



Paws and Claws Quarterly



Are You Prepared for Hurricane Season?

It's that time of year again—do you have everything you need to make sure your pet makes it through a hurricane safely?

In the event of an evacuation, it is best to have things prepared so as to minimize evacuation time. These things include:

1. Arrangements for a Safe Haven

Never leave your pets behind — if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pet! Contact us for a list of preferred boarding facilities and for pet-friendly motels and hotels outside the danger zone. Ask friends or relatives outside the immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet. It is extremely important that you determine where you will bring your pets and make arrangements ahead of time.

2. Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits

Keeping a back-up of all necessary pet supplies is always a good idea since last-

minute shopping can be difficult. A travel kit is extremely useful and can be kept alongside your extra pet supplies to be bundled together if and when the time comes to use them.

3. Pet Identification and Records

It is highly recommended that all pets be microchipped as a means of permanent identification. Collars can come off and tags can get lost, and you want the best chances of being reunited with your pet should you become separated. That being said, you still need to be sure that your pet's tags have all up-to-date information, including any medical needs. Many pet stores have do-it-yourself kiosks at which you can make personalized tags that can include this information. Have a current copy of your pet's medical records, including vaccination information.

For additional information, visit www.asPCA.org.

What do I need to keep in my Emergency Travel Kit?

- 3-7 days worth of canned (pop-top) or dry food (be sure to rotate every two months)
- Disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans work well)
- Litter or paper towels
- Liquid dish soap and disinfectant
- Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
- Pet feeding dishes
- Extra harness and leash
Harnesses are recommended for safety and security.
- Copy of medical records and a waterproof container with a two-week supply of any medicine your pet requires (make sure to rotate medication according to their expiration dates)
- Bottled water, at least 7 days' worth
- A crate or sturdy carrier labeled with your information
- Recent photos of your pets in case you need to make "Lost" posters
- Blanket (for scooping up a fearful pet)
- Toys

Medication for Car Sickness and Travel Anxiety

Does your dog get sick when he/she travels? There is a medication available that may help!

Cerenia is an FDA-approved medication that prevents motion sickness in dogs. We commonly give this medication to dogs experiencing temporary nausea due to gastrointestinal illnesses, but at higher doses, Cerenia can prevent

a dog from getting sick while traveling. Dogs get motion sickness either because they are anxious while traveling or because their balance is affected by movement. Cerenia works in both cases by blocking vomiting signals.

Cerenia is to be given two hours before travel with a small amount of food. It is safe to give once a day for

up to 2 days in a row. It is non-sedating, so most dogs do not feel drowsy or tired.

If car rides just don't agree with your dog, ask us whether Cerenia may be a good option for you!

Visit www.CERENIA.com to learn more.

That car ride made me a little woozy...



Protecting Your Privacy – How We Are Helping

Need a copy of your pet's records faxed or sent somewhere? We'll need a signed release consent form on file. Read this article to find out why!

In order to keep your personal information protected, medical institutions across the country are required to follow laws contained in the Health Information Protection Act (HIPA). These HIPA laws are now starting to gear toward veterinary facilities as well, and in anticipation of this we as a clinic have put some new rules into effect.

For one, we are no longer asking our new clients to put their driver's license numbers, date of birth, or social security numbers on our new client form. If you have previously provided us

with any of this information, we no longer keep it in the computer or in your record. We continue to require valid proof of identification if a client chooses to write a check or use a credit card as form of payment.

Secondly, in order for us to fax or send your pet's records, including vaccination information, to another facility such as a boarding kennel or another veterinary clinic, we require your written permission to do so. This is in order to protect YOUR infor-

mation! We are asking that all of our clients sign a release form that can be kept in their pets' records. As long as we have your signature on this release form, we will be able to send your records any time you request them.

If you have access to a fax machine, please call us and we will fax a release form to you to sign and fax back. Otherwise, please stop in and sign one or make sure to do so at your next appointment.

Dog Training - What Options Do I Have?

Obedience training is extremely important in the development of any dog. From knowing basic commands like "sit" and "stay" to being able to walk off-leash to performing stunts, dogs show respect for their owners by doing what they are trained to do. To make your dog the best pet it can possibly be, it is a good idea to seek outside support for any behavior issues you may be experiencing.

Our clinic has had the best experience with two different training companies in the area:

1. Purely Positive Dog Training

The trainers in this organization focus on humane, positive reinforcement. They offer group and private classes, as well as behavior modifica-



tion for aggression or anxiety issues. Dogs can move on from basic obedience classes to more advanced classes, including training on agility courses. **Call 843-532-8154 or visit purelypositive.com for more details.**

2. Bark Busters

This company offers in-home dog training for a variety of issues from basic obedience to behavior modification. These trainers focus on the "pack" mentality, with you and all human family members acting as

"Some pet owners experience issues with their dogs that they don't realize can be corrected with proper training."

leaders of your dog's pack. Their training is guaranteed for life; if you encounter any problems in the future with the pet they helped you train, they will come back to your house to help you resolve the issue for free. This guarantee is valid even if you move since there are Bark Busters trainers in several locations across the country and even internationally. **Call 877-500-BARK or visit BarkBusters.com for more details.**

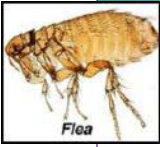
Some pet owners experience issues with their dogs that they don't realize can be corrected with proper training. These problems include chewing and destruction, digging, jumping on you or other people, excessive barking, separation anxiety, and accidents in the house. Aggressive behavior is also a major problem that not only can be, but needs to be, corrected. Aggressive behavior towards anyone, whether it be a member of your family or a stranger walking past your house, should not be tolerated.

Socialized, happy, well-behaved dogs make the best pets – don't hesitate to ask for some help in making your pet be the best on the block!



Dogs with separation anxiety can be a danger to themselves or their surroundings. Although there are medications that can calm the anxiety that drives a dog to panic and become destructive when left alone, training should always be a factor in getting to the root of the problem. Through training, dogs can learn to become more relaxed and calm, making both you and your family friend feel more at ease.

The Facts About Fleas



Fleas are one of the most common problems pet owners encounter. Here in South Carolina, we see evidence of fleas year-round. Even a few fleas can turn into a major infestation. Here's how you can keep your environment from becoming flea-ridden.

- Stay on monthly flea protection year-round. If you prefer topical or oral monthly adulticides like Frontline, Advantage, or Comfortis, it is imperative that you continue applying them even through the colder months. If you have ever had fleas in the environment, they have laid eggs which form a "cocoon" called the pupae. This stage cannot be killed or penetrated by ANY flea medication out there and can withstand very low and very high temperatures. As soon as temperatures become optimal for the pupae to "hatch" into adult fleas, they will do so and jump onto your pet. If your pet is on constant flea protection, those fleas will die right away, but if you have not kept up with protection through those cold months, you will have a flea infestation as soon as the weather gets a bit warmer.
- Sentinel, an oral product that combines heartworm and flea protection, contains an insect growth regulator that stops flea reproduction. This is extremely helpful in controlling any flea population but must also be given monthly year-round.
- If you are seeing fleas, you already have an overwhelming flea burden. Each female flea lays about 50 eggs per day! The adult fleas

"If you are seeing fleas, you already have an overwhelming flea burden. Each female flea lays about 50 eggs per day!"



you are seeing on your pet are only 5% of the flea population you have in your environment. The rest consist of eggs, pupae, and larvae, which resemble maggots — these can be found in your carpeting, your pet's bedding, your furniture, and even your own bed! In order to rid your house of the entire flea population, you not only have to treat your pet but your environment, inside and out, as well. We carry Knockout Spray, which treats over 2,000 square feet inside and is safer than bombs in that you only have to wait for each individual room to be dry before re-entering or allowing your pets to roam free. For outside treatment, Home Depot, Lowe's, or Wal-

Mart carry products like Bayer Complete or Triazicide granules. Fleas generally do not like areas of light, so make sure to treat darker areas like under furniture and drapes inside and under decks and shady areas outside. To treat your pet with an overwhelming flea burden, we recommend giving Capstar, which is a quick-kill pill that kills all adult fleas on the body starting in about 30 minutes. Since this pill has no residual effect, we recommend starting a monthly flea protection plan as well. Do not expect your flea burden to magically disappear as soon as you start treatment — with a high flea population it can take a few months to completely get rid of your problem.

When it comes to fleas, prevention is the key to never having a problem. Start monthly flea protection today!

Got a pet that chews or has hair loss down the middle of its back to the base of its tail or behind its back legs? Most likely, your pet has a flea allergy. Just one flea bite can set off an overwhelming allergic response called flea allergy dermatitis. Flea-allergic cats can also have scabs around their neck. If you are seeing these reactions your pet has been exposed to fleas, no matter if you are seeing them on your pet or not! To prevent this allergic reaction, keep your dog on monthly flea protection year-round.



A dog (above) and cat (below) with severe flea allergy dermatitis



Comfortis: Monthly Flea Protection in a Chewable Tablet

Topical flea medications such as Frontline and Advantage work well against fleas, but now we offer another alternative for dogs. Comfortis is an FDA-approved beef-flavored chewable tablet that offers month-long flea protection. It starts to

kill adult fleas in 30 minutes and continues to kill any flea that jumps on your dog for one full month.

If you bathe your dog frequently or your dog enjoys swimming, Comfortis may be a good alternative over topical

medications. Our clinic does require an annual routine examination for any dog getting Comfortis since it is a prescription medication.

Talk to our staff today about trying Comfortis for your dog.

The adult fleas that you see on your pet represent only 5% of the flea population you have in your environment—the rest consist of eggs, pupae, and larvae, which resemble maggots. All of these life stages can be found throughout your house—including on your own bed!



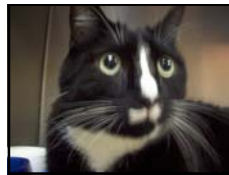
MEET SOME OF OUR PERFECT PATIENTS!!!



"Velvet" Wengland



"Blair" and "Amelia" Craggs



"Boots" Pharoah



"Lucy" Knight



"Marley" Varner



"Georgia" Irvin



"Payton" Maurer



"Khaki" Righter



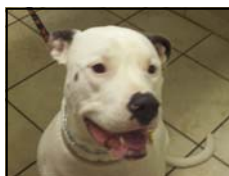
"Vincent" Mich



"Takiaya" Lackey



"Brodie" Tucker



"Jazzamine" Bruce



"Aja" Sternberg



"Shereck" Gontijo



"Susie Que" Palmer

A Miracle for "Miracle"



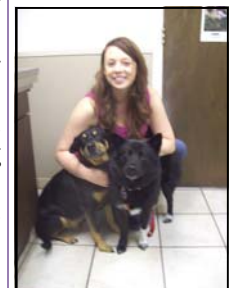
On December 7, 2004 an officer from Hanahan Animal Control walked into Northwoods with a shy black dog. Animal Control had been called to pick up this stray after she was hit by a car. Unfortunately, since financial resources for injured stray animals are so limited, the dog was being brought to us to kindly end its pain and suffering through humane euthanasia. However, fate decided to intervene in the form of a kind client named Amanda Ehrlich.

Ms. Ehrlich was at Northwoods with her own dog for its yearly examination when the stray dog walked in. Overhearing the receptionist's conversation with the animal control officer, she immediately took pity on the stray and decided that if the dog showed no aggression toward her other dog she would adopt it then and there. After carefully letting the two dogs interact peacefully, Ms. Ehrlich had the animal control officer sign over the dog to her, officially becoming the owner of the stray she promptly named "Miracle".

Radiographs showed a severe fracture of Miracle's right tibia that needed surgery to be repaired. With a little help from outside organizations, Ms. Ehrlich

paid for Miracle's leg to be fixed and because this was such an extremely special circumstance, our clinic contributed her vaccinations and spay surgery. Miracle became fast friends with the staff taking care of her during this time. Her sweet and timid nature easily won everyone over. Miracle has since proved to be a great addition to the Ehrlich family.

There are thousands of stray dogs and cats that end up in shelters across the country, many of them injured or sick. Help give them a chance by adopting a new friend from your local shelter.



"Miracle" with her family, Amanda and "Kobe"

"I still get emotional when I think about that day. I just feel like fate brought us together. Miracle has become sweeter and more loving every year, despite her bad start in life."
-Amanda Ehrlich

Special note: Miracle's story is a very special one. We wish we could assist all clients who need help by offering services at a lower cost, but in order to maintain the high level of quality veterinary care we are committed to providing, we are unfortunately not able to do so. We do, however, continue to offer free SPCA exams to all recently adopted animals from local shelters.