



Waggin' Tales

A Newsletter for Friends & Clients of All Tails Wagging Veterinary Clinic

Rattlesnakes in Ssss-Sonoma County

Summer is here and the rattlesnake population is on the rise. Rattlesnake bites in pets in Sonoma County are up by about 30 percent, likely in part due to the early warm weather. April is their breeding season and May is certainly seeing the results. Local veterinary emergency clinics are seeing an increase in snake bites resulting in long term hospitalization and even a few deaths. Although there is no snake bite prevention that is 100 percent effective, we have seen improved survival with the Rattlesnake Vaccine. The vaccine is NOT a substitute for urgent care, it just improves the survival rate in the event of a bite. So if you live in a high risk area or go camping or hiking, it's well worth looking into the vaccine. We have stocked up on this vaccine in anticipation of a busy season.

A snakebite should *always* be treated as an emergency, even if your dog has been vaccinated.



It is very important to remember that any snakebite should be treated as an emergency. If your dog is bitten by a rattlesnake, seek veterinary care immediately and ***do not wait.***

Scratch That Itch!

Have you ever had a sneeze attack that just wouldn't quit? Or a midnight itch that just wouldn't go away? An occasional itch or scratch may be perfectly normal for your pet, but constant or continual itching or licking should be addressed. During the spring and summer months many dogs and cats have allergies just like we do. With minimally invasive treatments, we can often give them some relief. Be sure to stay current on your pet's flea/tick control (every 4 weeks) and if the symptoms persist, here are some signs to watch for:

- ◆ Feet licking or brown saliva staining on feet (from licking)
- ◆ Tail or rump chewing
- ◆ Constant itching or licking
- ◆ Head shaking or scratching at ears
- ◆ Hot spots or lick sores



Can You Hear Me Now???

There are a handful of conditions that we frequently see that owners overlook, ignore or treat as “normal”. One of the most common conditions are ear infections. Did you ever have an ear infection as a kid? Do you have kids who have had ear infections and were inconsolable? It hurts! And it’s treatable! Ear infections are painful and are never “normal”. A dirty or a stinky ear is a problem and can be treated before it turns in to an infection. While there are some breeds that are more prone to ear infections, all dogs are at risk. Dogs that are exposed to water from swimming or bathing are also at an increased risk for ear infections. Using a veterinary recommended ear wash before and after swimming and bathing can often prevent ear infections in prone dogs. Keep your yard free from foxtails and if that’s not possible, cut them back and remove them while they are green. And if your dog starts shaking his head, don’t wait! The longer you wait, the more inflamed the ear becomes and it becomes harder and much more painful to get a good look inside. Even waiting a few days can be too long, especially if it’s a foxtail or other foreign body.



The key is to follow your doctor’s instructions. It’s important to return for follow up visits so we can be sure the infection is completely gone, and THEN, we need to set up a maintenance plan to prevent the infection from coming back. So just because it “looks like it’s gone” or “smells like it’s gone” doesn’t mean that the condition is cleared up. Taking these simple steps can improve the quality of life of your pet and save you a lot of money in the long run.



Pet adoptions at Sonoma County Animal Control are only \$10 thru the month of July. Visit their website

www.theanimalshelter.org for photos. Help someone find their forever home!



Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Saturday
8:00 AM - 1 PM

