

January &
February
2012

Companion Chatter

Companion Animal Clinic
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540-552-6800
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This winter season make sure you take the time to think about your pet's comfort and safety when it comes to battling the beautiful but cold weather. Just like us, dogs need to take special precautions before enjoying the snow outside.

Ice Melt

Most businesses and families will use a form of ice melt on their walkways and driveways this winter. Take special care to check your pet's feet and legs for irritation, and if possible wipe them down after playing outside near possible areas of ice melt. The chemicals used with the salt can cause damage to the pads of the feet, and can be dangerous if ingested. If you have an outdoor cat, check them frequently to make sure that they are also avoiding patches of ice melt.

Keeping Toasty Outside

Some may laugh, but many short-haired dogs are cold outside. It is important to remember that the smaller and shorter-haired your pet is, the more likely they are

cold and uncomfortable outside. Many small breed dogs benefit from a sweater or coat sized correctly that covers them from neck to tail, and preferably across their belly. Because of their size, they have a much harder time than larger dogs, like Labradors, maintaining an appropriate body temperature outdoors. While playing out in the snow keep your eye on the time. Overexposure to the cold can be just as dangerous for your pet as it can be for you.

Keeping Cozy Inside

Many cats and dogs sleep in basements or garages on a regular basis. If this is the case for your pet, try to make their area a little more comfortable. In general, supply a comfortable blanket or bed away from drafty areas. Even if your pet prefers to sleep inside the house, remember that a comfy, warm bed makes an enormous difference in your pet's comfort.

Leash Up

Snow and ice make for very exciting outdoor play, but

also eliminate scents much faster as they melt. Be sure to keep your dog on a leash when outdoors as it is much easier for them to get lost in the snow than it may be during warmer weather. If not already done, consider microchipping your pet if they are prone to escape.

Outdoor Pets

Some dogs and cats live primarily outside so it's important to provide them with easy access to shelter, whether it is using a doggie door into your home or covered kennels outside. Water and food should always be readily available, and free of ice or snow. Keep lots of bedding in any outside houses or kennels, or even look into purchasing heated kennels or water bowls for outdoor use. It may even be appropriate to add a little extra food to your pet's bowl if they spend a lot of time outdoors since they will be burning more calories staying warm.

OUR HOURS

| | |
|-------|---------------|
| MON | 7:30am-7:30pm |
| TUES | 7:30am-6pm |
| WED | 7:30am-7:30pm |
| THURS | 7:30am-6pm |
| FRI | 7:30am-6pm |
| SAT | 8am-1pm |
| SUN | 8pm-5:30pm** |

boarding pick ups and drop offs only



Check out our new website that will be up soon!! www.companionanimalclinic.biz See our staff, services we offer and animals we have up for adoption!!!

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Yappy New Year Yum Yums for your pet:

Makes 12 snacks!!

2 Tablespoons of Honey

2 ¾ C Water

¼ C Unsweetened Applesauce

1/8 teaspoon Vanilla

1 Egg

4 C Whole-wheat flour

1 C Dried Apple chips

1 Tablespoon Baking powder

1 Tablespoon Cinnamon

1 Tablespoon Nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In bowl mix together honey, water, applesauce, vanilla and egg. Combine flour, apple chips, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg in a separate bowl and mix thoroughly. Add wet ingredients to dry and mix well, scraping sides and bottom of bowl to be sure no dry mixture is left.

Spoon into greased muffin pans so that each cup is ¾ full and bake Approximately 1 hour. Cool and store in sealed container.

If your pet has an emergency after hours, a vet is on call here until 10pm to answer your questions and help you decide if you need emergency care. If your pet needs to see a doctor you can go to the Vet School at Va Tech (540-231-4621, Town and Country (540-382-5042 or Emergency Veterinary Services of Roanoke (540-563-8575).

Thank you to those who donated to our food drive and shelter donations!!



Marcy joined our team in August 2011 as a kennel attendant. Since coming she has also done some training as appointment tech. She has also started her education to pursue a degree as a Veterinary Technician. She currently lives in Roanoke with her 2 boys (Logan and Mason), 2 dogs, many cats, and ferrets. She enjoys her job here and giving each of your pets extra special attention!!