



# VET TO PET MOBILE SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC

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**Thank You!**  
CELEBRATING  
**11 Years**

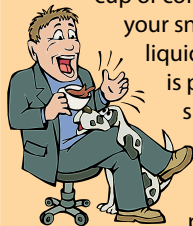


## A Dog's Dictionary

**BATH:** A process by which humans use us to drench the floor, walls and themselves. Retaliate by shaking vigorously and frequently.

**BICYCLE:** Two-wheeled human transport device useful for dogs to control body fat or reduce boredom. For maximum effect, hide behind a bush and upon approach of such human-operated device, dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards — the human will swerve and fall, thereupon you proudly, but quickly, prance away.

**BUMP - REGULAR:** The best way to get human attention while the human is drinking a fresh cup of coffee or tea. To execute, maneuver your snout under the arm holding the liquid beverage. When your snout is properly positioned, with one smooth flowing action, bounce the human's arm upward.



**GARBAGE CAN:** A container put out once a week to test your overall intelligence, ingenuity and skill. To succeed in this event, stand on your hind legs and carefully and quietly, push the lid off with your nose. With correct execution, you will find valuable treats inside such as Taco Bell wrappers, pizza boxes with moldy crusts and other delicacies. Proper follow-through involves strewing the contents as consistently, within the immediate area, as possible.

**WASTEBASKET:** Similar to a garbage can (see above), but smaller, easier to get into but not as often filled with the same delights. Wastebaskets usually are found in several locations throughout the human living space. These can be used to relieve boredom while the human is away from home. If bored, turn over the basket and strew the contents all over the room. Shredding paper is particularly enjoyable, yet it is uncertain if humans truly appreciate the effort and time involved in the shredding process.

**SOFAS:** A multi-purpose household furnishing that can be used as a dog bed (see above) or alternatively, as what humans refer to as a "napkin". After eating, it is polite to clean up, by running your snout up and down the front of the sofa. This will ensure removal of all food particles from your whiskers.



## Winter Health Alert... Pet Antifreeze Poisoning!



### What is the problem and how dangerous is it?

Ethylene glycol is used in radiators all over the United States. In cold weather, it is added to water and used to keep the fluid circulating in your car warm. In hot weather, it is added to the water to keep the car cool. Usually a bright attractive blue or sometimes green, it is commonly known as antifreeze or coolant. It has a sweet taste to it. If ingested by your pet, it can kill.

Ethylene glycol is used in a large number of industrial and chemical contexts. The average person is most likely to encounter it when changing the coolant in the radiator of their automobile, or if there is a leak in the coolant system. This is usually when a pet encounters it, as well. Since it is sweet, animals might lick it up without any idea that it is dangerous to them. Even a small amount from a leak or spill might be enough to hurt or kill your pet.

### How does it hurt pets?

Once ingested by a pet (or a person!) antifreeze is changed by the body to compounds that extract calcium from the body's tissues. These calcium crystals make their way to the kidneys and cause permanent and fatal damage.

### How can I tell if my pet has antifreeze poisoning?

Symptoms of antifreeze poisoning appear between one and six hours after it is ingested. Your cat or dog may stagger, sway, vomit and seem to be drunk due to the effect of the ethylene glycol on the nervous system. These symptoms diminish and it appears your pet has recovered. About 24 hours after the coolant was ingested, new symptoms appear, and your pet will not want to eat, may stagger and stumble,

vomit again, go into convulsions, then proceed into a coma and die.

### What can I do about it?

If you suspect your pet has ingested ethylene glycol you must go to the veterinarian immediately. The antidote for antifreeze poisoning are only effective if undertaken within 24 hours or so of poisoning. No time should be wasted and 3-4 hours is much better than 24.

Treatment consists of a number of therapies aimed at removing or neutralizing the ethylene glycol in your pet's system before it can cause harm. Intravenous fluids, activated charcoal, ethanol administration and enzyme inhibitors are employed to save your animal. If it is later than 24 hours dialysis is the only treatment.

### How can I minimize the chances of my pet getting poisoned?

Keep the ethylene glycol out of reach of your pet. Use it in a place your pet cannot get to and clean it all up immediately after use. Read the labels and follow all suggestions for use. Do not let your pet roam freely where they might encounter someone else's spilled fluid. If your pet shows signs of antifreeze poisoning, please call our hospital immediately. **KEEP YOUR PET SAFE!**

## Fleas Fleas Fleas

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

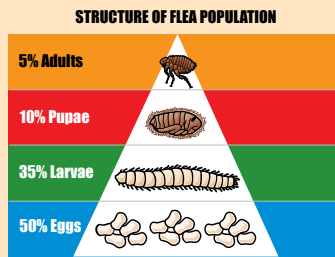


At **Vet to Pet** we recommend using a once monthly flea preventative to avoid any flea infestations. It keeps you and your pet safe, healthy, and comfortable. However, what if your pet does get fleas? Here are some simple tips on how to eliminate the invasion.

- 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.

## 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.

### Proper Tick Removal

Prompt removal of ticks will help prevent Lyme Disease transmission. A tick's mouthparts have harpoon-like barbs; they do not screw into the skin. When removing, DO NOT crush, jerk or twist. Exposure to the tick's body fluids could lead to the transmission of Lyme Disease. DO NOT use your fingers to remove the tick. Using tweezers or forceps, grasp the tick's mouthparts as close to the skin as possible and gently pull the tick straight out, steadily and firmly. After removal, wash hands and bite site with soap and water and apply antiseptic to the site.

## 5 Top-Selling Human Drugs Dangerous to Pets



### #1 – Lipitor® (atorvastatin)

Used to reduce cholesterol levels, U.S. citizens spent \$7.2 billion on Lipitor in 2010, making it the top selling drug in the country. Generally when pets get into Lipitor, only mild side effects are seen, such as vomiting and diarrhea. Therefore, Lipitor is not considered to have high toxicity levels for pets. While some human drugs are utilized in veterinary medicine, Lipitor is not.

### #2 – Nexium® (esomeprazole)

During 2010, Americans spent \$6.3 billion on Nexium. It is an anti-ulcer medication and proton-pump inhibitor that results in decreased gastric acid secretion. While it is utilized in veterinary medicine for some pets, mild side effects can include vomiting and diarrhea. Pet owners of dogs or cats that get into this drug should watch their pet closely, but not be alarmed since symptoms will generally subside on their own.

### #3 – Plavix® (clopidogrel)

In third place is Plavix, which is a drug that affects platelets in humans, inhibiting clot formation and reducing the risk of stroke. Rarely used in veterinary medicine, \$6.1 billion was spent on this drug for humans last year. When pets get into Plavix, it has a wide margin of safety and generally is not considered to be acutely toxic. Only mild vomiting or diarrhea may be seen.

### #4 – Advair Diskus® (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol)

Often used for treating asthma and administered through an inhaler, Advair Diskus contains beta-agonist drugs that expand the lungs and steroids that decrease inflammation in the lungs. Americans spent \$4.7 billion on Advair Diskus in 2010, making it fourth top selling drug. Because inhalers contain many doses, dogs that chew into them are exposed to massive amounts of the drug all at once. This often results in heart arrhythmias, an elevated heart rate, agitation, vomiting and even acute collapse. Severe electrolyte abnormalities such as very low potassium levels are likely and can be life-threatening without immediate veterinary treatment.

### #5 – Abilify® (aripiprazole)

The fifth top-selling drug is Abilify. It contains aripiprazole, an atypical antipsychotic agent that is used to treat schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and clinical depression. It is important to keep this drug out of the reach of pets, as ingestion can result in profound lethargy, vomiting, hyperthermia, significant changes in heart rate and blood pressure, and seizures. If a pet ingests this drug, immediate veterinary attention is needed.