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Kristin Faleide, LVT
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Natalie Helm, LVT
Sara Thomas, LVT

Jen Martin, LVT
Melanie Johnson, LVT
Ashlee Krimbill, LVT
Tara Skavlem, LVT
Lacey Benson, LVT
Beth Perrault, LVT
Britny Baptista, LVT
Bailey Zacher, LVT
Paige Slater, LVT
Cindy Stramer, LVT

Heather Erickson, LVT
Amanda Schlepp, LVT
Michelle Myers, LVT
Raina Fritz, LVT
Morgan Zych
Jennifer Sicheneder
Aren Schluessler
Alyssa Reading
Ashlyn Draovitch

Veterinary Assistants

Brandi Anderson	Candice Mogard	Gabby Nordick	Sarah Murray	Miranda Eckholm
Kelly Friemoth	Miranda Albert	Casey Thomas	Ashley Segal	Jenessa Noeske

Client Relations

Molly Fletschock	Bev Mitchell	Alyssa Sauvageau	Savanna Dufault
Judy Langer	Kari Thorson	Dena Flom	Amelia Nichols
Beth Melander	Darcee Rehovsky		

Practice Manager
Shyla Strandlien

Human Resources
Tim Johnson

Maintenance
Bill Artis

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 7am-5pm
Tuesday, Thursday: 7am-9pm

Weekends and Holidays: CLOSED
24 hour Emergency Services Available

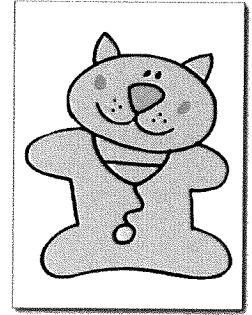
Small Animal Services Available

Wellness Exams (*For all ages*)
Vaccinations
Orthopedic Consults/Services
PennHip and OFA Certification
Ophthalmic Consults/Services
Reproduction
Nutrition / Behavior Consults

(Large animal services are also available)

Diagnostic Laboratory Services
Ultrasound
Digital Radiography
Microchip Implantation
Acupuncture and Chiropractic Services
Dentistry Services with Digital X-ray and Extractions
Surgery Services including Spays, Neuters, and Declaws

Preventable Feline Diseases



Disease:

**Panleukopenia, Calici Virus,
Rhinitis**

Vaccination Schedule:

(Combination Vaccination)

Vaccination begins between 6 and 8 weeks of age.
Booster twice at 3 week intervals, again at 1 year of
and then every 3 years.

Rabies

Must be at least 12 weeks of age. Booster at 1 year
and then every 2 years.

Feline Leukemia

Starts after nine weeks of age, booster in 3 weeks,
then annually.

Panleukopenia

Feline distemper is a highly contagious viral disease that attacks the immune system, depressing the cat's resistance to other diseases. It is a very debilitating disease and treatments are usually ineffective.

Calici Virus

Feline Calici Virus causes a mild to serious respiratory infection. Although many cats recover in 1-4 weeks, fatalities do occur. Also, cats that do recover may continue to spread the virus.

Rhinotracheitis

Rhinotracheitis is an upper respiratory infection that an infection that affects the sinuses and nasal passages. The symptoms are treatable, but it can lead to a chronic sinus infection.

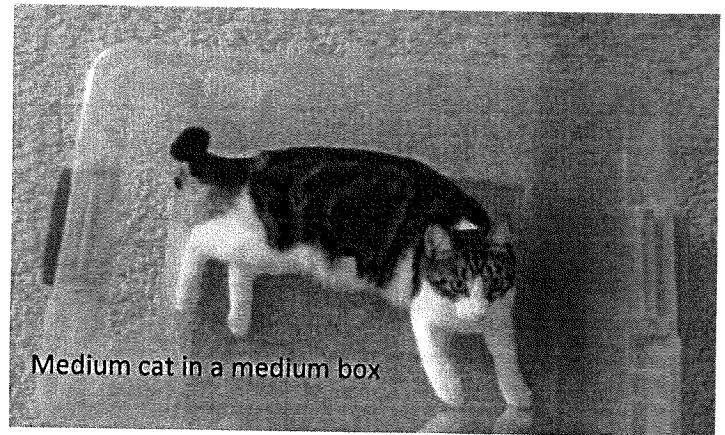
Rabies

Rabies is a fatal disease that can affect all warm blooded animals, including humans. Rabies is spread through wounds, via the saliva of a rabid animal, usually by a bite. Rabies is most often found in wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, and bats, but can also be found in horses, cows, dogs, and cats. Rabies affects the central nervous system and brain causing a behavioral change and leads to death. Once symptoms appear the disease is always fatal. While there is an effective post exposure treatment for humans, there is none for animals. Dogs are required by city laws to be vaccinated for Rabies.

Litter Box Guidelines

Quantity

- ❖ One more litter box than the number of cats in the house
- ❖ One for each level of the house



Location

- ❖ Should not be in a high traffic area
- ❖ Should be easily accessible
- ❖ Should be in a place away from sudden loud sounds
- ❖ If the house has more than one level, place a box on each level
- ❖ If you live with more than one cat, make sure one cat is not able to guard access to litter boxes.

Type of box

- ❖ Most cats prefer uncovered boxes
- ❖ Top entry boxes or those with high sides are difficult for young kittens and older cats to use
- ❖ It is easy for large cats to miss the box if the edges are short or the box is too small
- ❖ Boxes should ideally be the length of the cat including the tail
- ❖ Some cats are afraid of the sound of automatic cleaning boxes

Type of litter

- ❖ Once you have a chosen litter do not suddenly change litter
- ❖ If you want to change litter let the cat choose
 - Have 2 litter boxes in the same location with different litter and see which one your pet prefers.
 - The cat gets to choose. You get to offer choices.
 - Keep the preferred litter and put a new litter in the unused litter box.
 - Both boxes need to be the same or your cat may be choosing the box type.
- ❖ Most cats prefer unscented clumping litter



Cats like a clean box. Scoop the boxes daily!

- ❖ No one likes to use a dirty toilet especially when someone else made it dirty.
- ❖ Completely clean out the box every 2 weeks.
- ❖ Use soap and water. Strong chemical scents can stay in the plastic and make it unpleasant.

Feline DO's and Don'ts

Do's:

- **Handle kitten from day 1 (if mother allows)**
- **Touch the paws, ears, and face daily**
- **Allow your friends and family to hold your kitten**
- **Allow children to hold the kitten (with supervision)**
- **Let your kitten meet other animals (with supervision)**
- **Hold the kitten like a baby, cradled in your arms**
- **Leave a carrier available with a blanket for the cat to hide and sleep in. Cats that only go in carriers to go to the vet, usually become quite scared of them.**
- **Have lots of toys for stimulation, including a scratching post.**

Don'ts:

- **Never tease or allow children to tease the kitten**
- **Don't allow biting or scratching when playing**
- **Don't allow rough play with children**

Gentling:

- 1. Hold the kitten for at least 5 minutes a day.**
- 2. Sit down with the kitten and speak quietly to him/her while gently petting.**
- 3. Don't encourage rough play. IF the kitten tries biting, firmly tell them "No" and gently put them down and walk away.**
- 4. Once the kitten is comfortable, hold them while walking around the room.**
- 5. Feel the ears, look inside the ears, touch and gently squeeze feet, rub their belly and back (including tail), and open their mouth and rub your finger along the outside of the gums and teeth.**

HOW TO GROOM A CAT

Cats groom themselves not only to make themselves look good and clean dust, dirt, and lose hairs from their coats, but also to remove some of the parasites that find their way onto a cat such as fleas and mites. In the warmer months cats also groom to help keep themselves cool. Yet another reason a cat may groom itself is to relieve stress.

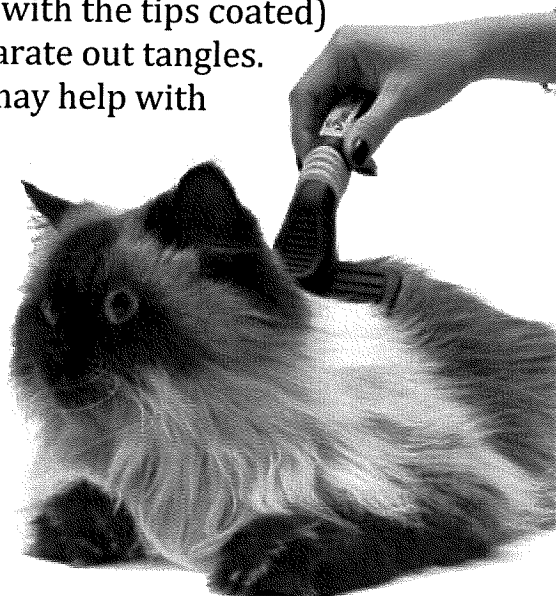
In their natural, wild state felines shed their winter coat in the spring and fill out their coats in the fall, in preparation for the colder months. The consequence of living in a controlled environment means a life of almost constant shedding for your cat. Most cats require human involvement in this.

The more a cat grooms itself, the more of its shed hair is likely to be swallowed. Swallowed hair can accumulate in the cat's stomach and is brought up in the form of a hairball. Regular grooming will reduce the the instances of hairball vomiting.

A cat that is overweight or older may not be able to reach its entire body for grooming, which makes it essential that you groom them regularly to keep up with the constant hair turnover. However, you should not wait until your pet is heavier or older to start grooming. Ideally you should start grooming when your cat is very young. Longhaired cats require daily grooming.

Tugging and pulling on your cat's hair coat hurts your cat and they will quickly begin to resist your attempts to groom. If at first you are unable to fully groom your cat, take it in stages until you are able to fully groom them. A slicker brush is a brush that has bristles that are bent at the ends, this should get deep into your shorthaired cats coat, but do not brush too hard, especially if your cat does not have a thick coat. Longer haired cats should be initially brushed with a pin brush (one with metal bristles with the tips coated) to separate the hair, then the use of a comb to separate out tangles. Remember don't tug, the use of detangling spray may help with Troublesome knots.

If matting and knotting are really bad you may need to arrange for a professional grooming appointment for spot shaving or a full body cut. Afterwards, a regular daily grooming session should prevent the same situation from occurring again.



Vet Visits Don't Have to Be STRESSFUL

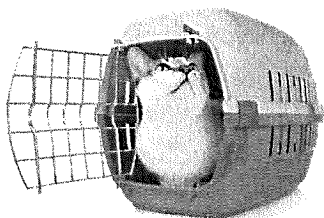


It can be downright difficult getting our cats to the vet, however, routine preventive healthcare is essential for your cat to live a long, happy, healthy life.

Many cat owners are all too familiar with “the chase” that ensues as soon as the cat sees the carrier. August 22nd is National Bring Your Cat to the Vet Day and here are 5 tips on easing the stress of the vet visit for your cat AND yourself:

Understanding your cat's behavior. Cats are most comfortable with the familiar, and need time to adjust to new surroundings and experiences. The visit to the veterinarian is often difficult because the carrier, car, and the veterinary hospital are usually unfamiliar. Respect your cat's need for time to become familiar with new situations, people, and places. Stay calm. Cats can sense our anxiety or frustrations, which may cause them to become fearful or anxious. Cats do not learn from punishment or force. Give rewards to encourage positive behavior.

Help your cat become comfortable with the carrier. The goal is for your cat to learn to associate the carrier with positive experiences and routinely enter voluntarily. Make the carrier a familiar place at home by leaving it



in a room where your cat spends a lot of time. Place familiar soft bedding inside the carrier as well as treats or toys. It may take days or weeks before your cat starts to trust the carrier. Remain calm, patient, and reward desired behaviors.

What type of carriers are best? The best carriers are inexpensive hardsided carriers that open from the top and the front, and can also be taken apart in the middle. An easily removable top allows a cat which is fearful to stay in the bottom half of the carrier for exams. Avoid carriers that require a cat to be pulled from or dumped out for an exam. Choose carriers that are sturdy, secure, and stable for the cat, as well as easy for you to carry. Carriers should be seat-belted into the car to keep your cat safe.

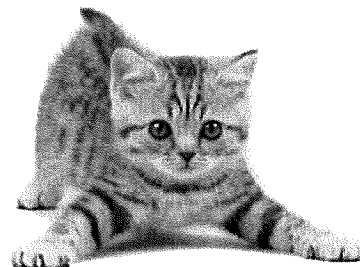
Take your cat to a Cat Friendly Practice®. Designated **Cat Friendly Practices®** (CFP) have made changes to decrease stress and provide a more calming environment for you and your cat. Staff have also been trained in feline-friendly handling and understanding feline-specific behavior in order to increase the quality of care for your cat.



They have also made changes to reduce the stress of the visit such as feline-friendly waiting areas, feline-centric exam rooms, as well as staff training on feline-friendly handling techniques and recognizing subtle, early signs of fear or anxiety in order to adapt appropriately. For more information or to find a CFP near you, visit: www.catvets.com/cfp.

Coming Home—Keeping the Peace in a Multi-cat Household

Cats are very sensitive to smells, and unfamiliar smells can result in one cat no longer recognizing another. Help avoid problems cats perceiving the other as a stranger following a veterinary visit. Leave the returning cat in the carrier for a few minutes to see how all of your cats react. If you sense tension between the cats, or if previous home-comings have resulted in conflict, keep the cat in the carrier and take it to a separate room to avoid potential injury from an upset cat. Provide food, water, and litter box for a minimum of 24 hours while it regains the more familiar smell of home. A synthetic feline pheromone (Feliway®) can help provide the sense of familiarity.



Danger of Ticks and Fleas for Dogs and Cats



Ticks can transmit a number of diseases, including Lyme, Ehrlichia, Babesiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Anaplasmosis. Some of these are potentially lethal.

Flea infestation can lead to skin infections, tapeworms, hair loss from scratching, and anemia. This anemia can be life-threatening, especially in young and geriatric animals. Flea Allergic Dermatitis (FAD) is quite common, in which even a single bite can cause a severe rash.

Signs of Infection

Ticks bury their head under the skin and stay in one spot. When they first attach they may be as small as a pinhead, but they enlarge when they become engorged with blood. They often attach in warm areas, such as the neck or head.

Flea infection usually leads to itching, although some animals are not allergic to the bites and do not develop a severe rash. While you may see actual fleas on your animal, the most common sign is flea dirt, pepper-like granules in the coat, especially on the rump and groin. These are found by either parting the coat or using a special “flea comb” with narrow-spaced teeth. To determine if what you find is flea dirt, which is actually digested blood, place the granules on a moistened white paper towel. Rub them gently; if the paper towel turns orange or red, your animal has flea dirt. It is not necessary to find actual fleas to confirm an infection.

Control

Ticks are not affected by cold weather, and animals with exposure to woods, brush, or tall grassy areas should be treated year-round. All animals that go outdoors should be checked for ticks regularly, but because the ticks are so small before they attach they are easy to miss.

To remove a tick, grasp it tightly with tweezers at the point where the head is imbedded into the skin and pull gently. If mouthparts remain, do not dig after them! If they do not work their way out, contact your veterinarian for removal. Never use fire to remove a tick; it is dangerous and will not work.

While the adult fleas live on their animal host, the eggs, pupae, and larvae do not. For this reason, once there is an infestation, it is often necessary to treat the animal, all other pets, and the house itself. Many of the newer preventatives address multiple stages of the flea life cycle; for example, even if a flea is not killed by a given preventative, the eggs it lays will have actually been affected by the preventative and will not hatch. Washing bedding, thorough vacuuming, and, if necessary, environmental sprays can all help remove non-adult stages of fleas from the indoor environment.

Fleas cannot survive outside in freezing temperatures. However, they can easily be carried on clothing between houses, and hop between apartments. Year-round control may still be necessary, especially in animals with FAD. Flea eggs can also stay dormant for several years in the environment, hatching when they sense a warm body in the house.

There are many options for flea and tick control. For this reason, we suggest that you contact your local veterinarian for their recommendation on what solutions would be best for your pet. A very important consideration is that some products are safe in dogs but not in cats. It is critical to use cat-specific products in cats and dog-specific products in dogs.

WHERE TO LICENSE YOUR CAT OR DOG

Please note that proof of a current Rabies vaccine is necessary to license your pet

Fargo

Valley Veterinary Hospital - 3210 Main Ave 701.232.3391

OR

City Hall Collections Office - 200 3rd St N 701.241.1300

Moorhead

Moorhead Police Dept. - 915 9th Ave N 218.299.5120

West Fargo

West Fargo Police Dept. - 800 4th Ave E 701.433.5500

Casselton

Casselton City Hall - 701.347.4861

Valley City

Valley City Police Dept. - 216 2nd Ave NE 701.845.3110