's pretty cool. Also, my mom is building me a new vacation home. It's right next door to the hospital and it's full of more space for me and my friends to stay and play in. It should be ready this Summer.

Lots of good things are happening! Oh! Gotta go! I hear the food bag crinkling.

Goose



Doctor's Notes

Why Parvovirus Protection Is Critical

Parvovirus is a lethal virus spread through the feces of infected dogs. It's one of the diseases we are most concerned about in puppies and immune suppressed dogs. Parvo especially preys on unvaccinated puppies and adolescent dogs, which is why we recommend restricting your pup from public outdoor areas until their vaccination series is completed at 16 weeks. Disinfecting an area where the virus has been present can be extremely difficult, and in warmer climates, the virus can survive up to a year in the environment.



This highly contagious virus spreads through contact with an infected dog, a contaminated object or surface, or even when a puppy sniffs infected feces. Parvovirus has a three- to seven-day incubation period before the puppy appears obviously ill. The virus first sets up in the lymph nodes in the throat of an infected dog and quickly replicates in large numbers. Within a couple of days, significant amounts of the virus have been released into the bloodstream. Within three to four days, the virus seeks new organs to infest, such as bone marrow and delicate intestinal cells.

When Parvovirus is left untreated, it results in death in 50% of cases. Diarrhea and vomiting lead to extreme fluid loss and dehydration. The virus attacks intestinal cells and the intestinal barrier is compromised, allowing bacteria to invade the entire body.

A puppy diagnosed with Parvovirus must be isolated, hospitalized, and treated with IV fluids and antibiotics. While the damaged immune system is trying to respond to treatment, fluid loss and bacterial invasion can still cause damage.

Prevention is the most important thing to remember about Parvovirus. We will recommend a specific vaccine protocol for your new puppy to boost his defenses against Parvo and other diseases in his first few months. It's important to adhere to this schedule. Meanwhile, be sure to keep your puppy isolated from unvaccinated dogs until he has completed the series.



Call us at (713) 682-6351 today to make an appointment!

Summer Hazards

5 Ways to Help Pets Beat the Heat!

Summer is a great time for outdoor fun, but the season also holds special dangers for pets. Keep these summer hazards in mind:

- 1. Never leave your pet in a hot car!** Even with the windows cracked, the interior can quickly become like a furnace. Sadly, many dogs are lost every year from pet owners leaving them in cars "for just a few minutes." With an outside temperature of only 78 degrees, the temperature inside a parked car can reach 120 degrees in minutes!
- 2. Keep it cool.** If it's too hot outside for you, it's too hot for your pet. Don't leave your dog outside in extreme heat and avoid walks during the hottest part of the day. Watch for signs of heat stress and dehydration, which include dry gums, excessive lethargy, decreased urination and lack of appetite.
- 3. Avoid dehydration.** Prolonged dehydration can become a serious condition. Keep water bowls full of fresh, cool water. Carry water when you take your dog for a walk or car ride.
- 4. Water Hazards.** Don't assume your dog likes to or is able to swim. They can drown! In addition, chlorine in pools, salt in the ocean, and algae and bacteria in lakes and ponds can all be harmful. Be sure they drink only fresh, safe water.
- 5. Asphalt and Pavement.** If the asphalt or pavement is too hot or rough for your bare feet, it's probably too hot for your pets. To avoid scorched pads, walk your dog early in the morning or later in the evening when streets and sidewalks are cooler.

Be sure to contact us immediately if you suspect your pet is suffering from any heat-related illness!



Refer a Friend and Save!

Refer a new client and save \$10 on your next doctor's visit.

Be sure to mention the refer-a-friend savings when you make your appointment.

Senior Wellness Savings

\$20 Savings
for Canine and Feline

Senior Wellness Profile - includes bloodwork, urinalysis and thyroid check

Not valid with any other offer. Expires 8/31/2021.

Microchip Savings \$10 Savings

on Microchipping (includes registration in the national database)

Increase the likelihood that your pet will be returned to you!

Not valid with any other offer. Expires 8/31/2021.

Drop-off Savings

Save 5%
on morning drop-offs for "routine" veterinary services.

Expires 8/31/2021.

Boarding Special

Board your pet for 8 consecutive nights and get the 9th night free!

Holidays excluded. Expires 8/31/2021.



When you're here, you're family.

2120 W. 34th Street
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<https://OakForestVet.com>



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today to make an appointment!



Summer
enjoy every moment



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