



Veterinary Hospital  
of Leon Springs

July | September 2021

# PET GAZETTE

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July is Lost Pet Prevention Month

## SUMMER SAFETY

KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE AND COOL THIS SUMMER!

*The brutal Texas summer heat can be dangerous - even deadly - for our furry friends!*



### NEVER LEAVE PETS ALONE IN A VEHICLE

Temperatures within a parked car can become life-threatening within minutes, and cracking the windows does not provide sufficient cooling. If you see a pet unattended in a vehicle, call 3-1-1 immediately. Leaving a pet unattended in a vehicle is illegal in Texas.



### STAY HYDRATED

Access to fresh drinking water is essential. Avoid using metal bowls outdoors, which can heat water to dangerous temperatures. Check and replenish water regularly.



### AVOID PUDDLES

As temperatures rise, A/C units around homes and in cars can become faulty and can leak chemicals like antifreeze - which can then collect in puddles in the street. Antifreeze can actually taste enticing to pets, but is deadly if ingested. Always take a fresh supply of water along on walks for your pets, and never allow your them to drink from water in the street.



### WATCH FOR SNAKES

Always be mindful of your surroundings, and never let your pet explore places where snakes could be hiding. Keep your yard clear of debris and tall grass, which could provide shelter for snakes. If your pet is bitten, seek veterinary aid immediately.



### SPLASH SAFELY

While a quick dip in the pool or a swim in the lake might be a great way to cool off this summer, remember that pets should never be allowed around a body of water unsupervised. Even experienced swimmers can quickly tire and drown if they cannot exit the water easily.



### BEAT THE HEAT

Avoid outdoor activities with your pet in the evening and afternoon. If the ground is too hot for your bare feet, it's too hot for paws. Be aware of the signs of heatstroke and monitor your pet closely. Dogs with short snouts, thick coats, older and younger dogs are at an elevated risk of danger. Heatstroke is life threatening.



# WE ARE VCA LEON SPRINGS!

MEET MEMBERS OF OUR VCA LEON SPRINGS TEAM!



## CARLY - Receptionist

Carly was born in Harlingen, Texas - but has called San Antonio 'home' since 1998! She has been a member of our VCA family since 2018. She says that "It may be the obvious answer, but my favorite thing about my job is the chance to be surrounded by people's fabulous pets all day, every day!"

Outside of work, Carly's interests include cross-stitching and embroidery, catching up on her favorite TV shows and listening to music. "My musical taste is pretty diverse!" says Carly. "I like everything from alternative rock to indie, 60s tunes and jazz!" One of her bucket list items is to go on a cruise - and if she could live anywhere in the world, she'd pick her childhood home. At home, she has three furry family members of her own - two pups, Lilly and Oliver - and a kitty named Shrimp, who thinks he's a dog!

# KITTIES NEED CARE TOO!

A LOOK AT THE IMPORTANCE OF ROUTINE WELLNESS FOR FELINES

**According to a 2016 study conducted by the American Veterinary Medicine Association, 78.8% of dog owners reported taking their dog to the vet for routine wellness care - only 47.2% of cat owners reported doing the same.**

### KITTIES NEED CARE TOO!

Routine wellness care is every bit as important for our feline friends as it is for their canine counterparts! Yearly (or twice-yearly if your cat is over 6 years old!) checkups help establish a healthy baseline in your pet's wellness profile.

Having access to this baseline can help your veterinarian detect and diagnose any abnormalities in their earliest stages - which can lead to more effective treatment.

### DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!

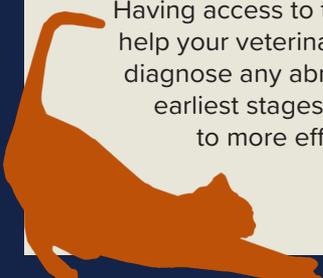
When it comes to emotions, we often think of dogs as wearing their hearts on their sleeves. If a canine patient is feeling under the weather, often they will display tell-tail signs such as uncharacteristically subdued behavior. Cats, on the other hand, tend to play their cards a little closer to their chest. A kitty who is feeling unwell may not readily show outward signs that they are in distress until their condition hits an advanced stage. This means that underlying health concerns are much more likely to go undetected in feline patients - and in some cases, waiting to make a veterinary appointment until Fluffy shows signs of feeling unwell can mean that their condition is critical. Staying on top of regular wellness checks means that health concerns can be more quickly identified and treated.

### PARASITE PREVENTION IS ESSENTIAL

Just like dogs, cats need parasite protection throughout the year. One flea is all it takes to start an infestation... and heartworms (which are deadly for felines) are transmitted by mosquitoes! So even cats who spend their entire lives indoors are at risk, and should be protected!

### WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

We're here to help you keep your pets happy and healthy! If you've got questions, or need some tips on how to safely bring your kitty in for an appointment, give us a call today! Our entire team is here to help!



# LOST PET PREVENTION

## JULY IS LOST PET PREVENTION MONTH

### Did you know that one in three pets will become lost in his or her lifetime?

July is 'Lost Pet Prevention Month' - and although none of us ever want to imagine ourselves in a scenario where our own beloved pet is lost from home, studies have shown that as many as one in three pets will become lost in his or her lifetime. The good news is that there are a few simple steps that you can do to help lower your pet's chances of becoming lost - and to help increase the chances of a happy reunion in the event that you are separated!

#### MICROCHIP ME!

By far, the best thing you can do for your pet is to have him or her microchipped. While collar-ID tags are a handy means of quick identification, they can easily become lost or damaged. A microchip provides a secure, permanent form of identification. Placement is quick, easy and affordable - and you can update your information at any time with the microchip company either via phone or online. Should your pet ever become lost, their chip can be quickly scanned with a wand-like device, and your contact information retrieved from the microchip service.

#### HARNESSES > COLLARS

When taking your pet out of the house, it is always recommended that their leash be attached to a properly fitting

harness. Collars can too easily pop open, or slip over an animal's head. A properly fitting harness should be snug enough that it does not easily slide over your pet's shoulders, but should not be so tight that it restricts movement.

#### SIT...STAY!

Take the time to work with your dog and teach them basic commands such as 'Sit', 'Stay' and 'Come.' Should your pet become separated from you in a moment of excitement, being able to reliably recall them to your side with a simple command can prevent them from bolting and becoming lost.

#### CHECK YOUR FENCES

Make a habit of walking the perimeter of your property regularly, and inspect fencelines for any signs of holes or gaps through which your pet could escape. Replace damaged boards, and properly repair any holes that mischievous paws may have dug! Don't forget to check behind bushes and flower beds too!



## DEAR DOC...

### ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS FROM OUR DOCTORS HERE AT VCA LEON SPRINGS



Dr. Darla Carter

Hi Tanner

It's great to hear that you are thinking ahead and including your pets in your family's emergency preparedness plan! There are definitely a few simple things I can recommend to help you create an emergency kit for your pet

One of the most basic things you need to include in your kit is food and water. Make sure to have enough to last at least seven days,

per pet. Rotate the supply in your kit every two months to keep it fresh.

During an emergency, it may be difficult to quickly obtain a refill of your pet's medications. I recommend keeping at least a 14 day supply of any necessary medications in your kit. Don't forget to check the expiration dates periodically to ensure that none are out of date.

Having access to your pet's medical records digitally via the MyVCA app is a great tool! During an emergency (like last February's winter storms) access to electricity may make it

difficult to access digital records. For this reason, it's still a good idea to keep a printed copy in a waterproof bag inside your emergency kit.

Make sure to have an extra leash, collar and harness for each of your dogs - and an assembled pet carrier, or pillowcase handy for emergency kitty evacuations.

A simple pet-safety first aid kit is also an essential item to include. You can get a pre-made kit at your local pet supply store, or give us a call to ask about what to include if you'd like to build your own.

Finally, make sure that your pet is microchipped, and that the chip is registered to your current contact information. A microchip is the most secure form of identification, should your pet become separated from you during an emergency.

- Darla Carter, DVM

Dear Doc...  
With all of the recent extreme weather we've been experiencing our family has been reassessing our emergency plans. What are some tips you can give us to help make sure we are prepared as pet-parents too?  
- Tanner

# SPOTLIGHT

## Care Club

*Our preventive nose-to-tail wellness plans are now, better than ever!*

Our new and improved CareClub plans offer your pet the preventive wellness care they need, at a price you can afford!  
Our customizable plans include:

- **Unlimited Exams** -

- **Live Chat** -

Access to live chat 24/7 with a licensed veterinary professional through the MyVCA app

- **Personalized Wellness Care** -

Such as doctor-recommended vaccines, labwork and add-on options such as professional teeth cleanings and spay/neuter services

- **Earn Rewards** -

Earn rewards on qualifying purchases!

**Ask us how to enroll your pets today!**



**LIMITED TIME OFFER!**

Now through December 31st, we are waiving the enrollment fee for new CareClub Members!

*That's a savings of \$49.99!*

## RESCUE AND ADOPT

Looking to adopt?

Check out these great local rescue groups!

*Save a life...gain a friend...adopt today!*



HUMANE SOCIETY

Phone: 210-226-7461

[www.sahumane.org](http://www.sahumane.org)



ANIMAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

Phone: 210-655-1481

[www.ADLtexas.org](http://www.ADLtexas.org)



AUSTIN BOXER RESCUE

Phone: 512-968-1343

[www.austinboxerrescue.com](http://www.austinboxerrescue.com)



ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

Phone: 210-207-4738

[www.sanantonio.gov/animalcare](http://www.sanantonio.gov/animalcare)



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