

Paws and Claws Quarterly



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Think breeding your dog is a simple and easy way to earn money?

Think again!

Read our article on page 2.

Concerned about having your pet put under anesthesia? See page 3 for our article on how we help to make anesthesia as safe as possible.

Want your pet to be well-behaved at the vet? Read page 3 to find out what you can do at home to make doctor visits a walk in the park!

Topical Flea and Tick Products — Are They Safe?

Recently, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) issued a statement saying that they were reevaluating the safety of all topical flea and tick products due to reported adverse reactions. The EPA stated that they would perform more stringent testing and require clearer labels for the products' intended use.

It is easy from these statements to become worried about applying topical flea and tick preventative products, but it is important to put this information into context. The EPA's report did not make clear the nature or frequency of these adverse reactions. The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) says that the vast majority of the reactions reported involved cats treated with products intended for dogs only, as well as small dogs treated with dosages intended for large dogs. Reported adverse reactions ranged from minor events such as disappointing results, bad odor, and mild skin irritation to more serious events such as gastrointestinal upset and respiratory distress.

Where pet owners purchase their flea and tick products also comes into play. The EPA study included many over-the-counter products sold in retail stores, which contain dangerous, older insecticides that are not only fairly ineffective against fleas, but are also more likely to cause adverse reactions. Veterinary-dispensed products such as Frontline and Advantage have far less reported reactions, and the percentage of major adverse events related to these products is miniscule. The EPA report also failed to mention that topical products sold through various sources such as the Internet and retail stores may be illegally imported or not appropriately manufactured, which may lead to a higher incidence of reactions. According to information obtained by the CAPC, veterinary-dispensed products have an extremely low percentage of adverse events. This is partly due to the fact that when these products are sold through a veterinarian, pet owners are more likely to be instructed on the proper use in regards to dosage and frequency; also, flea and tick preventatives sold strictly through veterinarians are most likely handled properly and

are legally distributed.

It is important to realize that by not protecting your pet against fleas and ticks, you may be putting your animal at risk for a variety of diseases carried by these parasites. These health issues can pose a much greater risk to your pet than the potential for side effects from a veterinary-dispensed topical preventative.

Our clinics do not carry products containing the previously mentioned older insecticides that are available at retail stores, and we advise our clients not to purchase these topical medications as they are more likely to cause adverse reactions. It is also important to mention that the topical products combining flea and heartworm prevention that we carry, Revolution and Advantage Multi, are regulated and approved by the FDA (Federal Drug Administration), not the EPA.

Our clinics continue to stand behind the topical flea and tick products that we have available for pet owners. We trust that our clients will follow our instructions on proper application of these preventatives.

PROPER USE OF TOPICAL FLEA PRODUCTS

- **Never** apply a product labeled for dogs on a cat.
- Apply only veterinary-dispensed products.
- Follow the dosage and frequency instructions on the product label.



Things to Consider Before Breeding Your Dog

Thinking of breeding your dog? It is extremely important to learn the facts and possible complications in advance if you are contemplating breeding your dog. In today's overcrowded world, we must make responsible decisions regarding our pets. The following points should be reviewed carefully.

Quality

AKC and other breed registrations are NOT an indication of quality. Most dogs, even purebred, should not be bred because of defects of structure, personality, and health that should not be genetically passed on. The act of breeding dogs should only be done with the goal of IMPROVEMENT of the breed in an honest attempt to create puppies better than their parents. This involves careful screening and diagnostic testing to ensure that both parents are of high quality.

Cost

Dog breeding, if done correctly, is NOT a big money-making proposition. Healthcare and vaccinations, diagnoses of problems, testing for proof of quality, extra food, facilities, stud fees, advertisement, etc. are all costly and must be paid by you, the breeder, before the pups can be sold. An unexpected c-section or emergency intensive care visit for a sick puppy will make a breakeven litter become a big liability.

Sales

First-time breeders have no reputation or referrals to help them find buyers. Consider the time and expense of caring for puppies that may not sell until four

to eight months of age or more! What would you do if your puppies didn't sell? Veteran breeders with a good reputation often don't consider breeding unless they have cash deposits in advance for an average-sized litter.

“The act of breeding dogs should only be done with the goal of improvement of the breed in an honest attempt to create puppies better than their parents...”

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Joy of birth

If you are considering breeding for your child's education, remember that many things can go wrong that can traumatize your child. Some female dogs are not natural mothers and may savage their puppies after being born. Mothers can have severe delivery problems or even die during labor. Puppies can be born dead or with deformities. Of course, there can be joy, but if you can't deal with the possibility of tragedy, you shouldn't consider breeding.

Time

Veteran breeders of quality dogs state that they spend well over 130 hours working to raise an average litter. That is over two hours a day every day. The mother cannot be left alone while giving birth and only for short periods of time for the first few days afterwards. Be prepared for days off of work and sleepless nights as the process requires much supervision. Even after delivery, the mother needs care and feeding, and puppies need daily checking, weighing, and socialization sessions. Later, grooming and training need to be done. Also, the whelping box needs

lots of cleaning. More hours are spent doing paperwork, pedigrees, and interviewing potential buyers. If you have any problems, such as sick puppies or a mother that can't or won't care for her babies, which is fairly common, count on double the time commitment. If you can't provide the time, you will not be raising the quality puppies expected of a responsible breeder and you will have a tough time finding buyers.

Humane responsibilities

There are MILLIONS of dogs put to death in shelters and pounds in this country each year, with many more dying homeless

through starvation, disease, automobiles, and abuse. Nearly a quarter of these victims are purebred dogs “with papers”. The breeder who creates life is responsible for that life. Will you carefully screen potential buyers? Will you turn down sales to irresponsible owners? Would you be prepared to take a puppy back if the owners can no longer care for it? These are all questions you need to ask yourself before considering breeding your dog.

If you do decide to breed your dog, be prepared for a lot of hard work and dedication. Breeding can be a wonderful experience if done correctly and for the right reasons.

So what if I'm a mixed breed shelter dog? I'm just as good as any purebred puppy!



“Piper”
Ford



Anesthesia Safety

Have you been told your pet needs a surgical procedure but are afraid of having him or her put under anesthesia? Great strides have been taken in veterinary medicine to make anesthesia as safe as possible, and our clinics help to minimize any risk to your pet in the following ways:

Physical examination

Our doctors perform a complete head-to-tail examination on your pet before sedation. This includes listening to the heart and lungs.

Pre-anesthetic bloodwork

All animals over 8 years of age going under anesthesia are required to have bloodwork performed beforehand. This checks their major organ function, including the liver and kidneys, to make sure they are functioning well. This bloodwork is optional in younger animals, but is still highly recommended.

Pre-medication

Based on your pet's health status, breed, and age, and depending on the procedure we will be performing, the

doctor may give your animal medications before sedation. These can include pain medication and/or a mild sedative to calm your animal, which makes anesthesia induction a stress-free process for your pet.

Injectable induction agents

To get anesthesia started, our doctors select the safest and most effective injectable anesthetic agent for your pet based on several factors, including age, breed, and health status.

Monitoring equipment

In the surgical room, there is at least one technician by the doctor's side. This person is responsible for recording your pet's health parameters throughout the entire procedure. Along with monitoring visual signs such as your pet's respiratory rate, pulse rate and quality, and mucous membrane color, the technician uses an anesthetic monitoring machine to make sure your pet is doing well while under anesthesia. This machine constantly measures parameters including blood pressure, temperature, pulse oximetry (the level of oxygen in the blood), and EKG. If levels become abnormal, the anesthesia level is

adjusted and/or medications are administered accordingly.

Pain control

To ensure that your pet does not recover painfully from their procedure, we often times will administer pain medication while they are waking up from anesthesia. This makes for a much smoother anesthetic recovery.

Anesthesia doesn't scare me. Now, getting my temperature taken? That's a different story...



"Shelby" Wright

Helping Your Pet To Become A Perfect Patient

As veterinary professionals, we see a variety of different pet personalities walk through our doors. Some animals are excited and happy to see us, while others are shy and nervous. Of course, there are things we

have to do sometimes that your pet may not like, which can lead to stress and anxiety. You can help make your pet's doctor visit easier for everyone by taking steps at home to prepare him or her for several things that we

I don't mean to brag, but I'm pretty perfect.



"Pepa" Tatum

may have to do.

First of all, if you own a dog, you want to make sure he is well-socialized. He should be exposed to all kinds of people, from children to tall men. He needs to know that all humans are "the boss"; you can achieve this by having anyone who comes into contact with your dog give him the sit command. By sitting when told to, he is showing submission. This will help us to handle him because he will be used to meeting strangers and will respect them. If your dog has shown aggression towards anyone, do not attempt to socialize him without the help of a behavioral trainer.

Most pets are sensitive about certain areas being touched. These include the feet, the ears, and the mouth. While your dog or cat is relaxed and calm at home, work on touching and rubbing these areas. Reward

your animal with a treat or some exercise as long as he remains calm throughout the process. Not only will this help us to check these areas on your pet during a physical exam without any trouble, it will help you in the future to be able to trim your pet's nails, clean and medicate the ears, and give oral medication.

It is best to start this desensitization process while your pet is young and impressionable, but feel free to start this on your pet of any age. Of course, if your animal has a history of biting or nipping when touched in these areas, please do not attempt to try this!

With a little help from you, the responsible, caring pet owner, your pet's visits to the doctor can be easy and stress-free for everyone involved!



Caption Contest

The winner from our January 2010 issue is

Taylor Tyson, who contributed this

caption:



"These pain meds rock!!!"

Email Kates@northwoodsvet.com with a caption for the picture below and it may be featured in the next issue!



"Bailey" Poston



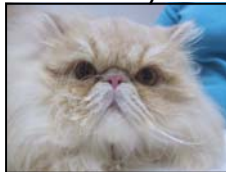
"Clifford" Faulkner



"Mum Mums" Wright



"Lola Love" Kennedy



"Teddy" Hendricks



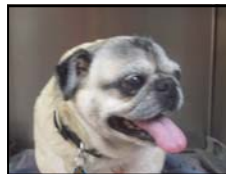
"Sophie" Daniel



"Hunter" Rakowski



"Savannah" Hart



"Molly" Wells



"Jumanji" Bruce



"Schotzy" Shealy



"Brutus" Palms



"Django" Ham



"Oakley" House



"Buster" Stiles

Is there a subject you'd be interested in reading about? Do you have pet questions you'd like answered?

Email Kate at Kates@northwoodsvet.com!



**A Caring Client:
Brett Grooms with Pilots N Paws**

With the number of unwanted animals increasing every year, shelters across the country have been forced to euthanize perfectly healthy and happy dogs and cats due to overpopulation. Shelters that have an overwhelming burden of these animals have been labeled "high-kill" because of the amount of animals they regrettably must euthanize every day. Yet there are still many "no-kill" facilities that will keep all adoptable animals until a home is found for them. So how can animals find their way from high-kill shelters to no-kill ones?

Pilots N Paws is an organization that helps facilitate communication between groups trying

to relocate homeless animals to no-kill shelter areas and volunteer pilots willing to transport these animals. In addition, these pilots transport foster animals to their adopted homes in cases when the new owners live many

"Just about any type of animal has been transported through Pilots N Paws," says Brett Grooms, a volunteer pilot for the organization who happens to be a faithful Northwoods client. "Primarily we transport dogs and cats, but we have even transported snakes and pot-bellied pigs!"

Pilots N Paws is a non-profit organization. Contributions can be made directly to them through their website, www.pilotsnpaws.com. They are also in need of non-pilot volunteers.

Homeless animals deserve the best chance possible of finding a forever home. Everyone from Pilots N Paws is doing their part to help make that happen.



Brett Grooms

