



VET TO PET MOBILE SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC

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Thank You!
CELEBRATING
10 Years



Find Your New Best Friend – Pet Shelters Myths & Facts:



MYTH: Shelter pets aren't spayed or neutered.

FACT: Most shelter pets are spayed or neutered, and some come with other benefits – such as a microchip.

MYTH: You can't find a purebred pet at a shelter.

FACT: 25% of all dogs in shelters are purebreds, which just goes to show you really can find all types of dogs and cats at shelters.

MYTH: Shelter pets are prone to bad behaviors or health problems.

FACT: Shelter pets are no more prone to behavior or health problems than any other pet. In fact, most shelter pets receive extensive medical observation and care at the shelter to make sure they are healthy and ready for adoption!

MYTH: Shelter pets are harder to train.

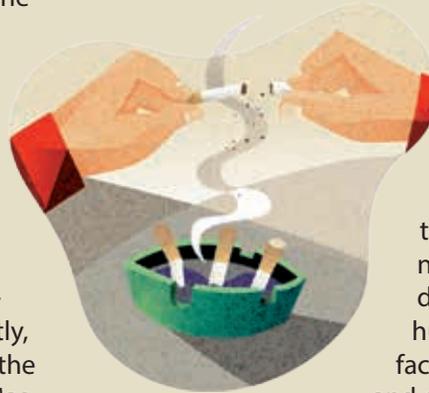
FACT: Many shelter pets receive training and socialization **BEFORE** adoption to help make the transition into their new family easier.

Second-Hand Smoke Is Your Pet At Risk?

We all know the risks to our health associated with smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke. But what some of us may not know is that second-hand cigarette smoke is not just a risk for people. There is significant evidence that it is very risky to the health and well-being of both dogs and cats. Veterinarians have long known that cigarette smoke is irritating to the respiratory system and can cause problems for dogs and cats, including lung cancer, asthma and allergies. Recently, researchers at the University of Massachusetts published a study in the American Journal of Epidemiology that showed cats exposed to second-hand cigarette smoke were twice as likely to develop malignant lymphoma as cats living in non-smoking households. The risk increased with both the duration and quantity of exposure. There is a three times higher risk of lymphoma in cats exposed to second hand smoke for five or more years or for cats living in households where the people smoked

more than one pack of cigarettes per day. Exposure to two or more smokers in the house quadrupled the risk.

There is also evidence that long-nose breed dogs, such as Collies, Shepherds, and Greyhounds, exposed to second-hand cigarette smoke have a greater chance of developing nasal tumors than dogs living in a smoke-free household. Dogs living in a smoking household have a 60% risk of developing lung cancer.



Overall dogs and cats exposed to second-hand smoke have a nine-times increased chance of developing lung disease than the humans in the household. Several factors contribute to this fact. Dogs and cats have much smaller lung

capacity than humans so the smoke has a relatively greater impact on their lungs. Also lungs of dogs and cats are more reactive. Smoke and particles in smoke gravitate and concentrate at floor level, right where your dog and cat are breathing. Cats and dogs ingest particles into their systems when grooming. Even if people smoke outside the house the smoke and particles on the clothing and body are damaging. This is very compelling evidence that dogs and cats living in smoking households have significant health

risks, so please do what you can to help you and your pet live a healthy life.

fact

Dogs that live with smokers have a **60% greater lung cancer risk** than those living with nonsmokers

Is Your Dog At Risk For Lyme Disease?

Lyme Disease was first recognized in 1975 after a mysterious outbreak of arthritis occurred near Lyme, Connecticut. Since then reports of Lyme Disease has increased dramatically in both humans and pets.



Lyme Disease is spread by the bite of ticks of the genus *Ixodes* that are infected by an organism referred to as a spirochetal bacterium named *Borrelia burgdorferi*. On the Pacific Coast, the bacteria are spread to humans and pets by the western black-legged tick. Of the 47 tick species established in California, 6 species attach to humans with any regularity, but only the western black-legged tick, *Ixodes pacificus*, is thought to be responsible for transmitting the spirochete to people. *Ixodes pacificus* has been reported in 56 out of 58 counties in the state, and it attaches to humans more frequently than any other tick. In one study, about 60% of 967 ticks that had attached to people were identified as western black-legged ticks. A recent compilation revealed that 108 species of lizards, birds, or mammals have been recorded as hosts of this tick in California.

With the abundance of rains this past year we can expect an increase in the tick population and therefore an increased incidence of this disease. Lyme is now the most common tick-borne disease in the United States. Although ticks can show up most anywhere, campers and hikers who would frequent wooded, brushy, and grassy places are most commonly exposed to ticks. It's important to check your pet and yourself for ticks after venturing through areas favored by ticks. If a tick attaches itself to you or your pet an infectious dose is not transmitted immediately. The tick has to be attached to the victim for one to two days before a disease-causing dose can be delivered. Prompt and proper removal of the ticks may prevent the transmission.

If you are planning a camping or hiking trip with your pet to a tick infected region you may want to consider purchasing one of our special tick control products. These products are all very effective. You may also consider having your dog vaccinated for Lyme Disease.

Canine Influenza – *what you need to know*

What is canine influenza?

Canine influenza (CI) is a highly contagious “flu” virus that causes respiratory infection in dogs. It was first seen in January 2004 in race track dogs in Florida. Scientists studying the virus classified it as “subtype H3N8” and believe it resulted from mutation of the horse influenza and jumped from horses to dogs. Since it was first seen, CI has spread around the country. Most dogs recover from canine influenza infection without any complications, but a few die.

Symptoms of canine influenza –

About 20% of the dogs that become infected with CI do not get sick at all, while the other 80% show signs of the disease, usually within 2 to 5 days, in either of two forms:

Mild form – Dogs with the mild form have a soft, wet cough that lasts for 10 to 30 days. Some dogs will have a drier cough that is similar to “kennel cough”, and might cause a misdiagnosis. Dogs with the mild form of CI may also have a low-grade fever and possibly a yellowish discharge from their nose, which is usually caused by a secondary bacterial infection.

Severe form – Dogs suffering the severe form develop pneumonia, which includes a high fever (104° to 106° F), an increased breathing rate, and difficulty breathing. A secondary bacterial infection usually accompanies pneumonia. The mortality rate for all dogs infected with CI is low, 1% to 5%.

Diagnosing canine influenza – Coughing in dogs can be caused by any number of diseases or conditions. Your veterinarian

is the best person to diagnose your dog. There is no rapid test for CI. If we suspect CI, we may send samples to test for antibodies to the virus.

Treating canine influenza –

The secondary bacterial infections associated with both the mild and severe forms of CI are best treated with antibiotics. Dogs suffering the severe form of the disease will need hydration, sometimes with intravenous fluids.

Preventing canine influenza –

CI is passed from dog to dog much the same way as human flu is passed from person to person – coughing and sneezing. Also, dogs can leave virus behind in their saliva on chew toys, water bowls and other surfaces. A vaccine are available to help protect your pet.

Common questions about canine influenza –

- *Can CI be passed from dogs to humans?* There is no evidence of transmission from dogs to humans.
- *Can CI be passed to animals other than dogs?* There is no evidence that CI can infect cats, birds or other animal species.
- *Can I still go to the groomer, dog park, day care or other places frequented by dogs?* You have to decide this. The more contact your dog has with other dogs, the greater the chance of infection. For groomers and boarders, you should ask what infection control practices are in place, and if the facility can isolate dogs with signs of respiratory illness. Use facilities with which you are familiar and that you trust.

5 Top-Selling Human Drugs Dangerous to Pets

#1 – Lipitor® (atorvastatin)

Used to reduce cholesterol levels, U.S. citizens spent \$7.2 billion on Lipitor in 2010, making it the top selling drug in the country. Generally when pets get into Lipitor, only mild side effects are seen, such as vomiting and diarrhea. Therefore, Lipitor is not considered to have high toxicity levels for pets. While some human drugs are utilized in veterinary medicine, Lipitor is not.

#2 – Nexium® (esomeprazole)

During 2010, Americans spent \$6.3 billion on Nexium. It is an anti-ulcer medication and proton-pump inhibitor that results in decreased gastric acid secretion. While it is utilized in veterinary medicine for some pets, mild side effects can include vomiting and diarrhea. Pet owners of dogs or cats that get into this drug should watch their pet closely, but not be alarmed since symptoms will generally subside on their own.

#3 – Plavix® (clopidogrel)

In third place is Plavix, which is a drug that affects platelets in humans, inhibiting clot formation and reducing the risk of stroke. Rarely used in veterinary medicine, \$6.1 billion was spent on this drug for humans last year. When pets get into Plavix, it has a wide margin of safety and generally is not considered to be acutely toxic. Only mild vomiting or diarrhea may be seen.

#4 – Advair Diskus® (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol)

Often used for treating asthma and administered through an inhaler, Advair Diskus contains beta-agonist drugs that expand the lungs and steroids that decrease inflammation in the lungs. Americans spent \$4.7 billion on Advair Diskus in 2010, making it fourth top selling drug. Because inhalers contain many doses, dogs that chew into them are exposed to massive amounts of the drug all at once. This often results in heart arrhythmias, an elevated heart rate, agitation, vomiting and even acute collapse. Severe electrolyte abnormalities such as very low potassium levels are likely and can be life-threatening without immediate veterinary treatment.

#5 – Abilify® (aripiprazole)

The fifth top-selling drug is Abilify. It contains aripiprazole, an atypical antipsychotic agent that is used to treat schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and clinical depression. It is important to keep this drug out of the reach of pets, as ingestion can result in profound lethargy, vomiting, hyperthermia, significant changes in heart rate and blood pressure, and seizures. If a pet ingests this drug, immediate veterinary attention is needed.

Ear Disorders – A Common Pet Health Issue

Your pet's ears are among the most sensitive and defenseless parts of its body, prone to parasites, foreign objects, fungal and bacterial infections, allergies and skin disorders. Pet ear disorders are common afflictions treated by veterinarians.

Why are Ear Problems so Common?

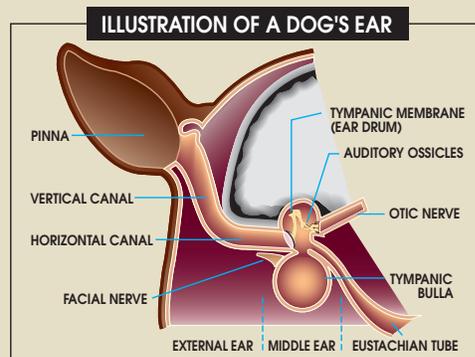
As you can see from the illustration below, the ears of dogs and cats are mostly hidden. They are moist, dark environments with little air circulation, susceptible to bacterial and yeast infections. Some pets, such as Spaniels, have large and furry ear flaps which predispose them to ear problems. Cats and certain canine breeds, such as German Shepherds, have fewer ear problems because their ears stand up and allow better air circulation. Because your pet's ears are mostly hidden, it is harder to detect ear problems.

How Do I Tell If My Pet Has an Ear Problem?

An ear problem can be irritating or very painful to your pet. You may notice your pet scratching its ears, shaking its head or rubbing its ears against carpet or grass, or you may see red, thick and inflamed skin on the outer ear. An infection of the outer ear produces a foul-smelling, thick, waxy and yellow/black discharge. An untreated infection may advance to the semicircular canals of the inner ear, causing your pet to tilt its head or exhibit loss of balance and coordination.

How Does a Veterinarian Treat Ear Disorders?

Your veterinarian must examine your pet thoroughly to determine the cause of the problem and the most effective treatment. Prior to applying medication, your veterinarian may



need to remove wax and debris by thoroughly flushing, cleaning and drying the outer ear. Since some pets are very sensitive to ear handling, it may be necessary for your veterinarian to sedate or anesthetize the pet. Never use an old medication to treat a new problem before consulting with your veterinarian.

Is Surgery Ever Required?

Yes. If your pet has a chronic ear problem which cannot be controlled by conventional therapy, a surgical procedure called lateral ear resection will establish better circulation, allowing improved drainage of the outer ear canal. This is a last resort, but may prevent chronic suffering of your pet and save you the expense of repeated conventional treatments.

Preventing Ear Disorders

As with any health concern, prevention is the first line of defense. Examine your pet's ears regularly, even if there are no symptoms. If your pet's ears are normal, they will be free of foul odors and have a slight pinkish-white color. The skin around and within the ear should be soft and elastic rather than hard, swollen or crusty. If your pet has chronic ear problems, have its ear routinely cleaned with specialized ear cleansers. Consult with and follow the advice of your veterinarian regarding your pet's special needs.