



OAK FOREST

Veterinary Hospital

Pet Talk

Summer 2025

Feline Bliss

Know the Signs of a Happy Cat

Cats were first domesticated by humans over 10,000 years ago, but did you know that they still aren't fully domesticated? Cats can still survive in the wild, while dogs have become much more reliant on humans. Still, the happiest place for a cat is in a loving home. Ever wonder if your precious kitty is happy? Look for these behaviors:

- 🐾 Marking people and things with scent glands in their head and tails is a sign cats feel safe.
- 🐾 Ears facing forward and wide eyes indicates they are happy and playful.
- 🐾 Looking at you while blinking slowly is a sign of trust and affection.
- 🐾 Straight, upright tail, erect ears. A confident cat holds its head up.
- 🐾 Resting with feet tucked under the body and eyes half closed.
- 🐾 Signs of interest or curiosity, even if they are just observing.
- 🐾 Vocal sounds are also clues—the higher-pitched, the better.
- 🐾 Twitching their tail and playing with you or other pets.



- 🐾 A good appetite.
- 🐾 Curling up in your lap to take a nap.
- 🐾 Keeping themselves well-groomed.
- 🐾 An arched back with the fur lying flat.
- 🐾 Lying on their back with feet in the air.
- 🐾 Kneading is a sign of trust and satisfaction.
- 🐾 Rubbing their face, ears and body around your legs.

Fear of Fireworks

How to Protect Your Pet

Although humans may enjoy the “bombs bursting in air” on July 4th, to many pets, these loud bangs are frightening. Fireworks sound louder to pets as their hearing is several times more sensitive than ours. Humans also understand that these strange lights and sounds aren't threatening, while pets don't understand what is happening. They can have reactions ranging from stress to terror.

Sensitive pets should be kept inside and supervised whenever fireworks or firecrackers can be heard. Even indoors, dogs may hide or become destructive. Be sure doors and windows are shut to reduce noise. Some dogs attempt to get outside and escape; in fact, more pets run away on this day than any other day of the year! Be sure ID tags and microchips are up to date.

Minimize anxiety by creating a safe interior space and comfort them with talk, petting, long-lasting chews, or soothing sounds. Products such as ThunderShirt or pheromone-based sprays such as Adaptil and Feliway may help some pets.

If your fur-baby becomes overly anxious, contact us about other possibilities. We may prescribe medications to help calm them. Of course, never let pets near any type of fireworks—even unlit, they can pose a danger.



Goose Honks

The Scoop on Credelio Quattro

Hey hooman friends!

It's me, Goose—your favorite four-legged, tail-wagging, treat-demanding pup. I'm here with some breaking bark-worthy news: *I'm protected from fleas, ticks, heartworms, AND intestinal worms ... all thanks to Credelio Quattro.* That's right, FOUR levels of protection in ONE tasty chew. Basically, it's the Avengers of parasite control, and I'm Iron Pup.

Let me break it down, tail-wag style:

1. **Fleas & Ticks?** Gone faster than I can eat a hotdog someone accidentally drops at a barbecue. (That's fast.)
2. **Heartworms?** Not on my watch. Those mosquito-borne baddies can't touch this.
3. **Intestinal worms?** Ew. Gross. Nope. Credelio Quattro zaps 'em like they owe me kibble.

And the best part? It tastes like a treat. Seriously. I don't know what sorcery the vets used, but it's DELICIOUS. I'd eat it even if it didn't make me a superhero.

Plus, no messy sprays, no weird collars, and no “surprise” pills hidden in peanut butter. (I always know.)

So, fellow furry friends, give your humans the puppy eyes and tell them to ask the vet about Credelio Quattro. Let's stay healthy, happy, and ready to chase squirrels all year long!

Licks and tail wags,

Goose 🐾

P.S. Remember: I may be cute, but parasites? They're the real pests. Let's keep 'em off our backs. Literally.



Car Trouble

Helping Your Dog with Motion Sickness

If you've ever had carsickness, you can empathize when your dog is feeling unbearably queasy while riding in a car. Although vomiting is an obvious sign of carsickness, excessive yawning, drooling, listlessness or whining are also symptoms. Motion sickness can be caused by an inner ear imbalance, but often the cause is anxiety.

If the only place your dog ever travels to is the vet's office, you will need to recondition them. Start with treats and playtime in the car with the engine off. Next, work up to short trips that end in fun. Other tips to help with carsickness include:

- 🐾 Use your voice and behavior to show that the car is a fun, worry-free place.
- 🐾 Harness your dog in the front seat where they can look forward.
- 🐾 Don't react when your dog vomits in the car. Don't stop; clean it up later. Seeing you upset only makes them fear the car more.
- 🐾 Stop frequently on longer trips.
- 🐾 Keep the windows partly down for fresh air circulation.
- 🐾 Try giving a small piece of kibble every few minutes to help settle the stomach.

If you've tried reconditioning and your dog is still experiencing motion sickness, we can prescribe medications that will help.



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

Heat Alert!

It's Time to Summer-Proof Your Pets

Summer weather poses many dangers to pets, including hyperthermia or heat stroke. Heat stroke most often occurs because a pet is left in a parked car, isn't provided with adequate shade and water, or is allowed to exercise too strenuously in hot weather. Follow these tips to keep your pet safe:

- 🐾 NEVER leave your pet in a car. Even with the windows cracked or parked in shade, the inside temperature of a car can reach 120 degrees in minutes!
- 🐾 Dogs often don't know when to quit while they're having fun—it's our responsibility to limit their play in hot weather. Walk them only during cooler hours of the day.
- 🐾 Don't allow pets to walk on hot pavement where their feet can be burned. If the pavement is too hot for your bare feet, it's too hot for cats and dogs!
- 🐾 Keep pets indoors during extreme heat. If they must be outdoors, limit the time and be sure they are completely under shade. Walk dogs only in the early morning or evening.
- 🐾 Pets require more water to stay cool in summer. Keep water dishes full, fresh, and in the shade.
- 🐾 DON'T shave your pet's coat except for medical reasons. Your pet sheds its warm undercoat as temperatures rise, and its remaining outer coat protects its skin from sunburn, insects and dehydration.

Dehydration and hyperthermia are the most common heat-related cases we see. Watch for signs, including dry, pale gums, excessive lethargy, decreased urination, and lack of appetite. These conditions are too often fatal, so if your pet shows any of these symptoms, call us immediately or take them to an emergency clinic.



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 8/31/2025.

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 8/31/2025.

Drop-off Savings

Save 5%

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

Expires 8/31/2025.



When you're here, you're family.

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<https://OakForestVet.com>



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today to make an appointment!

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Hello
SUMMER



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