

Pawsitive Press

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Christmas Puppies and Kitties

By: Wade Matthews, DVM



We see a lot of new puppies and kittens around the Christmas season. People enjoy a present that will unwrap itself and give years of memories and joy. They do however require commitment and care, the magnitude of which not everyone is aware.

Puppies in the state of Florida cannot be sold legally until they are eight weeks of age and a health certificate has been issued by a veterinarian. It is important that your new puppy be healthy and able to eat and grow without help from momma. Many clients have question "What will the cute little puppy look like in a year?" The best way to have a good idea what the future brings is to be able to see the parents, but this isn't always possible. There are of course breed differences so the more "purebred" the more accurate the guess. Sometimes, however, the outcome may be surprising.

It is important that the puppy or kitten is examined by your veterinarian soon after purchase to insure the health of your new pet and so that you can discuss nutrition and house training. Make a list of questions that you have so your veterinarian can answer

them for you. You may want to discuss the possibility of spaying or neutering or breeding your puppy or kitten in the future. There is no "one way that fits all" for puppies or kittens, so a decision based on your circumstances is the best.

We need to protect your new puppy or kitten from the diseases that can cause them distress. When they are born they nurse from their mother and get antibodies from the milk that protects them from some of the diseases. Puppies are vaccinated for distemper, parvo, hepatitis, bordetella, rabies and sometimes leptospirosis. Kittens should already be tested for feline leukemia and feline immunosuppressive virus on their health certificate and they are vaccinated for feline distemper, rabies and sometimes feline leukemia. Your puppy or kitten will usually always need more vaccines when you purchase them. It is important that they be kept current because the antibodies from momma last only a few weeks and it takes time for the puppies or kittens to develop antibodies from the vaccines and they need to be protected at all times.

Parasites are also a big problem for puppies and kittens. A fecal sample is necessary when your puppy is seen by your veterinarian, and he or she will make sure the kitten or puppy is dewormed correctly. Fleas are a big problem in Florida for pets and there are many types that will need to be discussed to fit your new puppies' or kittens' circumstances.

Even though a puppy or kitten is a lot of work it pales to the enjoyment of the relationship for years to come. I hope you find your next best friend under the Christmas tree!



Animal Hospital
OF DUNEDIN



© Werni Photography

Animeals Pet Food Pantry

Pets provide stability for their families during trying times.

Unfortunately, during financially stressful times, often the pet is the first that is sacrificed in order to be able to afford food to feed the family. Our nation has risen admirably to the plight of impoverished families who need to be fed and there are food banks in nearly every major city to help with this crisis. Many families have been sharing their own food bank portions with their extended furry family members, and those that can't make the food stretch may have to make the painful decision to relinquish their family pet. To combat this growing issue, many food banks across the nation have added pet food and litter to their pantries. At the Animal Hospital of Dunedin, we would like to build upon this generous spirit and help provide the Animeals Food Pantry of the Humane Society of Pinellas and the Senior Pet Connection with much needed supplies to help those families in need. During the month of December thru January 15, 2016 we will be accepting food, treats, durable toys AND Advantage II on behalf of the Animeals Food Pantry and the Senior Pet Connection. Please help us help other less fortunate families by bringing a donation to the hospital. No donation is too large or too small, every bit will help. We will have treats and Advanatge II available for purchase at a discounted price at the front desk, as every pet deserves a little something extra special this holiday season!

For more information on the Animeals Food Pantry and the Senior Pet Connection please visit the site below:





Holiday Safety Tips for Your Hungry Hound

from your friends at Service Dogs by Warren Retrievers



Fatty and rich foods can cause stomach upset and even pancreatitis. Skip the skin on turkey or chicken.



Bones can splinter and puncture the intestines



Onions contain thiosulphate, which damage the red blood cells in dogs and can lead to anemia



Chocolate is poisonous to dogs. The darker it is, the more toxic it becomes!



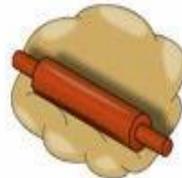
Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in your four-legged furry friend



Red and brown potatoes are harder for dogs to digest, but sweet potatoes, which are not true potatoes, are great for dogs!



Macadamia nuts can cause short-term hind limb paralysis



Yeast dough expands which causes gas. This can lead to pain in your pup and possibly even rupture of the stomach or intestines



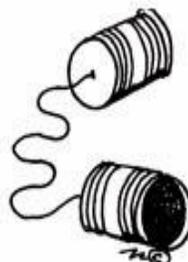
While Uncle Jimmy might find it funny that Fido loves the taste of beer, be sure he doesn't indulge him. Alcohol of any kind can be deadly for dogs



Be sure friends and family close the lid to the trash can. While you're caroling be sure your dog isn't having his own feast of who knows what!



Service Dogs by Warren Retrievers
"Until there's a cure, there's a dog."
www.sdwr.org



Meat soaked string from rump roasts are very enticing to the Canine bloodline, but they are equally as dangerous leading to things such as choking, abdominal pain, and intestinal blockage which is not only dangerous, but a very costly repair

Animal Poison Control: 888-426-4435

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“Caring for pets with love and kindness”



We're on the Web!
www.ahofd.com



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\$1

First Exam - New Patient

(\$49-\$80 Savings)

Includes comprehensive physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. **NL**



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-10%

10% Off Dental Cleaning

(Call for an appointment today 727-733-9351)

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental labwork. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires 12/31/15 NL



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\$5 OFF

Santa Claws Special

(Pedicure \$18.19)

Present this coupon and receive \$5.00 off your pets pedicure. Pet must be current on a rabies vaccine. Walk-ins welcome. May not be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires 12/31/15 NL