



VET TO PET MOBILE SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC

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Thank You!
CELEBRATING
12 Years



Pet Obesity – *Are you taking years off the life of your pet?*

Obesity is a growing problem in America – for people and their pets! The major causes of obesity in pets, as in people, are over feeding and not getting enough exercise. It is estimated that over 25% of pets are overweight or obese.

Health problems & obesity

The overweight pet is not a healthy pet. These extra pounds can cause a variety of health problems including diabetes, heart disease, respiratory problems and high blood pressure. Overweight pets have increased risk for arthritis and hip dysplasia. Obese cats can have problems grooming themselves which can lead to severe skin infections. Extra weight can make it more difficult for your veterinarian to treat health problems both medically and surgically. Keeping your pet at a healthy weight can literally add years to their life.

Recognizing obesity

Most often pets experience gradual weight gain as they age which makes it harder for owners to notice those extra pounds until their pet is obese. Your scale and your eyes are the best tools you have to determine if your pet is overweight. Weigh your pet regularly once they reach maturity.

Keeping track of their weight will help you recognize when your pet is starting to put on those extra pounds. As a general rule, your dog or cat would be considered obese if they weighed 20% or more above their optimal weight and would be called overweight if they are between their optimal weight and 20% over. The “ideal” weight for a dog is approximately the weight where the last 3 to 5 ribs are just barely visible or can be felt with a very light touch. For cats, you should be able to feel their ribs when you are stroking them, and their stomach should not have a rounded appearance. Both dogs and cats should have an “hourglass” shape to their torso, when viewed from above. It can be hard for an owner to be objective so, when in doubt, ask your veterinarian. It is better from a health perspective to be a little too thin than to be a little too heavy.

Treating obesity

For both dogs and cats, you will need to develop a weight reduction plan in consultation with your veterinarian. It will include ideas for exercise as well as a reducing diet. An obese pet will have some difficulties with exercise at first, so start off gradually and work up to more strenuous exercise as those extra pounds are shed.

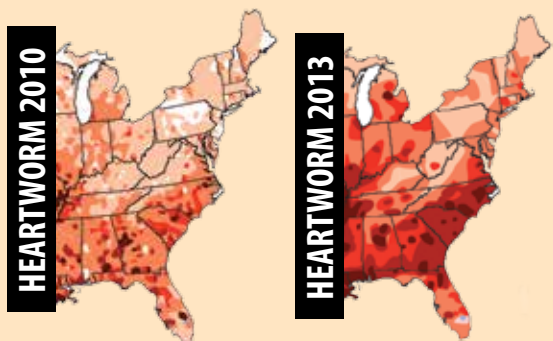


Dogs

Burn off more calories with your dog by taking them for a walk around the block, a romp in the park, or anywhere they can go for a run, jog or swim. Reducing the amount of food your dog gets in a day, and possibly spreading it out over 4-6 meals a day is a simple diet plan. There are also commercial prescription and non-prescription low calorie diets available. Ask your veterinarian.

Cats

Exercise can be more of a challenge with cats, especially indoor-only cats. Try to add additional play time. Diet is the most important part of a weight loss program for your cat, and it is very important that you have veterinary supervision. Cats have unique nutritional requirements and simply reducing how much food you give your cat could lead to rapid excessive weight loss which can have serious consequences. Work closely with your veterinarian to develop and monitor a diet plan for your cat.



The mosquitoes are biting — Heartworm disease is spreading!

Every three years, the American Heartworm Society (AHS) gathers data on heartworm testing to understand the impact heartworm is having nationwide. **Heartworm disease is spreading.** Mosquitoes blown great distances by the wind and the relocation of infected pets also contribute to the spread of heartworm disease (this happened following Hurricane Katrina when 250,000 pets, many of them infected with heartworms, were “adopted” and shipped throughout the country).

**1 out of 272 dogs in Pennsylvania
test positive for heartworm disease.**

Roundworms: Dog 1/32, Cat 1/15 • Whipworms: Dog 1/106



Flea Prevention & Control

In just 30 days 25 female fleas can multiply to over a quarter million!

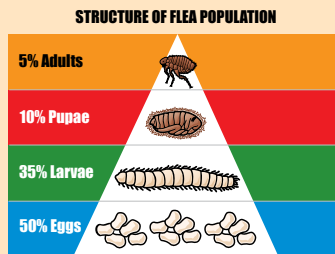
At **Vet to Pet** we recommend using a once monthly flea preventative to avoid any flea infestations. It keeps you and your pet safe, healthy, and comfortable. However, what if your pet does get fleas? Here are some simple tips on how to eliminate the invasion.



- Treat all pets in the household
- Vacuum places your pet tends to reside
- Clean and treat furniture and bedding where your pet sleeps
- Clean and treat automobiles and pet carriers
- Use hot water and mechanical (washing machines, carpet cleaners, steam vacs) or chemical (approved household sprays) treatments for environmental populations
- Consult your veterinarian

These tid-bits will help you learn and understand a flea population, so that you can better control and eradicate flea infestations.

The adult fleas you see make up only 5% of the population. Under ideal conditions, a pair of fleas can produce millions of descendants in one year, and each new generation can grow from egg to adult in only 21 days. If your dog or cat has a flea infestation, it is important to realize that the fleas that you see are only a small portion of the entire flea population. Flea eggs fall off your pets into their environment, including their bed, your bed, floors, furniture, closets, and other dark corners of your home.



How long will it take to exterminate a flea infestation and what prevention/treatment should I use?

If all of the pets in the household are treated monthly with a veterinarian approved product, and the environment is treated in a correct and timely manner, then the entire flea population should be eliminated in about 3 months. **Due to the life cycle of the flea it can take a few months to completely clean the environment.**

Checking for Fleas on Cats and Dogs

Most dogs and cats will pick up fleas at least once in their lifetime. Even pets that never go outdoors are at risk from fleas that can find their way into your home.

It is important to catch and stop fleas early, before they multiply inside your home and become an even bigger problem. That's why regularly checking for fleas should be part of your routine pet care.

Always Keep an Eye Out

Adult fleas can sometimes be easy to spot, particularly in short and light-colored fur. They are more difficult to find in dark-haired pets. Also, pets may groom the fleas out before you have a chance to see them, so your pet may have fleas, but you may not always see them.

Try parting the coat near the base of the tail using your hands or a flea comb and look for movement.

Most fleas grow to about the size of a pinhead and will move or jump when disturbed.

Signs of Fleas

Even if you don't see any fleas, have a look for dark, pepper-like particles on the surface of your pet's skin and coat. These may be the 'flea dirt', which are flea droppings.

You can easily confirm this by dabbing some of this material with a wet paper towel or cotton ball. If you see dark reddish brown or orange swirls, this is flea dirt and confirms that your pet has fleas. You need to take action now and contact your veterinarian!



Peeewww What's That Smell?

House-soiling ranks among one of the most common problems of pet owners. Even the best-trained pets can have an accident, and how best to eliminate pet soiling odors is a



question we are frequently asked. There are several methods to control unpleasant odors: masking, ventilation, oxidation, absorption, filtration, or bonding. Some methods are more effective and of a more permanent nature than others.

Probably one of your best choices are those products that work by accelerated decaying. Products that work by this method actually attack the cell wall of the malodor, which causes the cell to speed up its metabolic activity. There is no odor masking - the odor is eliminated when the cell dies.

In carpets urine is one of the most difficult problems to solve. Almost always the urine has soaked down into the carpet pad and even into the floor itself. You can not eliminate these odors with just a quick spraying or cleaning, because neither will go down as deep as the urine. Your only solution is to use a quality odor eliminator and to thoroughly soak the soiled area. You must remove 100% of the urine odor or your pet may return to soil the area again. Urine itself has very little odor, but once it starts to decay is when it starts to produce a powerful BIG ODOR. The first stage of decay produces ammonia, which is unpleasant, but the second stage of decay produces mercaptans, which is where you really begin to smell that powerful, unpleasant odor. Mercaptans are what make skunk spray smell so bad.

Why not use vinegar or ammonia to eliminate urine in carpets?

Vinegar is an acid and adding it to the urine only worsens the problem. In fact, if you pour vinegar on virgin carpet, most pets will go directly to the vinegar and urinate on it. Putting ammonia on top of urine is the same as putting urine on top of urine.

Please ask a member of our professional staff for additional information or products on how best to remove those BIG odors.

7 Summer Safety Tips

1 Cover the Basics

Secure an up-to-date tag on your pet's collar, and make sure to use a leash when you head outdoors. Consult your veterinarian for flea and tick control options, and always keep your pet's vaccinations current.

2 Be Wary Around Water

Not all dogs are natural swimmers, so watch your pooch when you're near the pool, beach, or lake. On trips to the ocean make sure your pets don't drink salt water – it upsets their stomach. And watch those currents; the best paddling dog can struggle against an undertow.



3 Keep Cool

Schedule walks in the early morning or evening; dog paws hate hot pavement. You can also make dog exercise sessions safe by stopping for drinks of fresh water and finding shady spots for necessary panting breaks. Some pet owners also help prevent overheating with short fur shaves for cats and dogs in the summer.

4 Watch for Warning Signs

Heat stroke is an issue for pets, too. Be on the lookout for early symptoms: excessive panting and drooling, bright red gums, weakness, and

balance problems. As the condition worsens, pets may experience labored breathing, lethargy, and even seizures. If symptoms arise, contact your veterinarian immediately.

5 Safely Seeing the Sites

Never leave your pet in the car with windows up or down on hot days. Keep dogs' heads in the car while driving; inner ear damage, infections, and injury happen when your best friend sticks his head out the window. Buckle up your dog with a harness or seat belt or a crate carrier secured with a seat belt. And never let pets ride in the back of trucks.

6 Party with Prudence

Be wary of what your cats and dogs can get into when you celebrate. Many foods can be bad for dogs and cats, and alcohol is also a no-no. If your pets get anxious or fearful around fireworks or big crowds, keep them isolated in a safe place.

7 Protect Against Pests and Poisons

Fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and more seem to be everywhere in the summer, so consult with your veterinarian on the best preventives to use for your pet's lifestyle. Also keep your animal off areas sprayed with chemicals or insecticides, and always store fertilizers and other poisons out of their reach.

Vacationing With Your Pet ...

Hitting the road: camping, hiking, fishing or reading your favorite book at the beach with your pet can be an enjoyable experience for both you and your pet. Proper planning for the special requirements and precautions involved in including your pet in your vacation will insure a safe and enjoyable experience.

Before leaving on vacation, be sure your pet is up-to-date on all vaccinations. It's important to review your travel plans with your veterinarian since you may be traveling through areas with a prevalence of disease that your pet is not protected against. These include

Lyme Disease, Heartworm Disease, Giardia or exposure to flea and ticks. Many of these diseases can pose a serious health threat to your pet. In addition, be sure your dog is protected against Bordatella, a canine upper respiratory infection sometimes referred to as "Kennel Cough." One of the most contagious diseases your dog can be exposed to, Bordatella is passed from dog to dog through airborne transmission and is most contagious during spring and summer months.



Your pet's suitcase should include the following:

- Pet MicroChip or Tag ID
- Proof of license and vaccination.
- Familiar toys, bed and/or blanket.
- A recent photo for in case your pet is lost.
- A regular walking leash. And a 30' lead so he can explore while you remain in control.
- Food, Water and Treats.
- A towel and plastic bags. You may encounter wet and muddy feet, and you will need several plastic bags to clean up your pet's stool.
- A comb and brush. You'll need to remove the dust mop collection of "cool stuff" your pet's coat may acquire as he rolls around on the ground.

Important Precautions

- **NEVER – even for short periods – leave your pet unattended in your car. When it's only 80 degrees outside, a car can heat up to 120 degrees in just minutes. At such temperatures your pet can die very quickly.**

Beware of pet anxiety. Remember you will be taking your pet away from the environment that he is most familiar with and his regular and safe routine. Remember that you are the person your pet cares about the most – he needs the assurance that you are always there for him.