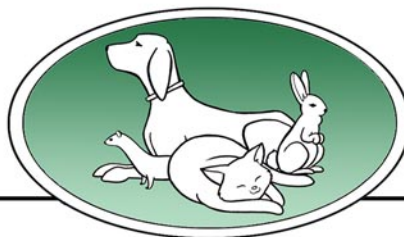


EAST VALLEY

5049 Upper 141st Street West



ANIMAL CLINIC

Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124



Paw Talk



A professional publication for the clients of East Valley Animal Clinic

SUMMER 2015

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CANINE INFLUENZA IN MINNESOTA

Because of the recent outbreak of canine influenza virus (CIV), East Valley Animal Clinic is now offering the canine influenza vaccine. The outbreak began this spring in Chicago and has now affected dogs in multiple states, including Minnesota.

The available canine influenza vaccine was developed for the original strain of virus that hit the southern states about 10 years ago, and continues to pop up around the U.S. sporadically. It is uncertain how much protection this vaccine will provide against the newest strain of virus. With recent reports of five dogs testing positive for canine flu in northern Minnesota (at the time this newsletter went to print), we are now advising our clients to vaccinate dogs that are at greatest risk of exposure, i.e., dogs that go to daycare, boarding facilities, dog parks and dog shows.

See the article on the inside of this newsletter for further information regarding the disease, or visit the American Veterinary Medical Association's website at AVMA.org.

Puppy Socialization Classes

Socialization is one of the most important things you can do to help your puppy grow to be a confident adult dog. Socialization is not just about playing with other dogs; it entails giving your puppy careful and positive exposure to things they may encounter as an adult. If your puppy is not exposed to a variety of people, places and situations, he may react with fear as an adult. Fear can manifest itself as aggression in an adult dog.

Dogs need socialization throughout their lives, but the most important time is between 4–14 weeks of age. Lots of positive experiences are very important during this time. You will have your dog for many years, and the investment you put in to socializing your puppy in the beginning will pay off for years to come.

East Valley Animal Clinic is excited to offer a puppy socialization class. The first class will start Monday, September 14th and run for five weeks. Classes will be facilitated by one of our certified veterinary technicians, Brigitte, and Dr. Katie Dudley. They both have a strong interest in animal behavior and dog training. If you have a puppy between the ages of 8–14 weeks in September, this class is for you. The class size will be small (five to six puppies and their humans) and last one hour.

We are looking forward to helping you get started turning your cute, fun puppy into a confident, friendly adult dog you can enjoy for years to come. If you are interested in joining this class, please give us a call at 952-423-6800.



East Valley Animal Clinic

\$20 OFF

Veterinary exam when getting the first canine influenza vaccine.

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON *Limit one coupon per family. Cannot be combined with any other offers.*

GOOD UNTIL DECEMBER 1, 2015.



New Flu

A new strain of canine influenza virus has entered the U.S., and is slowly spreading across the country. Known as H3N2, the strain was identified in China and Korea in 2006, but previously had not been detected in North America.

Canine influenza virus is a highly contagious respiratory disease, and is easily spread between dogs by direct contact, airborne particles or by touching any contaminated surface, such as toys or bowls. There is no evidence that it can spread to humans, but according to Cornell University, the H3N2 strain has caused infection and respiratory illness in cats.

This is not a seasonal flu—dogs are at risk for this infection year round. Because it is a fairly new virus, very few dogs have a natural immunity and therefore all dogs are susceptible to infection.

Signs of infection include fever, coughing, nasal discharge, lethargy and loss of appetite. Most dogs experience only mild infections; however, some dogs may develop pneumonia or other serious complications. The disease is sometimes fatal. Because the symptoms are similar to other respiratory illnesses, an accurate diagnosis can only be made with lab work.

In 2004, the H3N8 canine influenza virus was first identified in Florida at greyhound race tracks. A vaccine was developed for that strain, and it is unknown how much protection, if any, that vaccine provides against the new strain. If you hear of an outbreak in your area, avoid dog parks and other places dogs congregate.

Call your veterinarian if you notice symptoms of respiratory infection, and be careful to isolate your dog to prevent exposure to others.

“Love is a four-legged word.”
– Kandy Shepherd

Best Friends

Dogs have long been known as “man’s best friend.” Terms like “family member” and “fur baby” are now popular as well. The latest study in a growing body of scientific research shows the emotional link can indeed be as strong as that between a mother and child.

Emotions are difficult to measure, but there are physiological changes that occur in our bodies that are associated with different emotions. Oxytocin is a hormone found in mammals, and is associated with maternal behaviors, trust and pair bonding. Oxytocin also serves other functions, but its role in bonding has been studied in several species.

Humans are very sensitive to eye contact, and bond emotionally when they gaze into each other’s eyes. That process is mediated by oxytocin; that is, a boost in oxytocin occurs when, for example, a mother gazes into the eyes of her child. A study published in the journal *Science* shows that gaze-mediated bonding also exists between humans and dogs, and not just for the humans.

In one experiment, urine was collected from humans and dogs before and after interacting for 30 minutes. Researchers noted owners talking to their dogs (dog-talking), petting them (dog-touching) and the dogs gazing at their owners (dog-to-owner-gaze). The results were divided into two groups based on the duration of the dog-to-owner-gaze (short gaze or long gaze). A group of “hand raised” wolves and their owners were tested as a comparison. In both the humans and dogs in the “long gaze” group, a significantly higher level of oxytocin was found after the interactions than those in the “short gaze” group. In contrast, the duration of wolf-to-owner-gaze did not correlate to a change in oxytocin ratio in the wolves or their owners.

In a second experiment, female dogs given a dose of oxytocin as a nasal injection spent more time gazing at their owners, and in turn, their owner’s oxytocin levels increased. This was interesting, as gender differences were not noted in the dogs in the first experiment.

The fact that the oxytocin levels rose in dogs and not wolves, their closest wild relatives, suggests that early in their domestication, dogs may have acquired this mechanism for bonding with humans.



“If I’m your best friend, why don’t you send me funny little text messages throughout the day?”



Toxic Topicals

If you or another person in your household uses topical pain medication for muscle, joint or other pain, please use caution.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning that pets who are exposed to topical pain medications containing the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) flurbiprofen are at risk of serious illness and death. At the time this newsletter going to print, the FDA had received reports of incidents from two households. Despite veterinary care, two cats died and two others developed kidney failure but recovered. The lotions had not been applied directly to the cats; the owners had applied it to their own neck and feet, and it is not known how the cats were exposed.

The FDA recommends that people using topical medications containing flurbiprofen use caution to avoid exposing their pets, and issued the following guidelines:

- Store all medications safely out of reach of pets.
- Discard or clean any applicators and avoid allowing any medication to drop on the floor, furniture, etc.
- Ask your doctor if it is appropriate to cover the medicated area. Remember, with any potential toxic exposure, timing is crucial:
- If you think your pet has been exposed, bathe the pet immediately and seek veterinary care.
- If your pet shows signs of toxicity such as lethargy, vomiting or other illness, contact your veterinarian promptly and report the potential exposure.

The FDA also notes that while so far the only reported incidents are with cats, other pets, such as dogs, ferrets, etc., are also at risk.

For more information, visit: <http://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch/safetyinformation/safetyalertsforhumanmedicalproducts/ucm443386.htm>



Cats and Ticks

Cats are fastidious self-groomers, but they can't always remove tenacious ticks. Ticks can attach to places cats can't reach, such as their heads and neck, and can be difficult to dislodge from other spots as well.

Cytauxzoonosis is an emerging disease that is passed to cats via a tick bite. The protozoa *Cytauxzoon felis* (or *C. felis*) causes the disease. Bobcats are the main reservoir host of *C. felis*, but it has been found in Texas cougars and other wild cat species. Domestic cats that survive an infection can also become hosts. The Lone Star tick and the American dog tick are known vectors for *Cytauxzoon felis*. The disease was first documented in Missouri in 1976 and has spread to at least 19 more states.

Signs often appear suddenly, and may include high fever, loss of appetite, lack of energy and jaundice. The disease was once thought to be 100% fatal, but new treatment protocols are increasing the survival rate.

Cats are also susceptible to other tick-borne illnesses, such as Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis and Lyme disease, but according to the Companion Animal Parasite Council, "little is known about the prevalence of infection, disease manifestations, and treatment recommendations for feline infections with these agents."

Tick prevention is the best defense. Indoor cats are at lower risk, but ticks can invade houses when carried in on dogs and humans. Talk to your veterinarian about preventive products, and remember to read all labels carefully, because some products designed for dogs are not safe for cats. Include a tick check into your daily routine of cat cuddling.

Feline Acne

Human teenagers aren't the only ones who get acne, it's a common problem in cats as well. Feline acne typically looks like small, dirty bumps on a cat's chin, which may be more difficult to detect in cats with dark fur.

When a pore in a cat's (or human's) skin becomes clogged, it is known as a comedo, or blackhead. (The plural of comedo is comedones.) Pustules, or pimples, can also develop, and in some cases the inflammation can become more severe and painful, and scarring may result.

Acne can affect cats of any age, breed or sex.

Immune-compromised cats, such as those with FIV, may be more prone to feline acne. Stress can be a factor, and acne has been associated with certain allergies as well.

While it may be possible for you to treat a mild case at home, it's wise to have your veterinarian examine your cat to be sure of the diagnosis. Other conditions, such as ringworm or mites, may initially look similar to acne, and even dental problems in the lower front teeth may cause swelling that can be mistaken for acne. Severe cases of feline acne may require medication, but mild cases are sometimes manageable with daily cleansing with compresses of warm water. Left untreated, secondary infections may occur.

Clean your cat's food bowls daily, and consider using stainless steel food and water dishes. Plastic can be porous and harbor bacteria, as can cracks in ceramic dishes.

**"To err is human,
to purr is feline."
– Robert Byrne**





Lindsey with Hunni and Jude.

Meet Lindsey

Lindsey is one of our long time technicians here at East Valley Animal Clinic. Lindsey was hired in 2005 after completing her internship here. Her technical skills and compassion impressed everyone so much that we couldn't let her leave!

Lindsey has been working with animals since she was in high school and knew this is what she wanted to do with her life. Besides her love of animals, Lindsey also has a passion for yoga and has completed 500 hours in yoga teacher training. She teaches yoga part time at Green Lotus Yoga and Healing Center in Lakeville. She also has her own business, Peacefully Present LLC, and teaches yoga in private and corporate settings.

Lindsey loves the outdoors, music, dancing and singing. She shares her life with her boyfriend, Brandon, and her two cats, Hunni and Jude. She feels her cats are "pieces of her heart walking around outside her body." She is a crazy cat person and proud of it!

Lindsey feels extremely blessed to work at East Valley Animal Clinic. She finds the atmosphere and people here amazing, and says it feels like home.



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Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124



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Dave Ranzinger

Adopt a Highway

The staff of East Valley Animal Clinic has proudly taken on a new project: we've become part of the Adopt a Highway program! We feel fortunate to live in such a beautiful area, and we're trying to do our part to help our community. Watch for our sign on Highway 3, south of Rosemount.

