

OAK FOREST

Veterinary Hospital

Pet Talk 🐾 Winter 2024/2025



Have a Pet-Safe Holiday!

Guard Against Common Hazards

We all love the holidays, but pet owners need to be on high alert for potential dangers to furry family members. The holiday foods and decorations we traditionally enjoy can cause poisoning or injury, and the added stress is no fun for pets.

Harmful Foods

- 🐾 Fatty foods can cause acute pancreatitis.
- 🐾 Chocolate, grapes and certain nuts are toxic to pets.
- 🐾 Bones from turkey and other meats can splinter and puncture internal organs.

Dangerous Decorations

- 🐾 Christmas trees can fall on puppies and curious kitties who climb.
- 🐾 Electrical cords can cause burns or electrocution if chewed on.
- 🐾 Plants such as poinsettias, mistletoe and holly can result in vomiting, diarrhea or heart arrhythmia.

- 🐾 Alcohol in any form can result in coma and seizures.
- 🐾 Human medications left within reach by houseguests can poison pets.
- 🐾 Sugar-free foods containing xylitol can cause vomiting, lethargy, seizures and liver failure.

- 🐾 Candles and fireplaces are burn hazards and can cause a fire.
- 🐾 The batteries used in toys and electronics can cause obstruction and burns to the esophagus.
- 🐾 Christmas tree lights, ornaments, tinsel and ribbons can become tangled in the intestines.

Other winter hazards for pets include ice melt products, wiper fluids and anti-freeze. Ingestion can lead to kidney failure and death for cats and dogs.

Apart from physical dangers, holidays can be very stressful for pets because of a sudden increase in noise levels and activity. Have an area in your home that is off limits to guests and children where your pets can find refuge. By planning ahead, you can make the holidays safe for your furry family members. If you suspect an accident or illness, be sure to call us right away!



Amazing Feline Senses

How Your Cat Experiences the World

All cat owners know that felines are marvelous creatures, but when compared to humans, some of their senses are downright amazing! From sight, to smell, to hearing, learn how your kitty experiences the world.

Sight

All of the special features of feline vision are geared toward hunting prey. Cats see much better than humans at night, their preferred hunting time, but worse than us during the day. They outdo us on other aspects of vision, such as depth perception and movement. Cats are nearsighted and see objects most clearly that are approximately three feet away. However, cats have a wider field of vision than we do.

Felines don't see in black and white, but their color perception is akin to a colorblind human. They primarily see colors in the blue and green spectrum and don't see colors in the red spectrum well.

Hearing

A cat's hearing is much better than a human's. They can hear higher pitches humans and even dogs can't detect. This ability helps them locate prey with precision.

Felines can hear sounds up to 64,000 hertz, while humans can only hear up to 20,000 hertz. Simply put, sounds are much louder to cats, therefore they are alarmed by loud, sudden or strange noises, which could mean danger. To keep your kitty comfortable, keep this in mind!

Smell

Cats' sense of smell is 14 times stronger than ours! Cats have more than 200 million odor sensors in their noses while humans have just 5 million. Felines rely on this sense much more than we do to navigate their world. A cat's sense of smell is the primary way it identifies people, food and other objects.



Common Cancers In Cats

Focus on Prevention and Detection

More than 6 million cats are diagnosed with cancer every year. Cancer is much more common in older cats. Although several types of cancer can occur in cats, lymphoma, squamous cell carcinoma, mast cell tumors, and cancer of the mammary glands are the most common.

One of the most common feline cancers is lymphoma, which is associated with the feline leukemia virus (FeLV). Exposure to this virus greatly increases a cat's chance of developing feline lymphoma, which may develop in the thymus, gastrointestinal tract, liver, spleen, or renal system. Cats vaccinated against this virus have a greatly reduced risk for this type of cancer.

Squamous cell carcinoma occurs in the mouth or on the skin. Oral tumors are typically seen in older cats. Soft tissue sarcoma, which develops in the muscle or in the connective tissue of the body, is associated with injections and vaccinations.

Feline mast cell tumors (MCTs) can develop on the skin, the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, or the spleen. Skin tumors are most commonly seen on the head and neck. Mast cell tumors in cats can be benign or malignant. Those on the skin tend to be benign, while mast cell tumors affecting the internal organs are more likely to be malignant.

Tumors originating in the mammary glands are the third most common type of feline cancer and occur 95 percent of the time in females. The risk is greatly reduced when females are spayed before six months of age.

The symptoms of feline cancer vary with the type. External tumors or masses can often be seen or felt. Vomiting and diarrhea are common signs of gastrointestinal lymphoma. Decreased appetite, weight loss, drooling, bad breath, difficulty breathing, and a rough coat are also symptoms of certain types of cancers.

If your feline friend has any of these symptoms or a sudden change in behavior, please see us right away. Fortunately, many types of feline cancer can be treated if detected early.

Goose Honks

Making Sure Our Toys Are Safe

Hi, hello, howdy all! Boy, oh boy, am I excited! Santa Paws is coming soon and that means my siblings and I get treats and toys! My mom, Dr. Moore, says I can only have certain toys that are safe for me—she's so thoughtful! I thought I should share with all my friends' parents too!

Sometimes, my brother, Knox, and I get bored while our parents aren't home and choose to be destructive ... so, it's important for us to have toys that are appropriate! We can't have any toys that are too small or may have strings and ropes attached. These can cause blockages in our tummies if we swallow them! Stuffing and squeakers? Yikes! That's a possible foreign body as well!

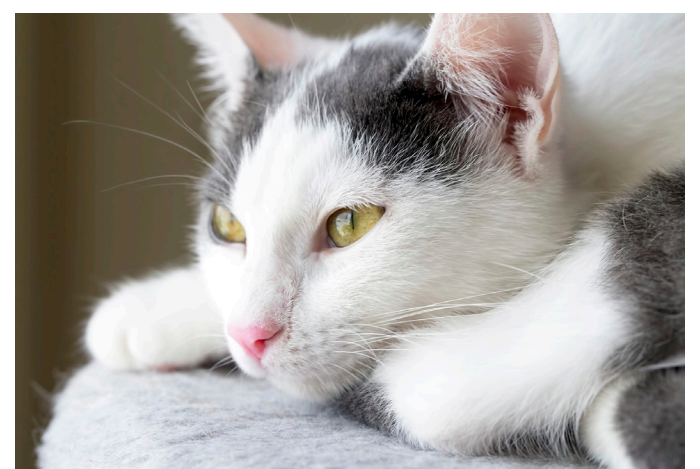
I get excited when my mom starts cutting that holiday turkey, but she always says, "None for puppies!" I didn't know something so yummy can cause splintering to my intestines. Ouch!

It's not just a dangerous world for my brother and I, but also our kitty sister, Diana! Cats can have blockages with toys just like dogs can! It sure is funny to watch her chase those ribbons during the present unwrapping; I gotta be more careful about watching what she does!

I think Santa Paws promised us durable, interactive puzzle toys that will entertain us for hours! I like doing puzzles just like my mom! I also love it when she does this thing called "supervise" me while I play with my toys. She just can't stop staring at me!

Gotta blast, I think I heard a riiiiipp from Knox and one of his toys ... we don't want a toy emergency!

Goose Moore



info@OakForestVet.com
(713) 682-6351

www.OakForestVet.com
make an appointment today!

Rabies Is Still a Threat!

Keeping Your Pets and Family Safe

There is good reason behind the laws that require your pet to be vaccinated against rabies: In over 95% of cases, humans contract the rabies virus from domestic dogs. It is spread both to dogs and humans through bites or scratches from an infected animal, usually through saliva. Unvaccinated dogs and cats that have encounters with raccoons, skunks, bats, coyotes or foxes are most at risk.

The virus causes an acute infection of the central nervous system. A dog or cat that has contracted rabies will usually show symptoms from 10 days to 12 weeks after infection. Often, the first signs are behavioral changes. Pets that are generally agreeable may become ill-tempered and aggressive, while those that are usually excitable may become docile. Other early symptoms include licking or chewing at the wound site, loss of appetite, and fever. In more advanced stages, symptoms include disorientation, staggering, and hypersensitivity to touch, light and sound. Paralysis of the throat and jaw muscles follow, resulting in foaming at the mouth. Rabies is almost always fatal for pets.

The first line of defense against this lethal virus is to vaccinate your pet and keep these vaccinations up to date. Another important measure is not allowing your pets to roam. Rabies vaccinations not only protect your pet; they protect your family!

You can also avoid attracting wildlife to your home by securing your trash containers and only feeding your pets indoors. If you aren't sure, call us to find out if your pet's rabies vaccines are up to date. And contact us *anytime* your pet is bitten by another animal!



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.

Drop-off Savings

Save 5%

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

Expires 2/28/2025.

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 2/28/2025.

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 2/28/2025.



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



When you're here, you're family.

2120 W. 34th Street
Houston, TX 77018

www.OakForestVet.com

Warm Holiday Wishes



from **Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital**