

Thompson Tribune

East Stroudsburg Veterinary Hospital

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Support for Hurricane Katrina a Huge Success

Trifecta Kennels in Gilbert, PA hosted the Great Fundraiser Festival in October. The money raised was used to aid in pet relief and animal rescue efforts throughout the Gulf regions struck by devastating hurricanes. There were many volunteers who helped to make the day a huge success. Dr. Sammie donated her time doing a Microchip clinic. Vyolet donated her time doing a canine massage clinic. Donations and volunteers came from all over the Pocono region. The fundraiser was set up to help make donations to Noah's Wish. Noah's Wish is a not-for-profit animal welfare organization with the only focus of animal disaster relief. They are the

experts in disaster relief for animals. Noah's Wish provides life saving services during the response and recovery stages of disasters. They offer temporary sheltering, long and short term foster care and grief counseling. They also take a proactive role in the education of individuals, families, and various animal shelter and rescue groups in disaster preparedness. Terri Crisp, Founder and Director of Noah's Wish sums it up by saying, "We've domesticated animals, therefore, we have an obligation to help them when disaster strikes." There was a huge turnout of caring people at the Great Fundraiser Festival. Some other participating entities include: West

End Printing, Homestead Veterinary Hospital, and the Mahoning Valley Animal Hospital. Dr. Amanda Durrill, who many of you have seen in our office doing relief work for Drs. Clair and Sammie, spent two months down in the Gulf region donating her time and helping with the recovery efforts. Benjamin Moore offered to double whatever amount of money that the event managed to raise. Due to their generosity and the generosity of the volunteers and the public, the event raised over \$15,000.00! For more information on Noah's Wish, visit their website at www.noahswish.org. For pictures of the Great Fundraiser Festival, visit www.trifectakennels.com.

Winter Hazards

With all of it's cold and glistening glory, winter brings with it a myriad of new hazards for pets. Here's a list of some to watch out for. Antifreeze-use caution when filling up your car to prevent leaks and spills. Batteries-for new toys may also

be a foreign body risk and cause (gastrointestinal) GI corrosion. Electrical cords-may be chewed on, especially by puppies or kittens, resulting in electrocution. Ice Melts-are skin and GI irritants; ingestion may cause salt toxicosis. Store ice

melts out of reach and wipe off their paws after they have been outdoors. Rodenticides, frequently put out during cold winter months, are extremely toxic to dogs and cats. As always, ESVH wishes you and your loved ones a safe holiday.

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- Canine Flu Outbreak
- Pets as Holiday Presents for Children
- Think Adoption for the Holiday
- Airplane Travel
- Vehicular Travel
- Poison Safety Tips to Ensure a Safe and Happy Holiday

Canine Flu Outbreak

There has been much speculation of late about the widely publicized canine flu outbreak. This particular canine flu strain was first detected in 2004 among racing greyhounds in Florida. The disease quickly spread beyond the racetrack to the family dog. Researchers report that outbreaks of canine influenza virus, which causes an acute respiratory infection, have been identified throughout the United States. This highly contagious virus is a newly emerging respiratory pathogen in dogs and causes a clinical syndrome that mimics “kennel

cough”. Because this is a newly emerging pathogen, all dogs, regardless of breed or age, are susceptible to infection and have no naturally acquired or vaccine-induced immunity. The most common clinical sign in the milder disease is a cough that persists for 10 to 30 days despite antibiotics and cough suppressants. Many dogs will have a nasal discharge and a low-grade fever. Some dogs will develop a more severe disease with clinical signs of pneumonia, such as a high fever and an increased effort to breathe. Dogs with pneumonia often

have a secondary bacterial infection that can respond to a series of antibiotics. Fatal cases of pneumonia have been documented, but the fatality rate so far is only 1%-5%. Infected dogs may shed the virus for 7 days after exposure. Nearly 20% of infected dogs will not display clinical signs and become the silent shedders and spreaders of the infection. There is no vaccine for canine influenza virus at this time. Isolation is the best prevention. If the disease begins to strike locally, we recommend keeping your dog more isolated.

Pets as Presents for Children

The holiday season can be a great time to surprise a loved one with a new furry friend if proper preparations and planning are made first. Statistics on the ASPCA website state that every holiday season, between three and five million dogs and cats are returned to US shelters every year after being adopted as a present for a family member or loved one. It doesn't always have to be this way though. With some forethought and a sincere commitment, pets

can be a wonderful gift to give to your family. Ask yourself some important questions first when considering bringing a new pet into your household. First and foremost, are you ready for a pet? How old are your kids? If a child is pleading for a cat or dog, understand that most children are not ready to take on the responsibility of owning a new pet. Therefore, the parent is ultimately the one who will be responsible for caring for the animal daily. Do your kids really

want a pet? Children like animals, but not all children really want to have them around the house permanently. Have you thought about the financial responsibility of owning a pet? Are you committed? Cats can live to be over 20 years old. Owning a pet is a lifetime commitment with vet visits, food and supplies, with a big investment of time and love. Are you educated about what caring for an animal entails? (Read on for more information...)

Pets as Presents for Children (cont'd)

...That means cleaning up bathroom accidents and vomit, scratched furniture if you want a cat, and dealing with other typical animal behaviors. Don't get a pet to teach your child responsibility. If your child fails to be responsible, the animal may be harmed. Instead, it is a great way of *rewarding* responsibility. Before you pick up your new pet, get your family involved in deciding the species, type and size of ani-

mal you'd consider. Take a trip to the bookstore or library, and read up on which animal's characteristics might fit in best with your family. Once you've got an idea of what you're looking for try going to an animal shelter. According to the ASPCA, each year millions of dogs enter shelters, yet of the approximately 59 million owned dogs in this country, less than 20% are shelter adoptees. By adopting at a shelter,

you're giving a homeless pet a new chance at life. Also, adopting from a shelter often includes discounts on spaying and neutering. It's fun to surprise kids with a new pet, but it's as much fun to have kids be a part of the process. When you've done it right, your child will likely end up with a longtime friend and companion. Having a pet can be one of the most magnificent parts of a child's life.

Holiday Travel Tips—Airplane

Whether the voyage is by plane or in an automobile, traveling can be stressful for both owners and their pets. Here are some helpful hints to make traveling easier for you and your pet this holiday season. Make sure your pet is wearing a collar and an identification tag. This collar should also include your phone number or destination information in case your pet escapes. Book a direct flight whenever possible. This will decrease the likelihood of your pet being left on the tarmac during extreme weather conditions or mishandling by bag-

gage personnel. Purchase a USDA-approved shipping crate that is large enough for your pet to stand, sit and change position comfortably. Write the words “Live Animal” in letters at least one inch tall on the top and sides of the crate. Write the name, address, and telephone number of your pet’s destination point on the top of the crate. Affix a photograph of your pet to the top of the crate for identification purposes if the animal should escape from the carrier. Also carry a photo of your pet. Line the crate bottom with some type of

bedding (shredded paper or towels) to absorb accidents. Freeze water provided for your pet so that it will not spill during loading, and will melt by the time the animal is thirsty. Tape a small pouch (preferably made of cloth) of dried food outside the crate. This enables airline personnel to feed your pet if necessary. Do not lock the door of the crate. Make sure that it is securely closed, but not locked, so that airline personnel can open it in case of an emergency. If your pet stresses easily contact our office about obtaining a sedative.

Holiday Travel Tips—Automobile

If you are planning a road trip, driving with a pet usually involves more than putting the animal in a car and driving off, especially if you will be driving long distances or will be away for a long time. Here are some suggestions to help ease the road trip. Acclimate your pet for a long trip by taking him or her on a series of short drives first, gradually lengthening time spent in the car. Start your pet on a travel-feeding schedule with a light meal of kibble two to three

hours prior to departure. Never feed your pet in a moving vehicle. In addition to travel papers, food, bowls, leashes, a waste scoop, plastic bags, grooming supplies, medication, and a pet first aid kit, pack a favorite toy or pillow to give your pet a sense of familiarity. Make sure your dog has a flat collar with an ID tag imprinted with home address, as well as a temporary travel tag with your cell phone and a destination phone number (and any other con-

tact information). Harness, rather than leash, your dog inside the car. For smaller animals, a well-ventilated crate is recommended. Don’t allow pets to ride with their heads outside the window as it subjects them to passing objects, inner ear damage, and lung infections. If you travel frequently with your pet, consider cargo-area pet barriers, waterproof seat covers or rubberized floor liners sold by auto product retailers.

Poison Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

The holidays are a time to eat, drink, decorate and share good times with friends and family. However, the same treats and trimmings considered harmless for humans can be hazardous to your pet’s health. Holiday sweets with chocolate are not for pets. Generally, the less sweet the chocolate, the more toxic it could be. As little as 1/4 ounce of baking chocolate can be poisonous to a ten pound dog. Careful with the

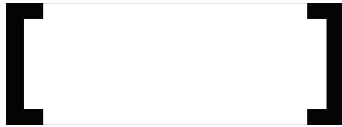
trimmings! Any change in diet, even for one meal, may give your dog or cat severe indigestion and diarrhea. Keep pets out of the garbage. Poultry bones can splinter and cause blockages. Alcohol and pets do not mix. If ingested, the animal could become very sick and could die. Use care with holiday floral arrangements. Lilies are commonly used and all varieties can cause kidney failure in cats. Common Yuletide

plants such as mistletoe, poinsettias, and holly berries can be toxic to pets. Christmas tree water may contain fertilizers that are harmful to pets and stagnant tree water can also act as a breeding ground for bacteria. Ribbons and tinsel can become lodged and cause intestinal obstruction. This is very common in cats. Ultimately, careful planning and attention to detail can keep the holiday season safe and stress free.



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● Celebrating Healthy Pets Through Wellness

“Staff Stuff”

We heard from Darcy! She made it down to NC with no problems. She has secured a job at a veterinary office there as well. She misses everyone here, but loves the new town that she moved to. She stated that everyone down there is so nice and the weather is beautiful. She had a funny story about the locals wanting her to heal their sick chickens and deliver a foal from a pregnant horse. The unpacking is going well and her parents have adjusted well too. We miss her and wish her continued luck!

Dr. Sammie will be traveling to Haiti on a missions trip again at the end of February. Her last trip was so meaningful and her work there so important, that she had to go again. We wish her luck and safe passage on her journey.

ESVH initiated a new way of recognizing special employees. If any employee has a

way of making your visit a memorable one, you can thank them by filling out a Bow-Wow card. These are located at the reception desk when you are checking out of your appointment. Simply list the employee's name and why they made your visit a special one. You may sign your name to it if you wish, or you may leave it anonymous. The cards will then be read at our weekly staff meeting to help recognize a job well done.

Cathy Farro, our kennel supervisor, and Carmen Garcia, one of our healthcare team members will be going to Orlando, FL on a continuing education trip this January. This will be the first continuing education trip for both of them, so they are very excited. They'll be learning about customer service, and new and exciting treatment options for various illnesses.

Carol and Brad will be attending the Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas, NV in February. They will be attending lectures regarding advances in veterinary nursing care as well as learning about the newest advances in treating illness and trauma.

We had a lot of birthdays this quarter. Deb had a birthday on October 1st, Carol on December 2nd, Rebecca on December 17th, and Vyolet on December 24th. I (Brad) celebrated my three year anniversary with ESVH on November 20th.

We haven't decided on plans for our Christmas party as of yet. We'll keep you posted in our 1st quarter newsletter of 2006.

ESVH wishes all of our clients, their pets, and families a safe and happy holiday.