

Happy Holidays from the staff of Flanary Veterinary Clinic

Flanary Veterinary Clinic (270) 898-9738

So, You Think Fleas are on Vacation?

As you know, fleas are prevalent in the United States- particularly when humidity and temperatures are high. But you may not be aware that flea infestation can last well into the winter, as most homes provide the right conditions for the flea life cycle to continue.

Last year Merial, the maker of Frontline, conducted a "Great Winter Flea Hunt." This study was conducted in veterinary clinics across the United States and showed that one in three cats and one in seven dogs tested had fleas in December, January, and February. It demonstrated that flea control is needed as immature flea stages continue to complete their development in the winter months.

Warm, cozy homes are an ideal climate for all stages of the flea life cycle. Flea eggs, larvae, and pupae live in home environments including carpets and furniture. Garages are also an ideal winter hideout for fleas.

71,082 dogs tested: 15% tested positive for fleas

37,548 cats tested: 27% tested positive for fleas

Flea Facts:

- Fleas are found on dogs and cats in the winter months.
- Fleas will continue to lay eggs in the winter, which will develop and infest pets during the warmer months.
- Flea control should involve all dogs and cats in the household and continue year round.
- The flea life cycle may last up to eight months.
- Optimal flea conditions are between 65-85 degrees F.
- Female fleas can lay 600-2000 eggs before they die.

Dr Flanary recommends year round use of Frontline Plus for your pets. Frontline Plus treats flea infestations and flea problems by breaking their life cycle and guards against further infestation.

FRONTLINE PLUS kills 100% of fleas on your pet within 18 hours and keeps working an entire month or more to keep your pet flea-free. New studies show that Frontline may last up to 3 months for flea control on cats. Plus, additional studies show that FRONTLINE kills 100% of ticks on your pet within 48 hours, including those which may transmit dangerous diseases that may affect pets and people.

FRONTLINE flea and tick control is applied just once a month and it is completely waterproof. Your pet can swim, get wet and even be bathed without the need for re-application. What's more, FRONTLINE is approved for use on young puppies and kittens, 8 weeks and older, so you can provide your pet with the best flea and tick protection right from the very start.

10 Reasons to Call a Veterinarian NOW

Just like us, our animal companions certainly are not immune to diseases or mishaps. Unfortunately, they can be masters at masking their aches, pains, and hurts until the problems become major and obvious. But by knowing the early warning signs of trouble, you can step in and help your pet maintain good health while keeping your veterinary bills down.

The earlier a disease is caught, the better chance your vet has to control it or even cure it. Dr. Flanary encourages pet owners to pay attention to changes in behaviors and actions in their pets, which are early signs of possible trouble.

If your pet exhibits any of the below symptoms, get to the vet as soon as possible:

Breathing difficulties or intensifying coughing. The gasping could be caused by an inhaled or swallowed object, or it could be related to asthma or other medical conditions. Cats who start coughing, but do not throw up hairballs may be asthmatic. Dogs who experience coughing episodes may be suffering from a variety of respiratory conditions or heart problems.

Strains and cries in the litter box. Cats, especially males, who make more trips to the litter box than normal, only to end up straining and crying, may be suffering from urinary tract problems. This could include a blockage, which is a life-threatening condition. It is recommended that you clean litter boxes daily so you can tell right away if there is a sudden drop in deposits of urine or feces. Sometimes people mistake frequent trips to the box for constipation, when in fact it may be bladder or kidney problems.

Gets bit or scratched by a dog or cat. Do not dismiss even minor tussles with other animals, including household pets. You might think it is just a surface wound, but only your vet can tell how deep the wound penetrated or if there were any internal injuries. When a big dog grabs a small dog or cat in his mouth and shakes him, this could cause internal damage, including a ruptured diaphragm or bruising of organs.

Seek help within 48 hours if your pet shows any of these symptoms:

Bouts of vomiting and diarrhea. Dogs and cats vomit often to empty their stomachs of things that do not agree with them. They also have sensitive digestive tracts and occasionally get diarrhea from raiding the trash or being exposed to parasites such as worms. But your pet may have eaten something toxic such as chocolate or antifreeze. Contact Dr. Flanary if these digestive bouts last longer than a day, if they intensify, or if you notice blood.

Squints or closes one or both eyes. Squinting that lasts more than a few seconds, especially in dimly lit rooms, could be caused by debris lodged in the eye or a scratch on the cornea. Less common, but equally serious causes could be glaucoma or a detached retina. Also see the veterinarian if your pet's eyes become red or cloudy.

Make an appointment soon if your pet shows any these symptoms:

Acts uncharacteristically lethargic. If your high-energy beagle needs to be nudged from an all-day snooze, or your "alarm clock" calico does not sound her feed-me-now meow for a day or two, these are telltale signs of a host of diseases, including anemia, heart problems, and infection.

Starts eating or drinking substantially more or less. Dogs and cats are creatures of routine. Cats, especially older ones, who suddenly wolf down more chow or lick the water bowl dry, may be diabetic or suffering from hyperthyroidism. Dogs that stop being chowhounds and start losing weight could have digestion problems or even cancer.

Emits foul breath. Doggie breath is not normal. Foul smells in dogs or cats could signal dental problems (gingivitis or decaying teeth) or internal problems such as kidney disease or diabetes. Check the condition of your pet's teeth and gums at least weekly.

Suddenly starts having "accidents" in the house. For years, your dog has been the model of bathroom etiquette. Then, suddenly, you come home to puddles or worse on the living room rug or kitchen floor. The cause may be either a medical or behavioral problem. Inappropriate urination is very often due to a urinary tract infection. Bladder stones, diabetes, or kidney disease can also be causes for urination changes. Sometimes a behavioral problem is triggered by changes in the household or stress due to other dogs in the neighborhood. Either problem should be treated quickly before it worsens or becomes ingrained behavior.

Falls and lands hard or clumsily. Your snoozing cat gets startled, tumbles from the bookshelf, and lands with a far-from-graceful thud on the ground. Or your in-full-stride dog slips on the tile floor and slams into the corner of the kitchen wall. Don't dismiss their limps or stiff movements. There is always a possibility of internal bruising or damage. A physical exam by Dr. Flanary that may include x-rays will determine the extent of the damage. Your pet may also require pain and anti-inflammatory medication.



Book veterinary checkups for your pet even if he seems healthy every 6 months.

Remember, that is 3 ½ years to your pet

The Best Pet Christmas Gift

With Christmas just around the corner, many people have their pets on their Christmas lists. In a survey of 1,189 pet owners, 93% buy presents for their pets. So what is the best gift you can give your dog or cat this year that will help your loved pet to be with you for many Christmas' to come? Have them micro-chipped.

What is micro-chipping? The HomeAgain Microchip Identification System is a safe, simple and permanent form of pet identification designed to quickly identify lost pets and reunite them with their owners. Over 10 million pets become lost each year. One out of

every 3 pets is lost during its lifetime, and only one in 10 lost pets is found. It is a proven way to successfully recover your pet if it should become lost or stolen.

No bigger than a grain of rice, the HomeAgain microchip is a small, sterile transponder that contains a unique ID code capable of being read by any ISO scanner. The microchip's biocompatible material is extremely safe for animals.

Anesthesia is usually not necessary for implantation. Consider having your pet micro-chipped during a scheduled procedure or check up. Micro-chipping your pet with HomeAgain takes just seconds, is relatively painless and is recommended for dogs and cats of all breeds and ages. It is safe for puppies and kittens, as well as older pets who may wander away from home.

When you enroll your micro-chipped pet in the AKC Companion Recovery's nationwide recovery database, your contact information is safely stored until it is needed to reunite you with your pet. A professional recovery team notifies you as soon as your pet's ID number is called into the 24-hour recovery hotline. Animal clinics and shelters scan lost animals and call the recovery unit to report a found pet. Currently, a successful recovery occurs approximately every 9 minutes due to HomeAgain.

Schedule an appointment today to have your pet micro-chipped, so that it may spend the rest of its holidays at home with you.

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Holiday Hazards

With all of the insanity of the holidays, keeping our pets safe is one thing we all must keep in mind. Christmas decorations, holiday food, and gifts are all potential problems dogs and cats can get into. Here are a few safety tips for your pets this holiday season:

- Tape electric cords against the tree to make them less accessible to your chew-seeking pet.
- Burn candles only when you are around to supervise. A paw swat or tail wag can singe fur or burn your pet.
- Put your Christmas tree where pets don't have access, when possible.
- Poinsettias, holly, and mistletoe berries are poisonous to pets and need to be kept out of reach.
- Avoid edible ornaments and breakable ornaments. Broken glass ornaments can cause cuts that may require stitches.
- Choose safe pet toys as gifts that cannot be swallowed or pulled apart.

Avoid these problems and have a safe and happy holiday season.

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