



The Eden Veterinary Clinic: Fall Issue 2017

PUMPKINS, SWEATERS, PIES, AND...THE DREADED TICK?

IN THIS ISSUE: FALL MISSHAPS

Don't "Fall" For These Common Fall Mishaps

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SPOOKY THINGS AHEAD THIS FALL...

When most people hear the word "Autumn" thoughts of warm coffee, pumpkins, and cozy sweaters come to mind. Unfortunately, fall harbors a few dangers to our furry friends! This issue will tackle some common fall dangers you can learn to avoid this season.

The Tick: The Worst Vampire



When you are taking a lovely stroll on a hiking path, or are picking apples with your furry friend, remember the tick. This nasty insect is most active spring through fall, and a frost or two won't necessarily kill these tough arachnids!

The tick likes to lurk on tall blades of grass or other elevated greenery to get a good shot at grabbing onto its next prey- whether that be a deer, a bird, your dog, cat, or you!

Not only do ticks drink blood, but they also transmit several diseases such as:

- ✓ **Lyme Disease:** Clinical signs of this disease include arthritis and kidney disease...and PEOPLE can get this disease as well!
- ✓ **Ehrlichiosis:** This disease can lead to spontaneous bleeding, seizures, anemia, and swelling of the limbs.
- ✓ **Anaplasmosis:** This disease has similar signs to ehrlichiosis, with added muscle pain.
- ✓ **Mycoplasmosis:** Of course, we can't leave out our feline friends. Ticks and fleas carry *mycoplasma haemofelis*, a disease which attacks the red blood cells, leading to anemia and even death.
- ✓ **Cytauxzoonosis:** This feline disease transmitted by ticks is also known as "bobcat fever." This disease is caused by a parasite which infects both blood and soft tissues, leading to severe anemia, dehydration, high fever, jaundice, and often death.

Luckily for you, Fluffy, and Fido, these diseases can be prevented with regular flea and tick prevention. Ask your veterinarian

what flea and tick preventative product may be right for you.



Additional protective measures you can take include:

- ✓ **Lyme Disease Vaccination:** This vaccination aids in preventing subclinical arthritis caused by lyme disease.
- ✓ **Yearly heartworm and tick testing:** Your veterinarian can run a quick and easy test with just a few drops of blood, as testing for lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and ehrlichiosis is included on your dog's yearly heartworm test.

What if Fluffy is diagnosed with a tick-borne disease? Worry not, as your veterinarian can treat these diseases with a particular type of antibiotic, called "doxycycline."

Halloween Horrors: Avoided



Halloween is a great time for spooks and fun. A few safety precautions can keep innocent tricks from turning to true terror. Here are a few tips for keeping furry friends safe:

❖ **Keep all treats from the pet's reach!**

Chocolate can be toxic to dogs and cats. Additionally, an artificial sweetener called xylitol (common in sugar free gum and now in several brands of peanut butter) can cause acute liver failure. If you suspect your dog or cat has ingested Halloween candy, contact your veterinarian.

❖ **Decorations can be dangerous!**

Electrical cord bites can lead to serious injury and possibly death. Keep wires out of reach and only plugged in when pets are supervised.

❖ **This dress causes distress!**

If your pet is unfamiliar with costumes, they may be confused or stressed with the Halloween experience. A dog may be great with kids, but are they good with three and a half foot spiders and pumpkins yelling at their door? Keep your dogs and cats well restrained during trick-or-treating to avoid any possible bites or run-aways. Additionally, make sure your pets have proper identification (tags, microchips) in case they do manage to get loose.

Additionally, costumes made for pets can be cute and fun, but make sure they fit appropriately and don't cause undue stress. Your pet should be able to move normally, breathe normally, bark or meow, and see fully. Make sure there are not parts of the costume which can be chewed off or consumed, as these may lead to choking or intestinal obstruction. A pet should always be supervised while wearing a costume, in case it was to become twisted or caught on something as this may lead to injury or strangulation.

Don't Be Turkey Trotting to the Vet!



Thanksgiving should be a time to be thankful for what you have, spend time with family, and enjoy an indulgent meal.



(Feeling hungry yet?)

To make sure everything stays gobbily-good this Thanksgiving, consider the following pet safety tips:

- **TOXIC TREATS:** Many foods enjoyed during Thanksgiving are poisonous to animals. Common examples include grapes or raisins, onions, chocolate, alcohol, and yeast dough. Desserts or peanut butter can include an artificial sweetener called xylitol, which is also toxic. For a list of other toxic foods, visit: www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons/ if you believe your pet has consumed a toxic food or substance, please visit your veterinarian or call the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline at: **(888)-426-4435**
- **Deadly Overindulging:** Many foods which could be delicious and healthy for people can be dangerous for furry family members. Rich, fatty foods can trigger a life-threatening condition known as pancreatitis. If your pet indulges in a thanksgiving meal of their own and then develop vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, anorexia (they stop eating), or abdominal pain, please see a veterinarian right away.

- **No bones about it:** bones, whether they are turkey, ham, or beef can all lead to big problems if they are ingested. These can become stuck in the esophagus or the intestines and lead to deadly consequences. Chewed, or broken bones can cause mouth injuries or puncture the stomach.

(anti)-FREEZE! Safety First:



As cold weather approaches, people are topping off their vehicle's antifreeze. Unfortunately, antifreeze contains Ethylene Glycol, an ingredient which is both sweet to the taste and potentially deadly in small amounts. In fact, the minimum lethal dose is 4.4ml/kg in dogs and 1.4ml/kg in cats. This roughly translates to 2 tablespoons being lethal (deadly) for a 15-lb. dog. It is even more toxic in cats, with less than half of a tablespoon being lethal for a 10-lb cat. Most Ethylene Glycol toxicities occur in cold climates during the fall and winter. Be sure to practice safe and responsible handling and disposal of antifreeze. If you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze, please bring the bottle (if available) and your dog/cat to the nearest vet.

Clinical signs of Ethylene Glycol (antifreeze) poisoning include:

- Vomiting, increases in drinking and urination, depression and disorientation, and eventual renal (kidney) failure.

Early intervention is key in treating Ethylene Glycol toxicity. Be smart and act fast!

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