



VET TO PET MOBILE SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC

Dr. David Ruble • Dr. Melissa Battaglia

ph. (412) 496-7779

www.thevettopet.com

twitter.com/thevettopet



Thank You!
CELEBRATING
12 Years



Online Pet Pharmacies – Protect Yourself and Your Pet

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urges pet owners who shop for prescription pet medicines online to make sure they remain aware of exactly what they are buying.

You've seen TV advertisements for Internet pet pharmacies –

- "Affordable pet prescriptions!"
- "Pet meds at discount prices!"
- "No prescription required!"
- "Your best source for pet meds!"

Some of these pharmacies promote the convenience of home shopping with the benefit of big savings but are they a wise option for you and your pet?

Internet sites that sell pet drugs can be reputable pharmacies. However, others are fronts for businesses breaking Federal, State and sometimes International law. **Illegal online pharmacies may sell medicines that are counterfeit, outdated, mislabeled, incorrectly formulated, or improperly made or stored.** You are always welcome to call our office to discuss any questions you may have with veterinary online pharmacies.

For additional information from the FDA you can visit the following website:

www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ResourcesforYouAnimalHealthLiteracy/ucm203000.htm

AACHOO ... Feline Upper Respiratory Infection

Upper respiratory diseases in cats are common and very contagious. They can pose a serious health risk, especially among kittens.

There are several varieties of feline

respiratory diseases and as with humans, new diseases constantly emerge. Scientists recently have become concerned about a new cause of feline upper respiratory infection, *Bordetella bronchiseptica* ("FeBb"), which is a highly contagious bacteria. An infection caused by this bacteria can lead to pneumonia and may cause death, if untreated.

Symptoms of FeBb are:

- Loss of appetite
- Listlessness
- Sneezing
- Runny eyes
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever

What is the likelihood of your cat being exposed to FeBb?

Recent research has found that exposure to FeBb is quite common, affecting one out of four cats. The

potential for exposure is even greater if your cat frequently comes in contact with other cats. As many as eight out of ten cats are at

risk of exposure to FeBb if they live in multi-cat households or shelters.

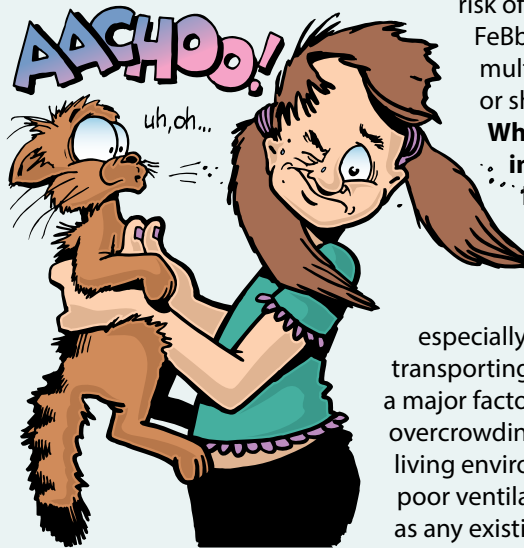
What factors can increase the likelihood of FeBb infection?

Stress, especially during weaning, transporting or boarding, is a major factor. Poor nutrition, overcrowding or a cramped living environment with poor ventilation, as well as any existing disease, can greatly increase the likelihood of infection. Cats that venture outdoors also face increased risk to infection.

Can my cat be treated if he comes down with FeBb?

Yes. Antibiotic treatment for FeBb is available. However, preventive vaccination of your cat is less expensive to you and less traumatic for your pet.

Prevention of upper respiratory infections in cats is simple. Ask our staff today to review your cat's lifestyle, age and current health status and recommend an appropriate vaccination protocol. Regular examination of your pet by our professional staff is important. We will be happy to discuss with you the latest information on this and other pet health matters.



Is Your Dog At Risk For Lyme Disease?

Lyme Disease was first recognized in 1975 after a mysterious outbreak of arthritis occurred near Lyme, Connecticut. Since then reports of Lyme Disease has increased dramatically in both humans and pets.



Lyme Disease is spread by the bite of ticks of the genus *Ixodes* that are infected by an organism referred to as a spirochetal bacterium named *Borrelia burgdorferi*. On the Pacific Coast, the bacteria are spread to humans and pets by the western black-legged tick. Of the 47 tick species established in California, 6 species attach to humans with any regularity, but only the western black-legged tick, *Ixodes pacificus*, is thought to be responsible for transmitting the spirochete to people. *Ixodes pacificus* has been reported in 56 out of 58 counties in the state, and it attaches to humans more frequently than any other tick. In one study, about 60% of 967 ticks that had attached to people were identified as western black-legged ticks. A recent compilation revealed that 108 species of lizards, birds, or mammals have been recorded as hosts of this tick in California.

With the abundance of rains this past year we can expect an increase in the tick population and therefore an increased incidence of this disease. Lyme is now the most common tick-borne disease in the United States. Although ticks can show up most anywhere, campers and hikers who would frequent wooded, brushy, and grassy places are most commonly exposed to ticks. It's important to check your pet and yourself for ticks after venturing through areas favored by ticks. If a tick attaches itself to you or your pet an infectious dose is not transmitted immediately. The tick has to be attached to the victim for one to two days before a disease-causing dose can be delivered. Prompt and proper removal of the ticks may prevent the transmission.

If you are planning a camping or hiking trip with your pet to a tick infected region you may want to consider purchasing one of our special tick control products. These products are all very effective. You may also consider having your dog vaccinated for Lyme Disease.

Pet Health ALERT – Xylitol



Xylitol is a sugar used as a sweetener in many products, including sugar-free gum mints, nicotine gum, chewable vitamins, oral-care products, and baked goods. It can be purchased in a granulated form for baking and as a sweetener for cereals and beverages.

Xylitol is a popular sweetener, and its use in the United States has grown rapidly over the past few years. While xylitol consumption is considered safe in people, dogs can develop serious, even life-threatening, signs from xylitol ingestion. In humans, xylitol is absorbed slowly and has little to no effect on blood sugar or insulin levels. However, in dogs, xylitol is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream. It then acts as a strong promoter of insulin release, which causes profound hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). In dogs, xylitol can also cause liver failure, bleeding, and death. Xylitol's effect on insulin and blood glucose in cats is not clear at this time.

How much Xylitol is Toxic to my Pet?

It takes very little xylitol to cause signs of toxicity in dogs. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) has reported that dogs ingesting greater than 0.22 grams per pound of body weight of xylitol should be considered at risk for hypoglycemia. At doses exceeding 1.1 grams per pound of body weight, there is risk of liver failure and other more serious effects.

Xylitol poisoning is a serious condition that there is not yet a cure for. Your veterinarian can only provide supportive care, which includes hospitalization, monitoring, and I.V. fluids. Most often baseline glucose levels and liver enzyme activities are of the utmost concern. However, in

severe cases your doctor may also monitor potassium, phosphorus, and total bilirubin concentrations, and coagulation measurements.

Upon ingestion vomiting is usually the initial symptom. Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) may also

develop within 30-60 minutes. To monitor for development of hypoglycemia your veterinarian will recommend doing a series of blood glucose dipsticks every 2 hours, for the next 12 hours following ingestion. This ensures that there is no serious fluctuation in blood glucose levels. Your veterinarian may also recommend drawing blood to check liver functions when initially presented as well as 72 hours after the original ingestion. Taking preventative measures such as running blood work ensures your pet is healthy and receives the care he or she needs.

If you know or suspect your dog has consumed a product containing Xylitol, prompt treatment is necessary. An examination along with supportive care can greatly improve the prognosis of your pet. Left untreated, the prognosis for Xylitol poisoning is guarded to poor.



Winter Hazards –

Be careful with holiday floral arrangements. Lilies are commonly used and many varieties including Tiger, Asian, Japanese Show, Stargazer and Casa Blanca can cause kidney failure in cats. Safe alternatives can include artificial flowers made from silk or plastic.

Common Yuletide plants such as mistletoe and holly berries can be toxic to pets. Should a cat or dog eat mistletoe, they could suffer gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. Holly can cause vomiting, nausea, diarrhea and lethargy if ingested.

Poinsettias are considered to be very low in toxicity, however, they could cause mild vomiting or nausea if ingested by your pet.



Macadamia nuts can cause muscular weakness, depression, vomiting, disorientation,

tremors, abdominal pain and muscle stiffness in dogs. The effects can last 1-3 days. This has not been reported in any other species.



Uncooked yeast dough, if ingested (most cases are with dogs) can rise in the stomach and cause severe pain. Pets who have eaten bread dough may experience abdominal pain, bloat, vomiting, disorientation and depression. Since the breakdown product of rising dough is alcohol, it can cause an alcohol poisoning. Many cases like this require surgical removal of the dough. Even small amounts can be dangerous.

Chocolate – Pets can become intoxicated from eating chocolate. The toxic element is theobromine, which depending on how much the pet has eaten can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, panting, tremors, seizures, and even death.

oohC-hA! What's a Reverse Sneeze in Dogs?

You see your dog standing still, head extended and suddenly he makes a series of rapid, loud snorts of air into his nose which sounds like he's sneezing in instead of out, followed by gagging. The 'sneezing' episode lasts from a few seconds to a couple of minutes. It can be quite alarming to watch, but is not known to be harmful to your dog. Most animals are completely normal before and after an episode. Most dogs will experience reverse sneezing throughout their lives.

Causes – Also known as inspiratory paroxysmal respiration, the exact cause is unknown, however it may be

allergies, an attempt to clear mucous from the nasal passages, a tickling in the nose, throat or sinuses. Reverse sneezing is common during sleep, and following a nap. Some dogs reverse sneeze after playing, eating or exercising, though more often than not the timing is random. Small dogs seem a bit more susceptible to having episodes.



Treatment – Since typically no harm is done there isn't any treatment. If allergies are suspected your dog may get medication if it seems to be serious and chronic.

Trimming Your Pet's Toenails

Proper grooming is important for your cat or dog, and well kept nails are no exception. Overgrown nails make walking or running uncomfortable, causing soreness or other problems in their leg. Dewclaws, that "extra" nail higher up on the paw, can grow curving back into the skin causing pain and possibly infection. If they haven't been removed, they need to be trimmed.

Finally, blunt nails are less likely to hurt you or your furniture.



So what are the details?

Clip your dog's nails every two weeks

using a specially designed nail trimmer for dogs. Clip once a month for cats using cat nail trimmers or human nail clippers. You'll need to gently press your cat's paw between your thumb and forefinger to expose the nails. For both cats and dogs, trim only the end of the nail where it begins to curve downward. Avoid cutting the "quick", which contains the nerves and blood supply. It's the pink part you can see in white nails. For darker nails, be conservative and trim only the curved part. If bleeding occurs, sprinkle the cut with cornstarch or use a styptic pencil, and possibly press with gauze, to stop the bleeding.

If you are new to trimming, ask your vet or groomer to show you how it's done. As with any new training with your pet, go slowly until they get used to it and try to make it as pleasant an experience as you can.