

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year! We hope the New Year finds you and your pets well as we kick off 2005! In this month's newsletter you'll find information on ways to keep your pet safe this winter as well as information on upcoming events to mark on your calendar.

Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic is proud to announce that starting new this year, March will be Spay Month and April will be Neuter Month. For all spays scheduled during the month of March a 15% discount will be offered on the procedure and in April a 15% discount will be offered on all neuter procedures.

This winter season here are few ideas to help protect your pet. With the cold weather, house fires are more likely to occur. Monitor wood stoves, space heaters and other heating devices to protect pets from being burned. Burning embers can get into your pet's coat. Be sure to protect your pet from hot surfaces he/she may be unaware of. Check smoke detectors once a month to make sure they are functioning properly.

During the winter months, people often burn candles, which can be a serious fire hazard. Because candles are easily knocked over, do not leave a burning candle unattended when pets are in the room.

In preparation for a fire hazard, place a fire sticker in windows of your home to notify firefighters of the pets inside. List all the pets inside if at all possible. Your local ASPCA may offer preprinted stickers free of charge.

Beware of antifreeze! Buy antifreeze that does not contain ethylene glycol. Ethylene glycol is what makes antifreeze toxic. Antifreeze is sweet to the taste for pets and can be lethal, even in

small quantities. Even antifreeze without ethylene glycol is toxic if ingested in larger quantities.

Before starting your car, beep your horn! Cats often seek out engines as warm places to escape the cold weather and can suffer severe injury from the fan belt when the engine is started. Beeping your horn will help to startle the cats and scare them away.

Frostbite is an injury that can occur when an animal is exposed to freezing temperatures (often associated with high winds). Keep your pet warm by providing warm bedding and whenever possible, keep your pet indoors. Provide warm doghouses for outdoor dogs. Severely cold temperatures are intolerable for even the toughest of pets. If inside the house is not an option for your pet, consider adding a doggie door for access to the garage.

Take care when letting your pet around frozen lakes and bodies of water as weak areas on the ice can allow pets to fall through. Keep your pet on a leash and do not allow them to move about the ice.

During the winter, people often use rock salt on pathways and driveways. Be sure to wipe ice and snow off your pet's feet and take care to wipe the area between the toes. Make sure any rock salt or calcium chloride salt is cleaned off, because both can cause vomiting and diarrhea if an animal ingests it through licking it.

Always provide fresh water for your pet during the winter. There are commercial dishes that do not freeze that can be purchased at area pet stores. Changing the water as needed, (depending on the temperature,) will help maintain the water bowl.

Various heat sources operate off of carbon monoxide or gas. Because pets are home and indoors most of the time they are susceptible to carbon monoxide poisoning. Pets kept in the garage are also susceptible if a car is warmed up inside the garage. Make sure

there is proper ventilation and air circulation in the garage. Have your fireplace or furnace checked for leaks or high levels of carbon monoxide and place carbon monoxide detectors in various areas of the house.

Winter can mean different climates for different areas. Temperatures may drop in some areas but the severity of the drop can be quite significant depending on where you are located. In addition to temperature drop other people might experience humidity lows instead of just temperature fluctuations.

With low humidity in the winter, some pets are typically kept indoors and can be exposed to dry indoor heat, be it from furnaces or other heating devices. In response to low humidity conditions pets can develop skin problems in the wintertime. Here are a few tips to help maintain your pet's healthy skin during the winter. Avoid bathing your dog often during cold, dry weather. Bathing can remove necessary oils from the skin and can increase the chance of developing flaky skin. When bathing is necessary, use a soothing oatmeal-based shampoo and follow with a conditioner. Brushing your dog/cat often can help remove dander and any shedding hair, helping to maintain healthy skin and coat. To keep hair looking lustrous, feed your pet a quality food. Avoid supplements and don't add oil to the food unless specifically prescribed by a veterinarian.

Paws too can suffer winter abuse. After each walk outside wipe or wash off your pet's feet. This will remove and ice and road salt that can be hazardous to your pet. Trim the hair between your pet's toes to reduce the chance of collecting ice and snow crystals between the toes. Petroleum jelly can be placed on the surface of the pads as some added protection, especially prior to walking outdoors. For

serious outdoor weather, special shoes or commercial booties can be purchased at pet stores or through catalogues, to protect the footpads.

Looking towards February, we are happy to celebrate National Pet Dental Month. To recognize National Pet Dental Month, Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic offers a 15% discount on all dental procedures done during the month of February. If you are concerned that your pet may have dental issues or is in need of some dental maintenance, schedule an appointment exam with your veterinarian to discuss your pets dental needs.

Dates to remember:

February- 15% off all dental procedures

March- 15% off all spays

April- 15% off all neuters

Saturday, April 2- first reduced cost vaccination clinic of 2005 from 9-11 am.

Wishing you a safe and happy beginning to a new year from the staff at Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic.