

## Quick Tip

If you will be traveling for the holidays, keep in mind what your pet will be doing during your travels. Sometimes they can come with you, but if they can't be sure you are comfortable with the boarding facility you are using. This includes ensuring they ask for vaccine histories, will be interacting with your pet, can give medications if needed, and keep the facility clean. Sometimes pets feel safer at home; there are many people who are pet sitters and will visit your home to care for your pet while you are gone. Some of the technicians that work at Suburban are pet sitters as well.

### Contacts for you:

Web: [www.SuburbanAnimalClinic.com](http://www.SuburbanAnimalClinic.com)  
E-mail: [Info@SuburbanAnimalClinic.com](mailto:Info@SuburbanAnimalClinic.com)

### Office Hours:

Mon.–Fri., 7am–6pm and  
Sat., 7am–1pm  
Phone: (614) 276-5479

### In case of Emergency (24/7)

MedVet Columbus (614) 846-5800  
MedVet Hilliard (614) 870-0480  
OSU Dublin (614) 889-8079



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Suburban Animal Clinic

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# Pet Pause

Suburban  
Animal Clinic

## Your Pet's Health

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- Should I Give My Pet's Medication Before my Appointment?
- Quick Tip
- Screenings for Senior Pets

## News For You

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- What's News at Suburban
- What's the Deal with Poop?
- Is Your Pet in Pain



## When to Give Medications

### Should I give my pet's medications before my appointment?

Answer: Yes - with very few exceptions. If your pet is on a medication that is an exception the doctor will be discussing with you what to do the day of your appointment. If you ever have any questions about whether or not to give a medication please contact us. It is important to continue your pet's treatment as prescribed by the doctor for many reasons.

Here's a few common drugs and the reasons your pet should take their medications as you normally give them (this is not an exhaustive list!). For long term medications such as those for seizure disorders (phenobarbital, potassium bromide); hypo/hyperthyroidism (levocrine, methimazole); and Cushing's disease (Vetoryl) we run bloodwork to either test the level of the drug in the blood or test its effect on hormones in the blood. For this reason we want either test when the drug would be at the highest or lowest level. When your pet is on heart medications (pimobendin, Lasix, atenolol) we frequently will test blood pressure and listen to the heart on physical exam to see if there are any changes since the last visit. For pets with anxiety issues, their anti-anxiety drugs (fluoxetine, trazadone, clomipramine) are important to help them cope with the doctor's visit. Animals that will have anesthesia should have their medications given at the normal time, even if you give it in the morning with a small amount of food.

If you are in doubt, please contact us before your appointment. Always remember to never give your pet any medications not prescribed by your veterinarian.



## Is Your Pet in Pain?

Dogs and cats are notoriously good at hiding pain. Not only is this due to the inability of our pets to verbalize their thoughts and feelings, but hiding pain has been an evolutionary advantage. Dog and cat ancestors - wolves and wild felines - were more likely to avoid predation by other animals or being discarded by their pack mates when they concealed signs of pain. Today, dogs and cats instinctually hide their pain from us as a survival mechanism. Cats and dogs will continue to eat through horribly diseased teeth, go on walks while suffering severe joint degeneration, and even purr or wag their tails with malaise and nausea. As a result, it is our duty to become "Master Pain Detectives" so that we can ease our pets' sufferings and increase their quality of life. For more details and examples of pets pain responses please visit AAHA.net or our website for our blog on pain. (<http://www.suburbananimalclinic.com/blog.html>)

Dogs and Cats express pain very differently. To decipher your pets' pain, you must learn to read his or her behaviors within the context of the situation. If you are ever unsure of whether your pet is in pain, please do not hesitate to call our office to discuss the situation. And of course, do not ever try to treat your pet's pain without the guidance of a veterinarian - many common human pain medications can be toxic to pets!

Remember, pain is very subjective. Just because your pet does not react the same way that you would to pain does not mean he or she is not experiencing it. The best thing you can do for your pet is to be in tune with his or her normal behaviors. That way if there is ever a change, you can get your pet the help he or she needs early.

## Screenings for Senior Animals

Senior pets sometimes have special needs and various screening tools are used to determine if your senior pet is at risk for certain diseases. Here are some examples of our recommendations for senior pets:

- Six month physical exams - Once your pet is a senior we recommend seeing them twice a year. This will help us manage disease processes, make sure that they aren't in pain, and catch any signs of disease early since they age faster than us.

- Glaucoma screening - Many breeds are predisposed to glaucoma. Glaucoma is a very painful condition resulting from increased pressure in the eyes. We can easily test the pressure of your pet's eyes in our office. Elevated eye pressures indicate the presence of glaucoma, which may be controlled with eye drops or surgery.

- Schirmer tear test - A common disease in some dog breeds is keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS or 'dry eye'). The schirmer tear test allows us to assess whether or not they are making enough tears. If they are not this can cause their eyes to be painful and predispose them to eye infections.

- Bloodwork is one of the best diagnostic tools we have available to us. It lets us look into a variety of things going on inside the body that isn't always externally obvious.

- Profile - this helps us to assess liver function, kidney function and various metabolic abnormalities. It is generally recommended annually and possibly more frequently for those animals that are on medications.

- Complete Blood Count (CBC) - this blood test looks at the levels of white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets. This information can help us determine if there is inflammation, infection or other blood abnormalities.

- T4 - Thyroid levels in our animals can be too high or too low. It is a good idea to have this test run if your senior pet has changes in weight and or behavior, indicating either hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism.

- Blood pressure screening - Animals can develop high blood pressure which can affect many organs in the body including the heart, brain, kidneys, and eyes. This can be especially helpful if the doctor hears something abnormal when they listen to the heart and lungs.

## What's the Deal with Poop?

At our annual exams we recommend fecal floats for all animals. Have you ever wondered what that means as you hand over the sample you so graciously brought us? It all has to do with intestinal parasites. Intestinal parasites are basically different types of worms that live in the guts of animals. The most common ones are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms and tapeworms. These worms can cause a variety of clinical signs including diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss or no signs at all! As part of their life cycle, these parasites lay eggs. These eggs are passed in your animal's feces. One way to test for these parasites is by looking for their eggs in your animal's fecal sample. The technique is called a fecal float because when we mix the fecal sample with a solution in a test tube it causes the eggs to actually float to the top of the test tube. We can then look at the very top layer of fluid in the test tube using a microscope. If eggs are seen we can identify which intestinal parasite it came from and then prescribe the proper medication for your animal to get rid of them.

There are a couple key things to remember with intestinal parasites. First, almost all puppies and kittens are born with intestinal parasites. This is why we commonly deworm them when they are young. Intestinal parasites lay eggs at different times in their life cycle, not continuously. Sometimes we need to run multiple fecal floats to catch the right time when the eggs are laid. If we do see intestinal parasites in your pet's feces we will prescribe a dewormer. Finally, some of these parasites are zoonotic - meaning they can be transmitted to humans. It's always important to wash your hands after cleaning up after your animals, and wash your hands before you eat.

When your pet has diarrhea, we may run a fecal smear. With this test we look at a stained sample of the diarrhea under the microscope. We are looking for two different types of bacteria - clostridium and campylobacter. When these bacteria are able to overgrow, or basically take over the intestinal flora, they can cause diarrhea. They are treated with different types of antibiotics.

Fecal floats and fecal smears are the most common tests we run. If we see chronic gastrointestinal issues that aren't getting better with treatment we may recommend other tests to get to the bottom of your pet's problem.

## What's News at Suburban Animal Clinic

- Dr. Jarden had her baby! Her family welcomed Xavier Graham on August 30, 2016. Dr. Jarden plans to be back in the office at the beginning of December.

- Good-bye to Marsha. Many of you know Marsha as the familiar person at the front desk as soon as you walk into the clinic. She has decided to take a job at a human dermatologist's office, which is a good opportunity for her and her family. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck with her new position.

- The clinic has recently purchased a new ultrasound machine. We are happy to offer this diagnostic tool for our clients and their pets. This machine helps us see what is going on within the body with more detail than an xray. But be aware we have to shave a wide area of the abdomen to allow the probe to have good contact with the skin to facilitate the images. We do try to make this look as nice as possible, but sometimes the doctors aren't as neat as the technicians!

