

OAK FOREST Veterinary Hospital

Pet Talk

Spring 2022

Fleas and Disease

Be Sure to Protect Your Pet!



Spring is in the air and it's a great time for outdoor fun with your pet. Unfortunately, springtime also brings with it those nagging little critters: fleas. Fleas can do more than irritate your pet, however. They are known carriers of pathogens that can harm both pets and humans.

Common flea dangers for pets include:

Allergic Reactions

Animals can develop allergic reactions to fleas. Look for vomiting, excessive scratching or fur loss.

Blood Loss

The flea not only bites—it also ingests your pet's blood! Small kittens and puppies are especially at risk. Serious infestations can cause anemia, severe discomfort, and even death from blood loss.

Tapeworms

Tapeworms are commonly passed into the host by an infected flea—a widespread occurrence that can affect both humans and their pets. Cats and dogs will commonly ingest the flea and tapeworm larvae while grooming themselves.

The dangers of flea infestation can best be avoided through a combination of tactics. Vacuuming daily is suggested as flea eggs tend to fall into the deepest parts of carpeting and can survive up to a year. If you discover fleas, wash all bedding and areas your pets frequent and contact a pest control professional to perform the proper protocol.

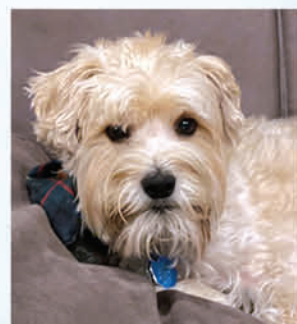
Most importantly, your pet should be on a flea preventative medication recommended by your vet. With proper flea prevention, you and your pets will be truly prepared to enjoy the beautiful days of spring! Be sure to ask us which flea prevention method is best for your pet.

Goose Honks

Welcome Dr. Lane!

Hi, hi, hi, hi, hi, hi! I had to say hello six times because my mom (Dr. Moore) just told me there will be six veterinarians at her hospital starting June 2022! That sounds crazy! The new veterinarian, Dr. Lane, just graduated from Texas A&M University and is joining the team ready to make a difference! How great is that?!

Dr. Lane says she enjoys internal medicine and surgery ... sounds painful! She is moving to Houston with her husband and their dog, Milo, and they plan to spend lots of free time out and about seeing what our town has to offer. Maybe someday I can meet Dr. Lane and persuade her to give me a treat.



Gotta go, my mom is trying to catch me for my monthly prevention!

Goose

Kitty Care

When to Take Your Cat to the Vet

When should your cat visit us? Sometimes it's obvious they need medical attention while at other times, it's less obvious. We always need to see your kitty for the following:

- 🐾 **Yearly examinations.** Even a healthy cat should see us annually for a checkup! Some diseases have symptoms you won't observe during their early progression.
- 🐾 **Pain.** Cats instinctively hide pain. Crying out, difficulty moving, and unusual behaviors are some of the signs of distress.
- 🐾 **Changes in litter habits.** Any changes such as frequent litter box visits that produce little urine or urinating outside the box can indicate a urinary tract infection. This is a painful condition that can lead to death if untreated.
- 🐾 **Digestive upset.** Repeated vomiting, diarrhea and hunching over bowls without drinking or eating are signs of intestinal problems.
- 🐾 **Attacks by another animal.** Diseases can be transferred through bites and scratches.
- 🐾 **Ingestion of a toxic substance.** Symptoms of poisoning may not show up immediately, so don't wait.
- 🐾 **Skin and coat abnormalities.** Swelling, lumps, discoloration, hair loss and wounds need immediate attention.
- 🐾 **Dental trouble.** Untreated dental issues lead to serious health problems. Signs include trouble chewing, bad breath and blood in the mouth. Regular cleanings can prevent bigger problems later.



Pawsitive Reinforcement

Make Vet Visits a Better Experience for your Pet

Do vet visits create anxiety for your pet? For some pet owners, just coming in for routine care becomes a battle of wills. Even the most compliant dogs and cats may only be enduring the experience fearfully. Regardless of past experience, the following tips may help you reshape the event into one that's more positive for your furry loved one:

- 🐾 Pets can sense our emotions, so remain calm and positive throughout the experience. Use a cheerful, soothing voice and relaxed body language.
- 🐾 Give praise, affection and treats for every step they conquer, from getting into a carrier or car, to the exam room, to arriving home again. This helps create a new, more positive association. Treats will have more meaning if you bring their absolute favorites! (Check with us first to make sure pre-visit fasting isn't required.)
- 🐾 Many pets fear car rides because they only associate them with vet visits. Take your dog on other drives just for fun!
- 🐾 Some pets also associate their carriers only with vet visits. Leave it out so it becomes familiar. Make it cozy with soft bedding and a favorite toy. Carriers should always be clean and properly ventilated.
- 🐾 Some pets are comforted by sprays that replicate the special pheromones animal mothers secrete to comfort their litters. "ThunderShirts" may also help with anxiety.
- 🐾 A familiar blanket can make an exam table less intimidating.
- 🐾 Our waiting room is not the place for your pet to socialize with other animals—especially with other pets who are also tense.
- 🐾 Lastly, if your pet is particularly apprehensive, we may be able to prescribe anti-anxiety medication to give before your visit.



We are happy to work with you on "pawsitive reinforcement" to make your pet's visits a new and better experience!

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

Pandemic Pet Adoption Crisis

How Your Family Can Help

In the earlier days of the pandemic, shelters were nearly emptied as people who were isolated at home adopted pets. Now, adoption organizations face a crisis as people began to surrender their pandemic pets when they returned to work and school. Many displaced pets are once again waiting to find loving, forever homes.

If you are considering providing a home for a pet in need, all members of your family should discuss honestly the following potential challenges to ensure a permanent placement:

1. Is every family member completely committed to pet ownership?
2. Do you have the time and financial resources necessary?
3. Does anyone have allergies to certain types of pets?
4. Would your current pets be stressed out by a new addition? It's important to know how they will react before making a final commitment.
5. If you're determined to get a puppy, does everyone understand how demanding puppyhood will be? Don't discount older dogs. Even senior dogs have much to offer!
6. Be realistic. Do you have a large enough yard or the time to provide sufficient exercise for a large or high-energy dog breed?
7. If the pet is going to be at home all day alone, consider whether this is fair.

Before you commit:

- 🐾 Learn about the pet's past. If the animal was abused, its emotional healing will require extra patience and time.
- 🐾 Assess the dog's or cat's temperament by handling it thoroughly and taking dogs for a walk. Observe how your children or current pets react before making a final decision.
- 🐾 Health, temperament and personality are more important than looks.
- 🐾 Bring any pet you are considering in to see us for a complete health check before you commit. Many shelters don't have the time or money to thoroughly assess the health of each animal, and you don't want to bring a pet into your home that can transmit a disease to your current pets.

If you find that adopting isn't realistic for your family, you can still help! Make a commitment to give a local shelter your ongoing support.



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 5/31/2022.

Boarding Special

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

Holidays excluded. Expires 5/31/2022.

Drop-off Savings

Save 5%

on morning drop-offs for "routine" veterinary services.

Expires 5/31/2022.

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 5/31/2022.



When you're here, you're family.

2120 W. 34th Street
Houston, TX 77018

www.OakForestVet.com



Call (713) 682-6351
today to make your appointment!

Sit.
Stay.
Heal.



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