

PET SAFTEY

Yearly Comprehensive Physical Exam: The exam you receive each year when you come in for your annual vaccines could save your pet's life. Catching a disease or tumor early can mean the difference between life & death in many cases. In senior pets (seven or older), we recommend exams at least every six months.

Microchip: Having a microchip implanted into your pet can be very helpful in returning them back to you if they become lost or stolen.

Declawed cats: Cats that have been declawed are at a disadvantage in protecting themselves, which should be considered before being allowed outside to roam.

Spay/Neuter: There are numerous health advantages to having your pet spayed or neutered. This procedure may also help with aggression disorders, urine marking, and urges to roam (escaping the fence). It may also help prevent cancer and other diseases later in life. FACT: A majority of our patients that are hit by cars are intact pets.

Lawn Edging: The metal lawn edging which surrounds landscaping is a source of danger. Pets that run over this can lacerate their feet and cause sometimes-permanent damage or lose the ability to walk normally. Watch out for it! All pet owners should have rubber caps on your lawn edging.

Cars/Trucks: It is extremely dangerous for your pet to ride in the back of a truck without being locked in a kennel, which is properly secured to the bed of the truck. Having your pet on a leash in the back is just as dangerous. Pet seat belts are readily available and inexpensive. Summer can be a deadly time for your pets if left in your vehicle for even short periods of time. Do your pets a favor and leave them home if they will be left unattended in your car.

Collars: Be sure to always check the fit of your pet's collar. Young pets often grow rapidly and before you know it, they have outgrown their collars. Rule of thumb: you should easily fit 2 fingers under the collar. Don't let the collar be too loose either, they could back up and slip out of it.

Winter safety: All pets living outside require a place for shelter to escape wind, rain, heat, cold, and snow. Be sure to check the water bowls daily. Water freezes quickly and deprives your pet of a water source.

Toys: Treat your pets like children! Do not leave your pets unattended with toys. Dogs and cats will eat almost anything, causing an obstruction of the intestines. Don't trust them. String or thread can be very dangerous as well. Continued vomiting, abdominal pain, and lethargy are some signs of obstruction.

Medications: DO NOT ever give your pet a medication without first consulting your veterinarian. Using medications prescribed for a different pet with similar symptoms can be a serious danger if used incorrectly. For example: one Tylenol tablet could kill your cat.

Food: Please try as hard as possible to keep your pets on a dog or cat food diet only. Certain foods can be dangerous and could be irritating to your pet's system. Did you know that a single grape could put your pet in kidney failure? Not allowing your pets to eat human food will also discourage begging behavior.