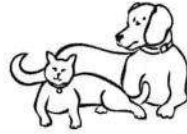


## Cicero Animal Clinic P.C. Newsletter February- March 2017

Cicero Animal Clinic, P.C.



### Keep up with Clinic News:



AS WE ENTER our 17th year of service to our furry friends and their families, we are prepared to take the year head on. It is always our goal to provide the best possible healthcare to your pets and the best possible customer service to you. We believe in treating our clients and their pets as part of our family and make every effort to go above and beyond your expectations.

Each year our Doctors and staff are kept up to date on the latest diseases, treatments and recommendations through continuing education to make sure we are always up to speed with the changes and challenges in veterinary medicine.

In the start of the new year, we would like to share our clinic mission:

**Cicero Animal Clinic, P.C. is dedicated to providing**

**C**ompassionate care  
**A**micable staff and surroundings  
**R**ecognition of the human/pet bond  
**E**ducation to prolong the quality of life.

***Our mission is simple and we strive to uphold it.***

If you decide you do not want to be subscribed to our newsletter, (we hope you do!) simply follow the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email.

**Our social media links:**



### February is National Pet Dental Health Month!



**DID YOU KNOW** the most commonly seen disease in pets is *dental disease*? Bad breath isn't just awful for you; it can mean bad teeth and infected gums for your pet! Poor dental health is painful, inhibits eating and predisposes your pet to other major health concerns such as **heart, kidney and liver disease**. While brushing your pet's teeth regularly is helpful, the best way to evaluate and maintain your pet's oral health is by having a comprehensive dental cleaning.

A *comprehensive dental cleaning and evaluation* for your pet is done under general anesthesia while your pet is safely monitored by our Licensed Veterinary Technicians with state-of-the-art monitoring equipment. Your pet's teeth will be ultrasonically scaled and polished followed by a thorough examination of each tooth by a veterinarian. Any non-viable teeth are surgically removed so that your pet's mouth can heal.

**In recognition of the upcoming National Pet Dental Health month in February, we are offering a special rebate on your pet's pre-anesthetic physical evaluation (a \$46 value) to be used at the time of your pet's dental cleaning during the month of February or March.** All pets undergoing anesthetic procedures must be examined by one of our veterinarians within four (4) weeks prior to the procedure. Your pet(s) must be up to date on all required vaccines and dogs must be up to date on their heartworm test.

#### HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

1. Schedule your appointment and bring your pet in for their pre-anesthetic exam at which time pre-anesthetic requirements such as vaccines will be brought up to date. (Exam is \$46. Any other vaccines or lab work is additional.)
2. At the time of your pet's exam, we will schedule your pet's dental cleaning.
3. When you bring your pet in for their dental cleaning appointment (in February or March) the \$46 you paid for the exam will be credited towards the dental cleaning.

**Call the office to set up your pet's pre-anesthetic exam today and take advantage of this special rebate!**  
**(315) 699-0050**



# BRRRR....

WINTER WEATHER adds plenty of extra work and stress to our daily lives. Between remembering to watch the news for delayed commute times and remembering to shovel out your mailbox, we know things can get put off and forgotten when there is lots to do. We want to remind pet owners of a few important cold weather safety tips that will help keep your pets healthy and happy and won't take much time at all:

- Limit the amount of time your pet spends outside based on the temperature and wind chill and never leave your pets out overnight without temperature controlled shelter available to them.
- Do not let your pet eat a lot of snow. It could be polluted, cause stomach irritation and even lead to Hypothermia. Have clean, fresh water available at all times.
- Choose a pet safe ice melt/salt. Some kinds can be toxic if ingested and it can even enter your pet's system through the glands on their paw pads. Keep pets away from antifreeze, as well.
- Slather some petroleum jelly on your pet's paws to keep them safe from the snow, ice and ice melt before they go outside.
- You can also bundle them up in a coat and boots, if they'll let you! Keep in mind that some animals feel threatened when their movement is constricted by clothing, and this can alter their behavior if they are frightened or confused.
- Keep your pet's paws healthy by washing away dirt and salt when they come inside. You can even use a perfume free moisturizer or specialized paw cream to heal cracks in their paw pads.
- Beware of road conditions when traveling with or walking your pet.
- Always wear reflective gear when walking at night.
- And remember, if you're cold, your pet is probably cold, too! Maybe they just don't want you to know it because they don't want to go inside!

Paw pads should look like this:



NOT like this:



**There are a few other things to keep in mind when it comes to your pets for the winter!**

## Parasite Prevention



It may be cold outside, but that doesn't mean that some parasites can't survive in cooler weather. Not to mention that some of these hitchhikers find their way into your house and spend the winter all nice and warm inside, too. Add on top of that our inconsistent weather here in CNY and you still have some risk! We see fleas and ticks year round on our patients, not to mention other parasites, so make sure you keep your pets up to date. Another precaution to take is immediately picking up your dog's excrement to avoid ingestion and

See the difference for yourself!



Remember what a *rotten* mood you were in when you had tooth pain? Same thing goes for your pets! You may notice post-dental cleaning that your pet is more energetic, happier and less picky about food. Aside from an obvious visual difference, your pet's mouth will now be healthier and easier on the nose!

## General Dental Health

There are many things you can do to help maintain your pet's dental health including many safe products. Dental health is assessed by our veterinarians during every physical exam as it is a *vital* part of your pet's health.



Pet specific tooth brushes and toothpaste



Oral care specific foods, treats and chews



Oral rinses and water additives



For more dental information including some tips on brushing your pet's teeth, check out our video below!



the spread of parasites. Ask us about our prevention specials and mail in rebates!

## Exercise



Who couldn't use more exercise? Many of our furry friends have become accustomed to the couch life (doesn't sound too bad, does it?) and the sedentary life tends to contribute to weight gain. Make it a point to take your dog for a few extra walks or throw the ball around and find a toy to play with the cat. Not only is exercise a great health benefit, most pets really enjoy it! Consider running around, playing ball, chasing, hide and seek, doggy daycare or classes.

## Feed Reasonably



Lack of exercise alone helps those pounds add up, but not measuring food or accounting for calories in treats also contributes to your pets becoming more round. Make sure you are measuring your pet's food and treats to make sure that an appropriate amount of calories is being fed. If there are many people in the household giving treats all day, measure the day's amount ahead of time, put them in a jar and everybody take from the pre-measured amount. Once it is empty, that's it for the day! This will help control how much your pet is getting even with several people in the house. Remember that obesity can put your pet at risk for *joint and heart problems, diabetes and other serious issues.*

Are you noticing your little friend is becoming your hefty friend? Have you noticed your pet moving slower, breathing heavier, or choosing rest over play? If you are interested in better weight management for your pet, contact our office to schedule an appointment for a free educational series hosted by Bev, one of our Licensed Veterinary Technicians. In these sessions you will learn how to help your cats and dogs lose weight and keep it off, realistically! Call the office to today at 315-699-0050 to learn more about Cicero Animal Clinic, P.C.'s pet weight loss program, **Paws Up for Pounds Down!**



For more winter safety tips, check out our video below!



## Wasting Precious Time?

Most cat owners have been there: It's time to leave for the vet, the groomer, or maybe a trip. The clock is ticking, and your cat is nowhere to be found! We understand the struggle, so...

**Here are a few tips to get your cat in their carrier:**



## Wellness Plans

To help you budget the cost of preventative care in a challenging economy, you can always consider one of our Wellness Plans with monthly payments. It is important to note that ALL of our Wellness Plans include unlimited exams, annual heartworm testing (for dogs) and other important screening blood work. There are also plans available which cover heartworm prevention and **dental cleanings!**

You can learn more about our Wellness Plans [here](#).



## Get coupons for Hills *Prescription Diets*!!

1. Go to Hillspet.com.
2. You will need to register with them (to log on), just using your e-mail address and making a password.
3. Then, in the top right corner of their webpage there is a search engine. Search "Coupon".
4. Then click on special offers.
5. Choose if you want the coupon for a Cat or Dog under the "prescription diet" coupons.
6. And then just PRINT.

**FYI:** \*You may need to change your printer settings to print the coupons.

\*You should only be able to print the coupon once until the next coupon is available.

## "Are You Ready?--Forward!"



- Get your cat carrier out a few days before you plan on using it.
- Pad the carrier with a familiar bed, blanket or T-shirt.
- Strategically place the carrier in your home, considering any exits or hiding places around you that your cat could sneak to when it's time to go.
- Put one of your cat's favorite toys or odorous treats, like tuna or wet cat food, inside of the carrier and leave it.
- Praise your cat if you see them go inside of the carrier, and replace toys and treats as needed (consider food expiration)
- Wipe or spray the inside and outside of the carrier with Feliway Calming Pheromone up to an hour before it's time to leave.
- Do not make any indication that it's time to leave until you are ready for the catch! You can gather your things once your cat is secure.
- Sweet talk can go a long way! Avoid loud noises, negative tone of voice and sudden movements.
- You may have to tip the crate on its back with the door open, and lower your cat into it. Bottom end first works best, but still look out for their tail when closing up!
- If your cat is less than thrilled to go, try making a quick kitty burrito with a blanket or towel. They won't be able to scratch or flail around as easily, and being wrapped up can create a sense of comfort for them.



Kitty burrito instructional pictures from Vetstreet.com

- For extra difficult cats, cover their head as well, but make sure to un-wrap their face once they're crated as to not constrict their breathing.
- Covering the crate with a blanket or towel can help keep your cat at ease as you travel by limiting visual stimulation. It will help to keep them warm in cold weather, as well.
- You know your cat best, so keep previous experiences and behaviors in mind when creatively capturing cats!
- Share your tips and success stories on Facebook.com/ciceroanimalclinic!



THERE ARE A LOT of classes and competitions available for you and your furry dog friends to try out. From beginner obedience classes to agility championships, there is a sport for every dog.

One of our Licensed Veterinary Technicians, Kathy, began AKC Rally sessions with her 2 ½ year old female Australian Cattle Dog, Dani about 9 months ago. According to the American Kennel Club (AKC), "Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated stations (10 - 20, depending on the level). Rally promotes fun and enjoyment for dogs at all levels of competition."

Dani earned her first Rally Novice title in early January. There are three levels of competition: novice, advanced and excellent. Only the top 4 competitors get awarded ribbons, and the dog has to meet certain standards to qualify for each competition such as their skill level, time to complete the course and communication between dog and handler.

Dani scored a 92 on the first day, and a 98 on the second day. "All dogs and handlers begin with a perfect 100. A dog and handler team is awarded a qualifying score if it retains at least 70 points after the course has been completed." If there is a tie, the fastest team to complete the course earns the title.

#### Kathy recommends rally training to:

- Stimulate your dog's mind
- Provide exercise
- Give your dog a job to enhance enrichment
- Strengthen the bond between you and your dog
- Continue basic foundation/obedience practices
- Have a fun new hobby!

#### Look at that bashful face!



Kathy practices with Dani at least once a day for 5-15 minutes at a time to keep Dani's attention, and she has class once a week for 45-60 minutes at the Syracuse Obedience Training Center. She uses ONLY positive reinforcement and ends the training session if either partner gets frustrated, but always on a good note. Dani loves getting physical and verbal praise and yummy treats for doing her job correctly!

#### Great Job, Dani and Kathy!

#### Cicero Animal Clinic, P.C. Newsletter Word Search

F K G L U P I N E P E T A Q D  
R J V L H H Y L A T N E D L B  
A H S A W H T U O M R S H E V  
L H X Y L A N I M A L S T D D  
L W X G H P J S T C X N L U I  
Y P C O M P A S S I O N A C D  
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D O Z R S H C U O Y L U L A E  
U N D U B U T A Y N Q T L H D

Animals

Cold

Compassion

Dani

Dental

Education

Health

LupinePet

Mouthwash

Parasites

Prevention

Rally

Robyn

Toothbrush





Lupine Pet products available at Cicero Animal Clinic, P.C.

References:

[www.ciceroanimalclinic.com](http://www.ciceroanimalclinic.com)  
[www.virbac.com](http://www.virbac.com)  
[www.vetstreet.com](http://www.vetstreet.com)  
[www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org)  
[www.cupvet.org](http://www.cupvet.org)  
[www.puzzle-maker.com](http://www.puzzle-maker.com)  
[www.lupinepet.com](http://www.lupinepet.com)  
[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

## Check it out!

Follow along with Dr. Gilbraith as she welcomes and trains her new 12 week old Cairn Terrier, Robyn! Click the link below:



### Dr. Gilbraith's Adventures in Puppyhood

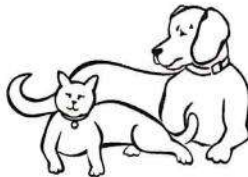
You have received this email because you have listed an email address on your account, even though you may not have any pets with us at this time. If you have received this in error, or no longer wish to receive our newsletters, please use the unsubscribe link.

Cicero Animal Clinic, P.C.  
 8803 Brewerton Road  
 Brewerton, NY 13029

(315)699-0050

[www.ciceroanimalclinic.com](http://www.ciceroanimalclinic.com)

[info@ciceroanimalclinic.com](mailto:info@ciceroanimalclinic.com)



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