



Summer-time Hazards



Now that summer is upon us it is important to be aware of some common safety tips:

1. Animals may become easily overheated during walks or in an enclosed area (such as a vehicle) and should be given a good source water, ventilation, and shelter out of the sun. If excessive drooling, heavy panting, or lethargy are observed, get your pets to a cool place immediately or have them examined.
2. You should always be sure your pet has a proper fitting collar and leash. We often see dogs who have slipped out of their collars, and cats who have slipped out of the door hit by cars or trucks that may be fatal. If this happens to your pet, have it examined immediately for injuries. Painful pets may bite, so be careful when transporting an injured pet.
3. During the warm months, pets like to forage and eat for-

eign objects. Everything from plants, garbage, small toys, objects in the yard, to small rodents and birds.

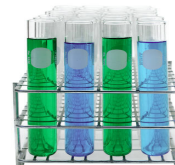
Signs associated with ingestion of these may include gastrointestinal upset such as vomiting, diarrhea, and inappetence or may cause toxicosis or foreign body obstruction that may require medical treatment or surgery. If there is any question about something your pet may have ingested, please call us, or have your animal examined to be safe.

DNA Testing for Dogs

Have you ever had a mixed breed dog and wondered what breed it was mixed with? This test may be for you. There is a DNA test available for dogs called the Wisdom Panel. The panel

tests for over 130 American Kennel Club breeds. It may give insights on their personality, appearance, health issues. The blood test may be done at our clinic and takes about 2-4 weeks to get

results. Please contact us for more information or to schedule an appointment.



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Tick Populations Spreading

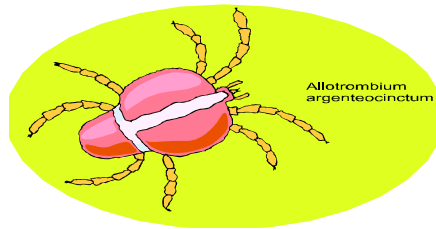
According to a new study by Idexx Laboratories ticks are slowly spreading to different regions in the U.S. At least three tick borne diseases have been found in every state in the U.S. These include:

Anaplasmosis (A rickettsial bacterial infection transmitted by the ticks causing fever, stiffening joints, and neurological signs).

Lyme Disease (A bacteria transmitted by the deer tick causing fever, arthritis, and fatigue).

Ehrlichiosis (A rickettsial bacteria transmitted by the brown dog tick of which signs may be vague but include, fever, weight loss, and depression).

Positive results have been seen in the Northeast , Southeast and Midwest including Illinois. This



becomes a concern when these diseases reach a region that is unfamiliar with the diseases and people may not know symptoms. Avoiding tick exposure, and prolonged attachments of the ticks to the body is a key for disease prevention. It continues to be important to use frontline or revolution to prevent fleas and ticks. These are available at our clinic, or through our online pharmacy.



THE FELINE DIET : CANNED FOOD VS. DRY



Cats are obligatory carnivores which means meat and the nutrients it contains are essential for survival. The natural diet of the cat contains a large amount of protein and a small amount of carbohydrates. Historically, most of their water intake came from the prey that they consumed, as they originate from desert preda-

tors. Canned food contains a high water content and a low amount of carbohydrates compared to that of a dry diet. Many cats that eat a dry food diet usually do not drink enough water to compensate for the dry state of the food. This may result in concentrated urine which

may lead to serious health concerns. Many feline veterinarians believe canned cat food mimics the more natural diet of cats. We recommend at least introducing cats to canned cat food by feeding a few teaspoons/day, because there may be a dietary concern that requires feeding canned food.

HOW TO CARE FOR ORPHAN KITTENS



Due to the large population of intact female cats (queens) that live outdoors, every year many kittens are born without homes. Sometimes the queen is unable to care for her kittens due to injury or even death. In this case in order for the newborn kittens to survive it takes a very caring

and dedicated individual to care for them. If kittens are unable to nurse from their mother during the first 72 hours of life, they will not receive passive immunity through their mother's first milk (colostrums). In this case you must take extra care in keeping them warm and not exposing

them to potential germs or pathogens. Newborn kittens should be kept warm by using extra blankets and a heating pad since they are unable to maintain their own body temperature. It is very important to keep the heating pad on a low setting. You do not want to overheat the kitten!

ORPHAN KITTENS CONTINUED



During the first 2 weeks it is very important to stimulate the kitten to urinate and defecate. This is done by gently massaging the genital and anal area with a warm wash cloth or cottonball after the kitten has been fed until the kitten is 3 weeks of age..

Kittens should be fed a commercial kitten formula and fed every 2 - 3 hours the first couple of days. After a couple of days you may decrease feeding to every 4 - 5 hours until 3 weeks of age. It is best to use an eyedropper when they are only a few days

old because this will decrease the chance of feeding too quickly which could lead to aspiration pneumonia. At one week of age they should be able to nurse from a small kitten bottle. At 3 - 6 weeks of age kittens should be fed at least four times a day. At 3 weeks of age you may begin to wean the kitten. Begin by adding canned food into the diet. Sometimes it is best to mix the canned food with a small amount of formula until the kitten begins to eat readily on his or her own.

A kitten's eyes begin to open at 7 - 10 days of age. Females usually open their eyes before males. The ear canals are blocked by skin and will eventually widen within the first 2 weeks. Deciduous teeth begin to erupt at approximately 2 weeks of age and should all be present by 5 weeks of age. The period of socialization occurs between 2 - 7 weeks of age. During this time it is very important for the kitten to interact with other animals and humans otherwise they may become fearful or unfriendly toward humans.

GOOD THINGS COME IN THREE'S !



The employees at Capitol Illini would like to take time to congratulate our two pregnant mothers-to-be. Ashley Foster is one of our veterinary assistants who is expecting her first child the end of May. Ashley and her husband Otis will be welcoming a baby girl. Shannon Higgins

who is the office manager at our Chatham clinic is expecting her second child this June. Shannon and her husband Jimmy already have a little boy named James who is looking forward to his new baby sister. Sara Garcia, our former head assistant welcomed her first child, a baby girl

named Sophia, on February 18th. Best wishes and congratulations to all!



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