

Cobb Animal Clinic

The Paw Print

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2007

Holiday Newsletter

Smart Holiday Traveling With Your Pets

With the holidays quickly approaching, many of us are thinking about trips we will be making. You may also plan ahead for your four-legged family members!

Travel, in general, can be very stressful, and with an animal, preparation is key! Pets should receive a physical examination and be updated on all vaccinations by their veterinarian prior to travel. Pets should wear a current identification tag at all times.

By Airplane:

Each airline has their own rules and regulations, so find out what their policies are beforehand. Regardless of which airline you choose to go with, there are certain things to keep in mind:

- 1) Obtain a health certificate from your veterinarian within 10 days of your departure.
- 2) Try to fly either early-morning or late-evening in the summer or

midday in the winter.

- 3) If your flight has a layover, schedule one with enough time to step outside the terminal and walk your pet.

Many airlines allow pets weighing under 15 pounds to travel in carriers that fit under the seat in front of you. If your pet is to be transported underneath the plane then it is crucial to label the crate. Affix a current photo of your pet to the crate and write "Live Animal" on the top and sides. Also, above the door write "Do not open without permission from owner or vet." Put a familiar blanket inside the crate to help with anxiety. Always let the flight crew and the captain know that you have a pet in cargo

By Car:

If your pet is not accustomed to car travel, then you may want to take him or her on a few short rides to alleviate anxiety before your trip. Be very mindful of weather conditions! Always make sure that your pet has proper

ventilation. When the temperature or humidity is high, or near or below freezing, never leave your pet unattended in a car. Here are some more rules for the road:

- 1) Pets should always be in a crate or seat-belt harness.
- 2) If you are driving a station wagon or an SUV and your pet is in the back, then you need a gate to keep them from darting out of the car if a door is unexpectedly open.
- 3) If the passenger seat of your vehicle has an airbag, do not let your dog ride in that seat.
- 4) If your dog is traveling in a truck bed make sure he or she is in a crate that is fastened to the truck.

Hopefully these tips will help ensure safe and fun holiday traveling for your entire family (furry members included!)

Six Travel Essentials

- ◆ Your pet's normal food
- ◆ A separate carrier for each animal
- ◆ First-aid kit for pets
- ◆ Cleaning supplies
- ◆ A copy of vaccination records
- ◆ Recent photos of your pet, in case they get lost



We would like to wish
you and your family a
safe and wonderful
Holiday Season!

-From the Doctors
and Staff

Effective January 1st, 2008 we will no longer accept American Express credit cards. However, we do accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, Debit, Care Credit, Checks, and Cash.

We apologize for
any inconvenience this may cause.

Sugar-free Gum, Mints, and Candies can be Toxic to Your Dog!

Message from Dr. Mark Whitley

Xylitol is an artificial sweetener that is increasingly being used for sugar-free chewing gum, mints and candies. While this sweetener is safe for humans, it is a dangerous toxin for dogs.

Xylitol causes its toxic effect by rapid release of insulin from the pancreas into the bloodstream. This causes a correspondingly rapid decrease in blood sugar that can develop

within 30 to 60 minutes of ingestion. Dogs begin to vomit, stumble and stagger, become weak and have seizures. They may also develop liver failure that can be fatal. Quick and aggressive therapy may help prevent liver complications.

Therapy includes intravenous fluid administration, along with dextrose to correct the low blood sugar and liver protectant medications. In most cases, two

or three days of fluid therapy and blood sugar monitoring along with one to two weeks of liver protective therapy is adequate.

The key is to keep gum and candy well out of your dogs reach and if you suspect ingestion, seek veterinary care immediately.

Dr. Whitley

Pet Nutrition

As you enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends, keep in mind your furry family members as well! During this time of year, we commonly see pets that ingest inappropriate items such as glass from broken bulbs, Christmas tree tinsel, holiday goodies, and candy. We also see an increased incidence of gastrointestinal upset and pancreatitis during the holidays. So, resist the temptation to share human food with your pet.



Did you know that dogs require 38 different nutrients and cats require 40 a day? Our doctors recommend using name brand pet foods. They do not, however, recommend homemade diets, or diets with raw meats.

If you must give treats to your pets, choose them carefully. Most treats are high in fat and sugar, with little or no nutritional value. Instead of rewarding pets with treats, always reward them with affection and attention.

Always consult your veterinarian on what foods best suit your pet's needs, and remember to measure the amount of food you give. Pet obesity is now common and being overweight causes the same health risks for our pets as us!



Instead of putting your pet's medications or heartworm preventative tablets in cheese or other food products, we recommend using **Pill Pockets**.

They are meaty treat pouches that you can easily place medications into. Most pets readily accept them. These can be purchased from our receptionists.

19 Items Hazardous to Your Pet:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Alcohol | 7) Dough | 13) Moldy Foods |
| 2) Apple Cores | 8) Fat | 14) Mushrooms |
| 3) Avocado | 9) Garlic | 15) Onions/Onion Powder |
| 4) Bones | 10) Grapes | 16) Potato Peels |
| 5) Caffeine | 11) Ham | 17) Raisins |
| 6) Chocolate | 12) Macadamia Nuts | 18) Sugar-free Gum |
| 19) Never Give Your Pet Human Medications Unless Prescribed by Your Vet! | | |

Make sure to call ahead and schedule your pet's grooming appointment for the holidays!



Sammi Patterson

We have 2 full-time experienced groomers on staff to meet all of your pet's grooming needs. Remember to have your pet arrive between 7:00-8:30 a.m. the day of their grooming appointment.



Daisy Kirby

Please call at least 24 hours in advance if you need to reschedule or cancel your appointment.

Dr. Whitley's Call Back Assistant



We are excited to inform you that Crystal Voss, Front Staff Office Manager, is now handling Dr. Whitley's routine phone calls. Rest assured, Crystal is working closely with Dr. Whitley to ensure accurate answers are returned in a timely fashion.

Crystal will return your call with an answer from Dr. Whitley between the hours of 12:00-1:00 p.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m. but, of course, are not limited to these hours. If you have questions for Dr. Whitley or one of our other veterinarians, please give us a call.

January is Dental Month!

Schedule your pet's dental cleaning for January and receive a **10% discount** off the routine dental procedure cost.

Holiday Hours:	Christmas Eve:	7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
	Christmas Day:	7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
	New Year's Eve:	7:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
	New Year's Day:	7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.

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