



Veterinary Hospital

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Newsletter

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Dear friends and clients,

It was an honor to be voted “Best of the Area” in the recent Iowa City Press Citizen's annual vote. This is the first year that they have offered the “Best Veterinarian” category. A heartfelt “Thank you!” to all of you who voted. (Here is the online link: <http://data.press-citizen-media.com/bestof/2010/vet.html>)

Allan, Jen Brown, and I would like to thank our staff for their hard work and dedication to continually trying to improve on a daily basis. Not a day goes by when we don't think about and discuss how we can do a better job. This often translates into changes in how we do things. When we find a better way, we implement that change. Kudos to our doctors, staff, and managers for making our vision become a reality over time!

As always, we welcome feedback. While we LOVE compliments, we know constructive comments help us improve even faster. If you would like to send us your thoughts, please contact our hospital manager, Brad Bender, at bb@bebt.com.

Gratefully yours,

Jenn Berger and everyone at Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails!

Revolution (by Dr. LeAnn Anderson)

We are now offering Revolution[®] for heartworm and flea prevention. Revolution's[®] active ingredient is selamectin which is in the same family as ivermectin, the active ingredient in Heartgard[®]. It is applied topically, similar to Frontline[®], and is available for both dogs and cats. We are using Revolution[®] mainly for our patients that are not able to tolerate flavored heartworm preventative, such as those that have food allergies.

In cats, Revolution[®] treats fleas, heartworm, ear mites, roundworms, and hookworms. In dogs, Revolution[®] treats fleas, heartworm, Dermacentor (the American dog tick), ear mites, and scabies. Frontline[®] covers more species of ticks than Revolution[®] although the two can be used together for tick protection.

Since we are carrying Revolution[®], we will no longer carry Interceptor[®]. If your dog or cat is currently on Interceptor[®], please ask one of our doctors or technicians about switching your pet over to Revolution[®], Heartgard Plus[®], or Tri-Heart Plus[®] for future heartworm protection.



Holiday Hazards

The holidays are here. Please remember to take extra caution with your pets during this season. Below are a few of the common dangers that we see.

Bones - Turkey, chicken, and other small animal bones are very different from the large bones that you find at the pet store. These small bones splinter easily and can cause serious internal damage if swallowed, so NEVER give them to your pet.

Hot containers - Your dog or cat will most likely become curious when they smell something cooking. Keep an eye on hot containers so that your pet does not tip them over and get burned.

Holiday plants - Christmas cactus, Holly, Lilies and Mistletoe are all toxic to dogs and cats.

Ribbons - It may look adorable, but placing a ribbon around your pet's neck may cause choking.

Bubbling lights (e.g. lava lamps) - Older forms of this "attractive" decoration may contain methylene chloride, which is a highly toxic chemical.

Fire salts - Contain chemicals that could be harmful to your pet if consumed.

Angel hair (spun glass) - Can be irritating to eyes and skin, and can cause intestinal obstruction if eaten in large amounts.

Christmas tree water - Stagnant tree water or water containing preservatives can result in stomach upset if ingested.

Decoration hooks - Can cause blockage and/or trauma to the gastrointestinal tract if swallowed.

Styrofoam - Can cause your pets to choke if swallowed.

Ornaments - These can look like toys to cats and dogs but they can cause serious injury, especially if your pets break or swallow them.

Tinsel - Can cause choking or internal trauma if swallowed. (No year is complete at our hospital without a surgical or endoscopic removal!)

Balloons and confetti around New Year's can cause your pets to choke or obstruct their intestines if ingested.

Keep an eye on your pets when they're around these items or move them to an area that is not decorated.

Loud noises - These can frighten pets and cause them to run off. Keep your pets in a separate room, away from noisemakers, music, and other loud sounds that may startle them.

Puppy Pumpkin Cookies

Try this simple recipe for a tasty homemade treat for your canine friends.

- 1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 4 tablespoons Crisco
- 1 whole egg
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine flour, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg and cut in shortening. Beat egg with buttermilk and pumpkin and combine with flour, mixing well. Stir until soft dough forms. Drop by tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheet and bake 12 to 15 minutes. Let cool and serve.



Employer of the Year Award

Employment Systems of Iowa City (a division of Systems Unlimited) honored our hospital in September with the *2010 Employer of the Year* award. This award was given to us because of our continued support of work opportunities for job seekers with special needs. We received a nice plaque that is now on display in our reception area. BEBT is very proud to participate in such a rewarding program!



Preparing for a Veterinary Emergency

It is easy to look at our pets and assume that they are always going to be healthy and vibrant. Things can sometimes change quickly, though, and having a financial plan is much better than being caught by surprise.

There are several options when considering how to handle the financial aspects of a pet's emergency treatment.

1. Consider getting pet insurance early before your pet has a problem. Insure your pet when it is young and healthy, and the premiums are more reasonable. Also consider taking advantage of the preventative care options that some companies offer. The downside to pet insurance is that the cost of treatment needs to be paid by the owner and the insurance company will reimburse the owner later. It may be two weeks or longer before receiving the reimbursement. A short-term source of funds would be needed, but the financial benefit of the insurance may allow you to consider treatment for something that you would not be able to afford otherwise.
2. Start a savings plan and put money into this “pet emergency fund” each month. This doesn't have to be a huge amount, but some money tucked away “just in case” can be a good emergency buffer.
3. Payment using a credit card. This allows you to make payments on your schedule/as you wish.
4. CareCredit is a credit card that is designed specifically for health expenses. It extends a line of credit that you may apply for on an emergency basis. It offers no interest or low interest plans with fixed monthly payments that allow you to budget your money. It's accepted by many veterinarians (and human doctors). CareCredit also allows co-applicants. (<http://www.carecredit.com>)
5. Check with friends and family for a possible short-term loan in the event of a life threatening emergency.

If you can comfortably afford it, consider donating funds to your favorite animal aid organization to help future animals in need. This is a wonderful memorial to the pets that have made a difference in our lives. It also enables care to be provided to homeless pets in need. Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails has a general emergency fund set up for this very purpose as well. While we have donated over \$20,000 of care so far this year, there is never enough.

Pet Adoption

Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails works closely with many of the area animal rescue groups. However, we often find ourselves with a pet or two that need a good home as well. Check out current list of “adoptables” at the following online link: <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/IA187.html>

