



November 2013

Maude Schiffley S.P.C.A.

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www.orangeburgspca.petfinder.com

WISH LIST

Canned Kitten food
Cat litter
Blankets
Dog and cat toys

Shelter News

November 20th and 21st--Ruby Tuesday Give Back Event --- Mention you are dining for the SPCA and we will receive 20% of your total bill as a donation to the shelter.

Pet Cancer/Diabetes Awareness Month

November is Pet Cancer and Pet Diabetes Awareness Month. It's important to pay attention to your pet's behavior and get veterinary care when needed. The following are early warning signs of cancer in a pet. Take your animal to see a vet as soon as possible if these signs are present. - Persistent, abnormal swelling - Sores that do not heal - Loss of weight and/or appetite - Bleeding/Discharge from any opening - Offensive odor - Difficulty eating or swallowing - Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina - Persistent lameness or stiffness - Difficulty breathing, urinating or defecating Take your animal to be checked if you notice any weight loss, increased drinking and urinating leading to dehydration, lethargy or loss of appetite, as these symptoms could be signs of diabetes.

Pets and the Holidays

The holidays are a time for festive decorations and special treats, but some of these seasonal items can be hazardous for your pets. Here are some tips to keep your pet safe and happy this holiday season:

No Bones Please: Avoid giving bones to your dogs or cats, particularly turkey bones. Poultry bones easily splinter and can cause serious injury, while bone fragments can cause intestinal blockages or lacerations;

Healthy Treats: Chocolate and other sweets should not be given to animals. Chocolate contains theobromine, a chemical that can be deadly to cats and dogs, though not harmful to humans. The best thing you can do for your pets over the holidays is to keep them on their regular diet. Look for special animal treats instead of giving your animals cookies or sweets meant for people;

Poisonous Plants: Many popular holiday plants are poisonous to animals including mistletoe, holly, ornamental pepper and Christmas rose. Remember to keep these plants out of reach of pets. Poinsettias are not poisonous to pets but some pets have a sensitivity to the latex contained in the plant, may get diarrhea or even vomit if they consume parts of a poinsettia;

Avoid Tinsel: If you have a Christmas tree and pets, you have a recipe for trouble. First, make sure the tree is well secured. Try to place decorations above paw height and use string to hang the bulbs instead of hooks, which are easily dislodged. If possible, use nonbreakable ornaments. Avoid using tinsel or angel hair. Cats and dogs will ingest both, which can cause intestinal problems. Cords for lights should be made inaccessible to pets - especially from chewing puppies and exploring kittens. Keep in mind that the chemicals added to the water reservoir of your Christmas tree to keep your tree living longer won't do the same for your pet. The chemicals are toxic to animals, so keep the reservoir covered;

Choking Hazards in Toys: Avoid purchasing pet toys with small or soft pieces that can be chewed and swallowed. Nylon bones tend to splinter less than plastic ones. Be sure to inspect pet toys regularly and discard deteriorating ones.

Pets As Presents

Many people consider pets great holiday gifts. But in spite of their popularity, pets do not always make the most appropriate holiday gift. The hectic nature of the holiday season can be a difficult time for a pet to grow used to its new environment. They may be frightened and take longer to settle down. Pets often need several weeks of quiet and constant care to become comfortable in their new environments. Here are some other reasons why the holidays are not a good time for new pets:

- Holiday visitors may frighten the new pet and he or she may become wary of strangers from the beginning.
- The activities in the household may pose safety hazards for the young animal. An abundance of rich foods and various decorations could be ingested, potentially causing illness.
- New pets should be carefully supervised around children to see how they behave. A child may not be accustomed to handling a puppy or kitten and could injure the animal. Similarly, the pet may be skittish and lash out at the child. Adults busy with holiday obligations may be easily distracted and miss how their child is interacting with the new pet.
- Once the glow of the holidays wear off, children may be disillusioned with the new responsibility that has fallen into their hands. They may not like the responsibility that comes with being a good pet owner.

If you decide to give a gift of a pet, get it a few weeks before the holiday so it has time to settle in. If you want your children to pick out the pet, perhaps a gift certificate from the adoption center can be wrapped and placed under the tree. That way they would be able to pick out their own animal.

The gift of a pet should be something that is planned with the recipient well in advance so everyone knows the responsibilities expected of them.

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Treatment and Prevention of Hairballs

The feline species is one of the most meticulous on the planet. They spend countless hours grooming and also in removing all of the loose hairs from their coat. This is a very normal process for a cat to engage in, and the feline body is very capable of processing small amounts of digested hair. In some instances, too much hair can be ingested, causing the animal to become sick. The cat will begin to cough, wheeze, and make other strange noises in an attempt to cough up the excess hair that the body cannot digest.

Hairballs are discomforting to the cat, as well as a mess to clean up. The acid from the stomach that accompanies the hairball usually stains whatever surface it has landed upon, making it a costly incident as well.

One of the best preventions of hairballs is to avoid an excess of loose hairs. Proper daily brushing of your cat's hair coat will loosen and remove these hairs, preventing them from ending up around your home and in your cat's digestive system.

There are many potential treatments for the occasional hairball. One old trick that has worked for many a coughing feline is using Vaseline. Smearing a tiny bit of this product on to the top of a cat's front paws will initiate the animal to lick it off quickly. The Vaseline will lubricate the passage of the hairball as well as confine it to a smaller ball, making the cat more comfortable in passing this excess hair. This treatment is only recommended for the occasional hairball, and should not be used often.

Dietary changes are an easy place to start. There are many formulas of cat chow designed to help digest the hairball, usually this involves adding extra fiber to the food. Some other home remedies include adding one teaspoon of canned pumpkin mix into their regular food.

If your cat is vomiting daily and no hairball treatments seem to be working, consult your veterinarian. There may be other problems that your cat is dealing with. Making an appointment to see your cat's healthcare professional may end feline discomfort, as well as your finding unexpected messes when you wake up.

Chewing

One reason pets end up at our adoption center is because they develop unpleasant behaviors unless properly trained and socialized. Do your pet a favor and invest the time needed to help your pet be a good citizen!

Four Steps to Correct Improper Chewing

1. Rule out medical problems. Nutritional deficiencies or GI problems can trigger chewing.
2. Puppy-proof your home. Removing toxic items, electrical cords, and items of curiosity such as toys, shoes, etc. will keep your dog from mischief. Consider crate training your pet when he/she can't be supervised.
3. Encourage proper chewing. Provide appropriately-sized chew toys (to prevent choking). When you find your pet chewing on the wrong item, correct the behavior and then redirect them to the appropriate chew toy.
4. Engage in playtime with your pet. A tired pet is a good pet!

Thank you to every kind heart that adopts from our adoption center. It's because of you that there is hope for those left behind.

Become a Member of the SPCA

Single Membership -----\$15.00

Family Membership-----\$20.00

Corporate Sponsorship-----\$150.00

Donation -----

NAME: _____

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E-Mail _____

Please make checks payable to SPCA and mail to P.O. Box 1584 Orangeburg, SC 29116

We are a No-Kill Non Profit 501(C)3 Shelter dedicated to saving pet lives and educating the public on responsible pet ownership.