

PET PERKS

Holiday updates

CLINIC NEWS...

This is a fun and festive time of year for everyone – and our pets! Here at the KVC, our companion animal team is focused on bringing you and your furry friends safely through the holiday season and into the New Year!

Clinic hours will be as follows over the holiday season, but please remember we are available for emergency services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Closed:

Sunday December 25th

Monday December 26th

Sunday January 1st

Reduced Hours:

Saturday December 24th – open until noon

Saturday December 31st – open until noon

Monday January 2nd – open until 2pm

Clinic hours will return to normal as of Tuesday January 3rd, 2012.

From everyone at the KVC...

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



WINTER WEATHER TIPS FOR YOUR PETS

Here are just a few handy hints to help make this Ontario winter just a little easier for you and your creatures...

- Puppies and older dogs are much more sensitive to the cold than adult dogs – use caution when taking them outdoors for longer periods of time
- Coats and booties can help keep your dog warm in the cold weather – look for coats/sweaters with high collars and belly protectors for maximum warmth
- When returning from walks, thoroughly wipe your dog's paws to remove snow, ice and road salt. Leaving these items on the paws can be irritating to the underlying skin, and may be harmful to your dog if they are ingested from licking
- Booties can help to reduce foot pad irritation provided they are fit well
- Dry, sensitive paws can be coated with cooking spray before walking in cold weather
- Use caution when leaving pets outdoors in the winter. Cats that are usually fine to be left out during the warmer weather can freeze, or be injured by the cold. Dogs that are left outdoors must be provided with a shelter to protect them from the elements and need a supply of fresh and unfrozen water
- Don't let your dog off leash in heavy or deep snow – they can lose their scent and become lost more easily

FEBRUARY IS DENTAL MONTH!

Have you been putting off your pet's dentistry all year?? February is the perfect time to 'bite the bullet' and book your dental prophylaxis! KVC is offering a 10% discount on all dentals performed in February 2012, and cats and dogs will receive a free bag of Hills T/D (dental diet) to help keep their clean teeth stay bright and white! Call us today for more details!

519-229-8911

FROSTBITE??

Just like us, our pets are susceptible to frostbite if left outdoors for long periods of time in the cold weather. This happens because as the body cools down, blood is directed to keep the internal organs functioning, and supply to the extremities is reduced. This can lead to freezing of the tips of the ears, the tail, face, footpads, legs and even the male genitalia. Severe cases can require surgical removal of damaged tissue.

Signs of frostbite include seeing ice on the body or limbs of your pet, severe shivering, tissues are initially bright red in colour, then become pale, then blacken

First aid

- Warm the affected area with warm water using towels
- If a limb or paw is affected, this area may be soaked in a warm bath
- Do not rub or massage frozen tissue

If you think your pet may have frostbite, please don't hesitate to contact your veterinarian for advice!



HOLIDAY PET HEALTH HAZARDS

We all love our pets for their curiosity, but certain holiday traditions can be risky for their health.

Take care during the holiday season to keep your pet safe by avoiding the following:

- **Ornaments** – may be chewed or swallowed and cause choking or internal damage
- **Lights** – electrocution hazard, and trees can fall down on unsuspecting pets
- **Tinsel** – appealing for cats to play with but can cause choking or act as an intestinal foreign body requiring surgical removal
- **Tree stand water** – secretions from the tree can cause mild to severe gastric complications
- **Mistletoe & Holly** – moderately to severely toxic, causing seizures, tremors and even death
- **Poinsettias** – mildly toxic, may cause nausea or vomiting
- **Lillies & Daffodils** – can cause liver failure in cats if ingested
- **Chocolate** – a canine favourite, can cause vomiting, diarrhea and even seizures
- **Grapes/Raisins** – toxic to dogs, may cause vomiting and diarrhea and can lead to renal failure
- **Fatty or Spicy foods** – some of these rich foods can trigger a life-threatening inflammation of the pancreas or intestines
- **Antifreeze** – deadly poison pets with a sweet taste. As little as 1-2 teaspoons can be fatal

*** IF YOU THINK YOUR PET HAS INGESTED ANY HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN FOR ADVICE IMMEDIATELY! ACTING QUICKLY CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE OR DEATH!**