

the Snoot Report

Spring
Edition

Snoot Snyder,
Vetcetera Spokesdog

News for Pet Owners from Vetcetera Pet Healthcare Centre

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Pet Emergencies – An Owners Guide

by Dr. Julie Buzby Snyder



Though by definition emergencies are never expected, it is wise to be prepared for such events in every area of our life. While the best advice in

most pet emergencies is to immediately contact your veterinarian or emergency hospital, you must know when to call for help and what to do until you can get that help. Knowing normal pet vital signs will help you identify abnormalities and better inform your veterinarian about your pet's status. Please see the chart at the bottom of this article for normal pet parameters.

How you respond in crisis could potentially save your pet's life. Pet first aid will be addressed in this article and then in a complimentary hands-on seminar at Vetcetera in April. Topics to be covered include pet vital signs, shock and CPR. Practical home tips for initial treatment in many pet crises will be given.

With few exceptions, veterinary first aid is quite similar to human first aid. The acronym "ABC" is used to remember the basics. It stands for airway, breathing, and circulation. Though we will discuss pet CPR at the seminar, I would recommend leaving this to a veterinarian if possible. Mouth to nose artificial

ventilation can be performed as well as chest compressions in times of crisis. A pet would need 20-30 breaths and 80-100 chest compressions per minute. Thankfully, cardiopulmonary arrest is uncommon in veterinary medicine.

What constitutes a pet emergency? The following is a list of the most serious and time sensitive situations:

- difficulty in breathing
- cardiac failure
- massive hemorrhage
- profound shock from any cause
- anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions)
- penetrating wounds of the chest or abdomen
- loss of consciousness
- poisoning/toxic exposure
- massive trauma (including hit by car)
- seizures
- burns
- heat stroke
- bite and fight wounds
- continuous vomiting and diarrhea,
- urinary obstruction (as discussed in the previous *Snoot Report*)

Though the above circumstances may or may not be life threatening depending on severity, they all have the potential to be life threatening.

It is critical in an emergency situation to stay calm. It is very helpful to the veterinarian if you can quickly assess your pet's status. Time is of the essence, but in the time it takes a family member to dial the phone, you

should be able to evaluate your pet's heart rate, pulse quality respiratory rate, mucous membrane color, capillary refill time and mental status. We will practice these techniques in our hands-on seminar. Providing this information to the veterinarian will allow him/her to better advise you on the emergency plan for treatment and give more pertinent advice over the phone.

Many people make the mistake of getting bitten by pets that are injured. Whether it be your own pet or a poor stray, animals are frightened and often extremely painful in emergency situations. Attempting to move them without extreme caution and common sense can result in human injury and potential rabies exposure. Besides preventing injuries to the handler, further injuries to the pet must be

avoided. If broken bones or back trauma is suspected, the pet should be moved very carefully, even on a makeshift stretcher if possible. Basic rules of thumb include keeping the pet warm, as quiet as possible and restricting movement to a minimum. Cats and small dogs should be placed

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in a suitable container – such as a cardboard box with blankets underneath and potentially over top of the patient.

Many injuries can result in shock. Shock is a complex reaction of the body to situations such as sudden blood loss, heart failure, decreased circulation, severe allergic reactions, and combinations of these processes. If not treated quickly and effectively, shock can cause irreversible injury to body cells and can be rapidly fatal. Signs of shock include rapid breathing and heart rate, weak

pulse, pale mucous membranes (gums), severe depression and listlessness, cool extremities (limbs and ears).

For emergencies during office hours, if possible please call before arriving as it allows us to better prepare for treating your pet. **Emergencies always take top priority.** To review after hours protocol, contact the Valley Central Emergency Hospital at **610-435-5588** to seek advice from a technician and/or doctor overnight, on weekends and holidays. ♥

PET NORMAL VITAL SIGN PARAMETERS

			
Temperature:	101-102.5	101-102	100
Heart Rate:	80-130	110-140	44
Respiratory Rate:	22	6	12
Membrane Color:	pink	pink	pink
Capillary Refill Time:	1-2 sec	1-2 sec	1-2 sec
Pulse Quality:	strong	strong	strong

The Truth About Fleas and Ticks

by Chris Wiederhold



Flea season is usually from April to October, depending on the weather. We want to help you to protect your pets from fleas and ticks and the diseases that they can transmit.

Fleas

Fleas cause considerable discomfort to their host. They can also transmit tapeworms, murine typhus, feline plague and other diseases. Further, if pets happen to be hypersensitive to flea saliva they can develop flea dermatitis – an allergic reaction in which the area around the bites becomes inflamed. This is

the most common dermatologic disease of dogs. Fleas can also provoke iron deficiency anemia to the point of causing death.

Fleas commonly migrate down to the “flea triangle:” the tail, hind legs and under belly. When an animal has a flea infestation he/she will chew, lick and scratch at the “flea triangle,” sometimes causing hair loss. The life cycle of the flea (approximately three to five weeks long) begins with an adult flea laying eggs on a host. Hatching occurs in one to six days. The developing flea then goes through larval and pupal periods, emerging as a hungry adult. Adult fleas begin feeding almost immediately. Egg production begins within 24 to 48 hours of the female taking her first blood meal. A female flea is capable of producing up to 50 eggs per day for more than 100 days.

Treatment for flea infestation requires dealing with the environment as well as the pet. When treating the environment, vacuum thoroughly and wash any throw rugs, blankets or bedding that your pet may contact. If you choose to use sprays or bombs yourself rather than hiring an exterminator, be sure not to expose your pet to potentially harmful chemicals.

There are many flea treatment products available through veterinarians and over the counter. Most over the counter products have an increased risk of toxicity and are not as efficacious compared to prescription products. Certain flea collars can also be toxic to cats. Never use a flea and tick product labeled for dogs on cats. The outcome could be fatal.

Preventing flea infestation will spare your pet distress. Further, you will avoid a house full of fleas. The prevention product we recommend is Frontline/Top Spot. Frontline is safe for pets ten weeks or older and very effective in deterring both fleas and ticks. If we have previously seen your pet, no office visit is necessary to dispense this product. You can stop by to pick up a package of three or six vials.

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Ask Snoot



Q: Snoot, do you have a favorite poem?

A: Yes, here it is.

“A Man’s Best Friend”

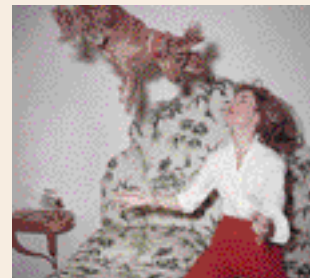
A faithful dog, will play with you
And laugh with you and cry...
He’ll gladly starve to stay with you
Nor ever reason why...

And when you’re feeling out of sorts
Somehow he’ll understand
He’ll watch you with his shining eyes
And try to lick your hand.

His blind implicit faith in you
Is matched by your great love
The kind that all of us should have
In the Master up above.

When everything is said and done,
I guess this isn’t odd,
For when you spell dog backwards,
You get the name of God.

— unknown ♥



The manufacturer is offering a special: buy six doses, get the seventh dose free. Another option is the use of Revolution, a new product that prevents heartworms, sarcoptic mange, fleas, ticks and ear mites. Though it is more expensive, we recommend it for outdoor cats as it has a broader spectrum of protection against the parasites they are likely to contract. Revolution is safe for pets over six weeks of age.

Application:

Both TopSpot/Frontline and Revolution should be dispensed monthly. They are packaged as vials designed to be applied between the shoulder blades. The hair should be parted so the solution is applied directly to the skin. In long haired dogs, we also recommend placing a tiny drop behind each ear to bolster tick protection around the face. The pet must be dry for two days before and after the application. Please be sure to pick up a brochure to fully educate yourself on the product you purchase.

Ticks

Unlike fleas, ticks are so small that they may go unnoticed. They give little to no warning of their presence. While they do not cause much discomfort initially, ticks are known to carry Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and other dangerous diseases. Most of these diseases are also transmissible to people. We urge frequent inspections and preventative treatments to keep your pet free of these parasites.

Timely tick detection and removal is critical as most diseases require from five to 24 hours of feeding for transmission. You should check every day if your pet spends a lot of time outdoors, especially in densely wooded areas. You can do this by rubbing your hands all over his/her body and pushing the fur back exposing the skin. The most effective way to remove the tick is by taking tweezers or forceps and gently grasping the tick, applying gentle but firm pressure outward. Normally you will be able to see the head with some skin attached when examining the tick after removal. Be sure that no small black object remains. If the head of the tick is not removed it can be a source of infection. After removing a tick we recommend placing it in a solution of rubbing alcohol, then discarding. Keep the affected area clean. Neosporin can be applied for a few days. Monitor the site for redness, swelling or discharge. There may be a lump at the site, which may be a normal reaction, but should resolve. If symptoms worsen or don't improve, please call us immediately. If you don't feel comfortable removing the tick on your own please call and we can remove it for you.

Monthly applications of Frontline/Top Spot are considered adequate tick prevention. For dogs at high risk, we recommend the Preventic collar. It reportedly kills and detaches 99 percent of ticks within 24 hours. It should be removed for bathing.

For more information about flea and tick preventative as well as other products please call us, or stop in to pick up brochures.

Here's a challenge for those who love animal medicine

You Make the Call...

Consider the case of Lucy, a six-year-old, female, tri-colored beagle. Her owner reports that she has "just not been herself" for the last two or three days. She's lethargic, depressed, anorexic (not eating), drinking and urinating excessively. There has been no known exposure to toxins (poisons). She eats dry dog food twice daily and is current on her vaccinations. She is not on heartworm preventative. She was in heat five weeks prior but owner reports that there was no chance of her being bred. She lives indoors and is taken hunting regularly on weekends during small game season.

Physical Exam: Temperature of 103 (normal is 100.5 to 102.5 degrees F) waxy ears, pale pink sticky gums (suggestive of dehydration), normal sounding heart and lungs, tender on palpation of the abdomen, vaginal discharge – mucousy with trace amount of blood, dry skin.

Diagnostic Tests: Complete Blood Count (CBC): White blood cells were moderately elevated consistent with infection. Red blood cell count was normal (no anemia). Serum Chemistry

Analysis: No significant abnormalities of her liver, kidneys, blood sugar, blood electrolytes or blood proteins.

Radiographs: Suspicious structure in abdomen but not definitive.

What's your diagnosis? Look for our diagnosis, treatment and outcome in the next issue of your *Snoot Report*.



The "Snoot Report" is dedicated to the pets who have touched the lives of all who knew them.

In loving memory of

Diddle Dee Cooper

Barney Drogalis

Missy Hontz

Wally Klinger

Jessie Krause

Reggie MacDuff

Molly Miller

Comet Murphy

Amigo Rehrer

Bear Roeder

Chablis Schwalm

Jake Smith

Dizzy Umbenhauer

Schultz Umphrey

Linsey VonEitten

Mr. Wrinkles Watmuff

James Zimmerman

Toby Zelinski



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please help us welcome the newest member of the Vetcetera team, Jan Engel, our receptionist.

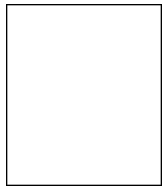
Practical Animal First Aid Seminar Monday April __ we will be hosting a hands-on animal first aid demonstration, to supplement this issues' feature article. Please come prepared to take notes and bring questions! Please call to RSVP by Friday April __ so we know how many to expect. Refreshments will be served.



Pet Healthcare Centre

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Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972



Prioritized Prayer for Pets and their People

by Ray Krammes, Vetcetera Chaplain



As Vetcetera chaplain, I pray for an increase in health and wisdom for all who are touched by our team as we reach out

to bring healing to pets and peace and restoration to their people.

Every person on the Vetcetera team is looking forward to offering prayer support to any of our clients who express a need or desire for this type of ministry. This is in keeping with Our Creator's original desire (Genesis 1:26-28) for human beings to assume responsibility for the entire animal kingdom.

The consolation of prayer is available for anyone who requests this special ministry for themselves or their pets. We meet from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM on the

first Tuesday of every month to offer prayers for pets and pet owners. Meetings are casual in dress and format. All are welcome! If you have a specific prayer request, please feel free to call and communicate it to us. We will pray for you even if you can't be with us in person.



Samson – The Miracle Dog

Samson, a three-year old collie/retriever mix, entered Vetcetera the evening of January 16. He was experiencing an allergic reaction to a medication that had been dispensed earlier that day at the Hillside SPCA. Soon after arriving, Samson drifted into a coma. An intravenous tube was introduced. A urinary catheter was inserted. Anti-inflammatory medication and muscle relaxants were infused. Samson survived the night, yet remained comatose.

The next morning, Dr. Julie shared her findings regarding the less-than-hopeful outcome of Samson's condition with Barb Umlauf, Director of the Hillside SPCA. Samson remained comatose and unresponsive. Each day for the next six days someone he knew from Hillside came to visit and talk to him. Each day the choice was made to "stick with him one more day."

On January 22, with the consent of Dr. Julie, the Hillside staff resolved to place the comatose Samson into a private home to try to love him back to consciousness. At this point, Samson's life was being sustained by three tubes dispensing various medications and a naso-esophageal feeding tube. Care givers had to be at his side around the clock to maintain his condition. Within two days Samson began to improve. On January 25th, the IV tubes were removed. By the 30th he was jumping on the couch, drinking water, and chewing his favorite frisbee.

"I believe that Dr. Julie's professionalism and concern were crucial in getting Samson back on his feet," says Barb. "I can't thank her and Vetcetera enough. It's really a miracle."



The "Snoot Report" is a quarterly publication for friends and clients of Vetcetera Pet Healthcare Centre. We welcome your comments. Call us at 570-345-3250.