

CAPpy Hour

ASK A VET



Q: Can you share child-friendly flea & tick control recommendations?

A: Little ones can be exposed to topicals like oils, so oral flea and tick treatments are best. Some products combine heartworm and flea/tick in one monthly dose for convenience. If treating outdoor areas, *Fleabusters* is a do-it-yourself, spray-free option used on lawns and effective for up to one year. Always ask your pest control company what they use, if it is pet friendly, and how long pets should remain off the grass after an application.



Q: How can I help my pet be less fearful of going to the vet?

A: While some may not feel anxious until they arrive at the vet's office, some pets begin feeling anxious during the car ride. In either case, use treats and rewards to help them look forward to the trip. Start with getting in the car and rewarding your pet, without ever turning the car on. Then, go for short drives around the block. Work your way up to longer rides, to the park or other places they enjoy, rewarding along the way. Eventually, one of these drives will lead to the veterinary office. If they are nervous upon arrival, walk them outside the office and go home without going inside. Be accommodating; they may need more time as they progressively get more comfortable. Remember, helping your pet be comfortable with going to the vet is a marathon, not a sprint!



Q: What should I look out for after my dog catches a wild animal (raccoon, squirrel, etc.)?

A: The biggest concern is potential exposure to rabies. Rabies virus is shed in the saliva of an infected animal. It can be transmitted to your pet through scratches/punctures or in the saliva of the wild animal getting into your pet's mouth or eyes (which would leave no sign of injury). Since an injury can be unseen, it is important to get to your veterinarian quickly. They may administer a rabies vaccine booster, even if your pet is up to date on their shots. If the wild animal is injured or dead, don't handle them yourself. Call your local Animal Control officer to remove it and have it tested for rabies.



Q: My dog has their anal glands expressed as often as once per month. Is there something I can do to alleviate the frequency he needs this?

A: Pay attention to how much fiber your dog eats and track their digestion. Some high-fiber foods like pumpkin, sweet potatoes, and carrots can be slowly introduced to help. Talk with your veterinarian immediately if your dog shows signs of infection, such as excessive licking, discharge, and/or an open wound around the anal region.

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Q: My dog has anxiety around strangers. How can I help him feel more comfortable when meeting new people?

A: Talk with your veterinarian about natural products that may help, such as CBD, in addition to behavioral training programs. Give positive reinforcement with treats every time your dog meets someone new. Go slowly by introducing him to one person, then two, and then adding more strangers over time. Read body language and continue behavioral training along the way. If he shows he is uncomfortable, bring him back to a safe space and slowly work up to more busy and populated engagements. Dogs need time to adjust, but given a lot of patience and positive reinforcement, your dog can learn to be comfortable around strangers.



Q: What temperatures are "too hot" for my dog, and what should I look for as a sign to limit outside time?

A: Make sure your dog drinks plenty of water in hot weather and limit outside time in extremely hot or cold temperatures based on the chart below. If your dog must go outside in extreme temperatures, dog shoes can help protect paw pads in hot or cold weather and balms protect and moisturize dry paw pads and noses in the winter. If they show signs of heat stroke, such as excessive heavy panting, excessive drooling, laying on their side, lethargy, a grossly enlarged tongue, or vomiting, immediately bring them to your veterinarian or an emergency center.

> PROTECT YOUR DOG'S PAWS

**WEATHER
AUTHORITY**

| AIR TEMP | CONCRETE | ASPHALT |
|----------|----------|---------|
| 80° | 95° | 115° |
| 85° | 105° | 130° |
| 90° | 125° | 140° |
| 95° | 140° | 155° |

7 SECOND RULE - PLACE HAND ON THE SURFACE
TOO HOT FOR YOUR HAND, TOO HOT FOR YOUR HOUND

