# all about &

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Signs of separation anxiety in dogs

**The Threat of Diabetes** 

**Understanding feline diabetes** 

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# What is the right type of pet for your family?



children responsibility.

suits their families.

















behaviors. In such instances, an older established animal may be a better fit, especially if you can devote the time to retraining the animal to your preferences. If you already have pets, you'll need to find one that's compatible with your existing animals.

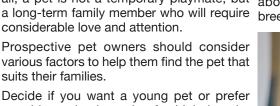
The American Veterinary Medical Foundation says to carefully consider if you can provide the amount of attention your pet will need. Different species and breeds require various amounts of care. A ferret or hamster may be self-sufficient most of the day, while a boisterous puppy will not be. People who travel frequently or are out of the house most of the day will have to keep this in mind as well.

Affordability is another factor to consider. Assess whether you have

the money necessary to offer shelter, elcoming a pet into one's life recreation, medical care, food, exercise, can be a rewarding experience. and socialization for this particular pet. If Pets promote compassion you cannot budget for a pet that has a lot and discipline in their owners, and their of needs, look for one that has relatively companionship can be incredibly rewarding. inexpensive care requirements, like a fish.

They also can be helpful tools for teaching Remember that some animals can live many vears, while others have a relatively short Pets require commitment, patience and life span. Factor this into your decision as financial investment. Potential pet owners well. Once you make the commitment to the also need to understand just what they're pet, it's unfair to surrender an animal simply getting into when they decide to bring a because you failed to recognize the time and pet home. Certain animals require a greater energy required to take care of it.

level of attention than others, and some pets For more assistance choosing a pet, speak might not be the right fit for all involved. After with a trusted veterinarian or animal expert all, a pet is not a temporary playmate, but about the traits of certain animals and a long-term family member who will require breeds up for consideration.



Decide if you want a young pet or prefer an older animal, each of which has its advantages and disadvantages. While puppies and kittens can be attractive, they require extra time and care upon being welcomed into a home, and that can be rough if young children are in the home and not accustomed to pets and their unique









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## **INTRODUCING...**

### Dr. Ann Schneider

Dr. Ann Schneider is a graduate of Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Her true passion is in companion animal medicine and surgery. She is excited to join the team at Hallett Veterinary Hospital and looks forward to working with clients to help them address their concerns and needs.

When not working, Ann enjoys spending time with family. Ann and her husband, Ryan, have a one year old son, Benjamin, and two German Shorthaired Pointers, Hank and Chip. They love spending time outdoors; gardening, fishing, hiking and bird hunting with the dogs.

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# Signs of separation anxiety in dogs



dog owners may lament that they can't take throughout the day, which can signal to their furry friends with them. But it turns out owners that their dogs are experiencing those dogs might be even more upset that separation anxiety. The ASPCA notes that they can't follow their owners out the door barking or howling is typically only triggered each morning.

Separation anxiety is a significant issue that **DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIORS** can affect any breed of dog. According to the ASPCA, separation anxiety is triggered when dogs become upset because they've been separated from their guardians, such as in window sills, is a telltale sign of separation the morning when owners leave for work. anxiety. Some dogs will dig at doors and Separation anxiety is a very difficult problem doorways, perhaps in an attempt to escape for dogs, creating a sense of distress that the home and follow their guardians out can pave the way for destructive and the door, or destroy household objects, potentially harmful behaviors.

Dog owners may wonder what they can do to soothe their dogs' anxiety so they can be left alone without experiencing the fear or dogs. Dog owners typically do not witness distress associated with separation anxiety. Learning to recognize the symptoms of injuries like broken teeth, cut and scraped separation anxiety is a great first step in that paws and damaged nails. healing process.

### **URINATING AND DEFECATING**

a sign of separation anxiety. The ASPCA notes that dogs that urinate or defecate in the presence of their owners are probably not suffering from separation anxiety but a different issue, and such behavior should be discussed with a veterinarian.

### **BARKING AND HOWLING**

Dogs experiencing separation anxiety may condition.

ogs are loyal and beloved companions persistently bark or howl when separated that make great household pets. from their guardians. Neighbors may When leaving for work in the morning, complain that dogs continuously bark by being left alone.

Destructive behaviors when left alone, such as chewing on objects, door frames or including furniture. These destructive behaviors not only aggravate owners, but they also pose a significant injury risk to the destructive behavior, which can cause

### **COPROPHAGIA**

Some dogs defecate and then consume all Some dogs urinate or defecate when left or some of their excrement when left alone. alone, even if they're potty trained. This is This is all called coprophagia and likely won't occur when owners are present.

> Dogs that act up when owners leave home aren't being destructive for the sake of being disruptive. In fact, these dogs are often suffering from separation anxiety, the recognition of which can be the first step toward helping dogs overcome this troubling

# Before getting a pet families need to first do research

Parent needs to work with child to understand responsibilities

### By Karen Stokes

Special to Conley Media

Most children love to have a pet but the challenge lies in motivating them to help care for and choosing the right pet.

Andrey and Marina Meyer were 7 and 5 years old respectively when their parents gave them a dog, a Newfoundland named Sabaka.

"I researched best dogs for children and the Newfoundland kept coming up hands down. They are gentle giants," said their mother Shelly Meyer.

"My kids started caring for her as soon as we brought her home. Their responsibilities include watering her, walking and brushing her and clean up after playing with her."

Khris Erickson, education director at Humane Animal Welfare Society in Waukesha, believes that the ability for a child to care for a pet has to For home with small children, cats with an do with the individual child's maturity.

"A lot has to do with the parent monitoring the child and the child's ability to be responsible



Submitted photo

outgoing personality would be a better fit.



Submitted photo

and Marina.

and work independently," said Erickson. "I recommend the parents and the child do some research together to fully understand the needs and costs of owning the pet."

Erickson suggests that a good first pet for a child should be something that wouldn't need

"I personally really like guinea pigs," said Erickson.

"They don't need a lot of exercise, they don't need a lot of space and they're socially friendly

Erickson explained that puppies and kittens may not be the best fit for young children and temperament is important in choosing a pet.

"If you get a dog that's about 2 years old, by then they developmentally become the temperament they are going to keep for life," said Erickson.

"Looking for a cat, look for one that's more outgoing, a shy sensitive cat is not a cat that would be happy in a home with small children."

This summer, kids 7-14 have an opportunity to learn about pets and pet responsibility at HAWS Kids and Critters Summer Camp. The Meyer family, Larry, Shelly, Sabaka, Andrey For more information and to register go to https://hawspets.org/kids-camp-waukesha/

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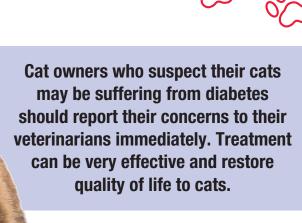
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# 



iabetes is a condition most often associated with humans. But this even affect pets, including the family cat.

Feline diabetes can greatly affect cats' quality of life. The Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine estimates that between 0.2 and 1 percent of cats in the general population suffer from feline diabetes. While that's a low number, the potential dangers faced by cats with undiagnosed cases of feline diabetes makes it imperative that cat owners understand this disease and how to recognize it.

### WHAT IS DIABETES?

Rotary Park

The cells in a cat's body require sugar in the form of glucose for energy. Glucose in the blood requires the hormone insulin, which serves as something of a key that unlocks the doors to the cells, making them capable of employing the glucose for energy. The insulin attaches to the cells and lets the body know rare occurrence. when to absorb the glucose. That process Cat owners who suspect their cats may be is essential for muscle function. When a cat suffering from diabetes should report their has type 1 diabetes, glucose concentrations concerns to their veterinarians immediately. are high because of a decrease in insulin Treatment can be very effective and restore production. Type 2 diabetes, which is more quality of life to cats.

common among felines than type 1, occurs when glucose levels are high because the cells are not responding to the insulin in an appropriate way.

### WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS THAT MAY INDICATE THE PRESENCE OF FELINE **DIABETES?**

Diabetes deprives the body of a necessary energy source, so when cats are suffering from diabetes, be it type 1 or type 2, weight loss is likely to occur. That weight loss potentially debilitating disease can occurs because cats' bodies will turn to sources other than glucose for energy. In these instances, the body breaks down fats and proteins, resulting in weight loss. The CUCVM notes that this weight loss occurs even though cats' appetites increase.

> Excessive thirst and urination is another potential indicator of feline diabetes. Cats' bodies respond to elevated levels of glucose in their blood by excreting excessive amounts of the glucose in their urine. That high concentration of glucose in the urine pulls excessive amounts of water into the urine. According to the CUCVM, this results in increased urine volume, increased urinary water loss, a higher likelihood of dehydration, and an increase in thirst.

> Some cats experience nerve damage in their hind limbs as a result of feline diabetes. However, the CUCVM notes that this is a

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# Homemade treats and toys for dogs and cats Ways to entertain and feed pets that don't break the bank

### By Dave Fidlin

Special to Conley Media

While nutrition and vet visits are front- instances. and-center on pet owners' priority lists, pampering four-legged friends with toys and treats is also desired for many an animal lover.

For some dog and cat owners, pampering with toys and treats is tackled at home, with a little creativity and ingenuity, in the hopes of saving money.

Websites, such as Penny Hoarder, are among the resources that have available a number of suggestions for homemade treats and toys, many costing no more than a few dollars.

Hose tossing rings, seat belt buddies, rope tugs and bouncy socks are among some of the items Penny Hoarder's staffers have assembled on their list of low-cost toys that can be made at home.

than in the store, not only is typically less who offers a twice-monthly \$30 seminar on which might sound unappealing to humans, expensive — it's also healthier in most practical tips pet owners can use at home at but is typically a delectable delicacy for our Elmbrook.

Carol Sumbry, a certified behavior consultant "There's a lot of things you can do with Speaking from personal experience, Sumbry rewards is a great way of reinforcing positive and dog trainer with the Elmbrook Humane both treats and toys, and you definitely said she has tried her hand at a number of behavior — particularly if it is done habitually

Society, said making treats at home, rather don't have to break the bank," said Sumbry, different concoctions, such as tuna fudge, and immediately after a desired task.

less finicky canine companions.

"But every dog is different," Sumbry said. "There are recipes out there, though, and in many cases, these treats are healthier than what you'd find in the store."

Another tip Sumbry offers up, which is especially meaningful in the upcoming warm-weathered months is making frozen treats with a few simple ingredients that dogs and cats alike enjoy. Flavored tuna cubes and frozen pops are great for both

"Studies show licking is a calming behavior for them," Sumbry said, pointing to another added benefit.

Whether they are made at home or purchased in the store, Sumbry said giving dogs and cats assorted treats and toys as

# **Prairie Home Cemetery**

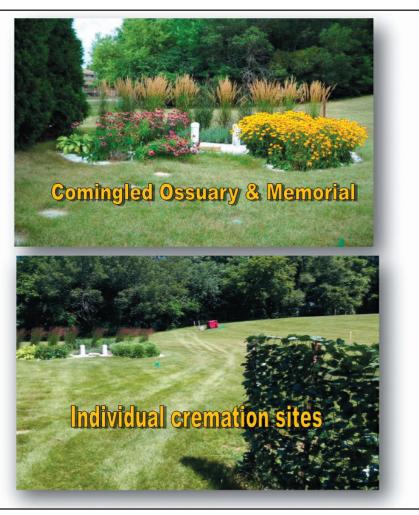
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# What to know when considering an exotic pet

### Unusual animals have challenges, but can be rewarding

**Bv Dave Fidlin** 

Special to Conley Media

For many animal lovers, it's an intriguing concept. But it's also something experts say should be done with careful thought, research and consultation.

While dogs and cats are at the top of the pet pyramid, animal aficionados frequently opt for other less common creatures great and small. They are commonly referred to as exotic pets.

As a broad, all-encompassing category, exotic pets include a number of different animal types. Ferrets, hedgehogs, potbellied pigs and spiders are a small sampling of some of the disparate animals that fall into the exotic

Depending upon the specific venue, pet shops across Waukesha County carry a small, or large, array of pets deemed exotic.

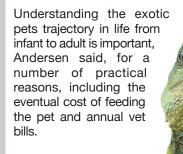
For instance, Friends of Nature - which has multiple locations, including one in Menomonee Falls — largely specializes in traditional pets.

"We have one bearded dragon and two leopard geckos," owner Lynn Wilde said, illustrating the exotic pets she had available at her Menomonee Falls shop in early June.

Troy Andersen, owner of LC Pets in Hartland, said he has amassed knowledge over the years of caring for exotic pets. He previously owned a 20-acre exotic ranch in Eagle.

Whenever the topic of exotics comes up, Andersen said would-be pet owners should "Many exotic animals are impulse buys or take a number of issues into consideration some more obvious than others.

"Baby exotic animals always look so cute and tiny, but can grow into quite large animals," Andersen said. "Do you have the space when the animal is full grown?"





Submitted photo

This is Mojito, a Quaker parakeet up for adoption at HAWS. In mid-June he was on hold to get adopted.

Another important consideration that does not always factor into decision-making, Andersen said, are municipal ordinances. He said he encourages people considering exotic pet ownership to check with city, village or town officials about what's on the local books first.

status purchases that happen without any thought going into the well-being of the animal," Andersen said. "A lot of these exotics get let go into the wild when the owner realizes they cannot be taken care of properly."

For pet owners interested in making the serious commitment, Andersen said owning an exotic pet can be rewarding.

"Don't get me wrong — owning exotic animals is great, as long as you have the knowledge and experience with them," he said.

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# Raising pet chickens can be rewarding

## Fresh eggs add deliciousness to breakfast

### By Karen Stokes

Special to Conley Media

Loulou Goulee grew up on a farm near Boston where they raised pigs, cows and chickens. Moving to Milwaukee she wanted her 6-year old son Jackson to experience what she did growing up.

Goulee has owned Carrot Bomb Catering for seven years. Her yard has a huge garden full of fresh green vegetables and colorful plants and flowers with a chicken coop in the back. Not a typical yard in the city.

"Growing up on a farm and now in the city I really like to have that balance between country and city," Goulee said. "Raising chickens gives Above: Residents in Milwaukee can only There are predators that can cause harm you that type of feeling."

According to the US Department of Agriculture, nearly 1% of all U.S. households reported owning backyard fowl and 4% more planned to start in the next five years. That's over 13 million Americans raising poultry.

Raising chickens can be rewarding but there's Waukesha roosters are not permitted. a few things you'll need to learn. First, you must have a permit to raise chickens in your "In Milwaukee, you need to have a permit and on them in the day too."



Submitted photos

Each municipality has its own rules. Below: important. Jackson Goulee playing with pet chickens in his Milwaukee backyard.

backyard. Every city has different ordinances. get an OK from your neighbors; you can only Goulee doesn't use meat from her chickens for For example, in New Berlin and in the Town of have four chickens and you can't have any the catering business.

roosters because they're too loud," Goulee said. "It's a fairly easy process but a bit of

Raising chickens is fairly easy, according to Goulee. Keep the coops clean, feed them, change their water and bring them snacks.

"They love mealworms, popcorn and watermelon and in the summer when they're dying of heat we give them frozen corn," Goulee said. "Chickens are awesome forgers constantly scratching and digging out worms and bugs. Their eggs are amazing when they eat their natural diet; the yolks are bursting with color and nutrition."

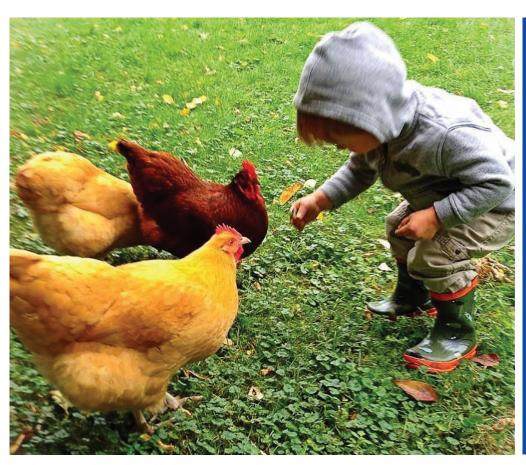
have four female chickens and no roosters. and learning how to protect your chickens is

"Raccoons, possums, foxes and larger rats will mess with your chickens if not drag them away, even with a 6-foot fence," Goulee said. "When they're hungry, predators will do just about anything. A lockdown set up for 'the girls' at night is a necessity. You need to keep an eye



Jackson Goulee adores his pet chickens, chases them, and has fun with them.

"It's hard to raise something, care for it, then butcher it. We use the eggs for personal use, the chickens are strictly pets," she said.



# Did you know?

### Though they might be most often associated with dogs, ticks can affect cats as well.

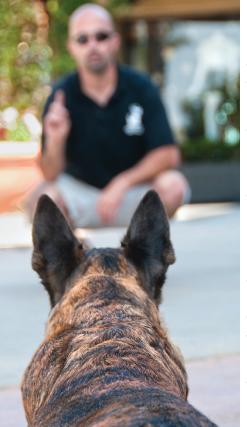
According to Blue Cross for Pets, cats are most likely to encounter ticks if they live near areas with lots of deer and sheep or in regions where other wildlife, such as hedgehogs and rabbits, are present. While ticks are active throughout the year, cats are most likely to encounter them between spring and autumn. That's due in part to the climate during these seasons, which tends to be warmer and therefore more inviting to cats, compelling them to spend more time outdoors than they do in winter. Ticks, which are egg-shaped, are big enough to spot, so cat owners should conduct a careful examination of their cats' fur each time they come into the house after spending time in the yard. Blue Cross for Pets notes that ticks feel like small bumps on a cat's skin. Ticks are most likely to attach themselves to particular areas of a cat's body. These areas include the head, neck, ears, and feet. Routine brushing, especially whenever cats come inside after time spent outdoors, can help cat owners spot and remove ticks from their cats. It's important to recognize that indoor cats are not invulnerable to ticks, as other pets and humans can track ticks indoors. Periodic inspections and brushing of indoor cats' can protect them from ticks and the diseases ticks carry.



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# The benefits of working with animal trainers



ets bring new energy into a home, think. making them welcome and enjoyable additions to a household. All that energy can be tough to manage, and pet owners, particularly those who have added puppies to their family dynamic, may wonder how they can corral their pets' energy long enough to teach them some rules and instill some healthy habits and behaviors.

Animal trainers can be just the thing pet owners need if they're struggling to get their pets to adapt to their new homes. Some pet owners may be able to go it alone, but there's no denying the effects skilled animal trainers can have on pets. The following are a handful of ways pet owners and their pets can benefit from working with animal trainers.

### ANIMAL TRAINERS CAN ADDRESS ANY TYPE OF BEHAVIOR.

According to the Animal Behavior Institute, trainers who work with dogs, cats, parrots, or other companion animals must have a thorough and detailed knowledge of animal behavior. Pet owners who have successfully housebroken puppies in the past may think they can do it again with relative ease, but no two puppies are the same. Techniques that worked with

one dog will not necessarily work with another. Trainers recognize this and have an array of techniques within their arsenal, making them capable of addressing and correcting any type of behavior.

### TRAINERS CAN RECOGNIZE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AFFECTING PETS THAT OWNERS MAY NOT SEE.

Pet owners may think their homes are petfriendly or conducive to housebreaking pets. But trainers may see things the untrained eye won't. Anything from the location of a parrot's cage to the designated litter box area for a cat can affect pets' behavior, compromising pets owners' efforts to housebreak their animals. Trainers can recognize potential problems that may have relatively simple solutions.

### TRAINERS TRAIN OWNERS AS WELL.

Trainers won't just work with pets, but also with pet owners. Obedience trainers will work with pets to teach them how to behave while also teaching owners various ways to positively reinforce the animals. This is a great way for owners to get hands-on experience and learn proper obedience training techniques, which are not always as easy to learn as owners may think.

Animal trainers provide an invaluable service, helping pets and their owners learn to coexist peacefully and happily.



# Parrot fever and the threat it poses to humans



he bond pet owners have with their the air. When humans pets is strong. Pets bring a lot into a breathe in these dust home. The opportunity to care for a particles, they may then pet can provide fulfillment and joy, and the become infected with unconditional love pets give to their owners parrot fever. It's possible can improve their owners' moods.

illness, and some of these illnesses can even be passed from pet to owner. Pet owners may assume diseases can only be transmitted via pets with whom they have routine direct physical contact, such as cats and dogs. But other pets, including parrots, can transmit disease.

Parrot fever, sometimes referred to as "psittacosis" or "chlamydiophila psittaci," is a bacterial disease that can be passed from certain birds, like parrots and parakeets, to humans.

infects birds. While it's unlikely that this most common symptoms are fever and bacteria will infect bird owners, it's possible. chills, headache, muscle aches, and dry According to the Centers for Disease Control cough. These symptoms also can be a result and Prevention, people can become infected of other illnesses unrelated to birds, so bird with parrot fever as a result of breathing owners should consult their physicians if any in secretions of psittacine birds, such as appear and inform their doctors that they parrots and parakeets. Birds may or may have a bird at home. This may lead doctors not exhibit signs that they've been infected to conduct tests designed to detect parrot with the bacteria, so bird owners may be fever. vulnerable to the disease without even Antibiotics are an effective and common knowing their birds are sick.

particles, including the bacteria, can get into health of their birds and themselves.

that birds can spread the Like their owners, pets are not immune to infection through biting or beakto-mouth contact, but the CDC notes that such instances are rare. And while it's possible for the bacteria to be spread from one human to another, that, too, is unlikely.

### **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**

Parrot fever typically causes only mild illness. The potential indicators of parrot fever are different for birds than they are for humans. The CDC notes that signs of parrot fever in birds are non-specific, and birds infected with the bacteria may exhibit no symptoms at all. If they do exhibit symptoms, they may include poor appetite, inflamed eyes. difficulty breathing, and/or diarrhea.

Humans exposed to the bacteria behind parrot fever may begin developing symptoms The bacteria behind parrot fever commonly within five to 14 days after exposure. The

treatment for birds and bird owners affected Birds shed the bacteria behind parrot fever by parrot fever. And while infection is often in their droppings and respiratory secretions. mild and harmless, bird owners should keep When these secretions dry, small dust an eye out for symptoms to ensure the





# My puppy has worms; now what?

new puppy into the family.

their needs, and it can take weeks for a pup to acclimate to a new home and adapt to SOMESYMPTOMS OF WORMS INCLUDE: a routine.

New puppy parents may be surprised to learn their puppy — particularly one rescued from a shelter — has parasitic worms. This is a common occurrence. According to a · weight loss report published in the journal Animals, the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites in shelter dogs is typically higher than in owned dogs. This is due to the combination • visual confirmation of worms in stool of daily admissions of dogs from diverse backgrounds and the difficulty of preventing environmental contamination with infectious parasitic developmental stages. Shelters provide favorable conditions for the establishment and spread of GI parasitic infections.

and many result from pups walking through ongoing basis to ensure all immature and the infected waste of other dogs. Some fully formed worms are gone. dogs ingest contaminated feces or develop infections after being in an environment where there is a buildup of waste and poor sanitation. The American Kennel Club says worms also can be passed from an infected mother to her unborn puppies in-utero or through nursing.

By and large, worms are not something that should be terribly concerning. With the right treatment and preventative care, most parasitic worms, like roundworms,

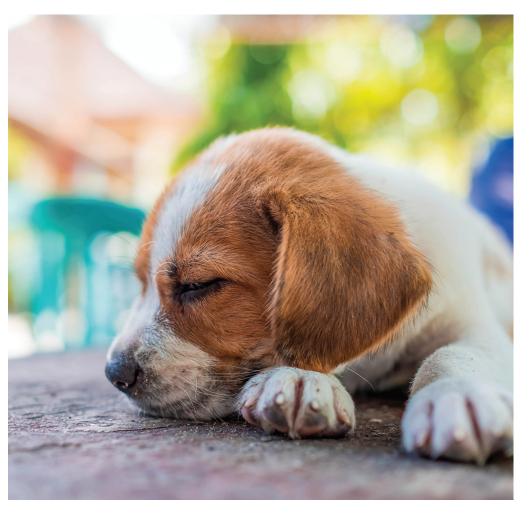
ringing a new puppy home can be an hookworms, heartworms, and whipworms, exciting time that's full of challenges. can be treated effectively. However, if left Change also is part of welcoming a untreated, worms can compromise the health of a puppy, potentially contributing to Puppies rely on their owners to meet all of anemia, low weight/poor growth, diarrhea, and inflammation.

- pot belly appearance
- vomiting
- coughing
- diarrhea
- abdominal pain

A veterinarian can walk new pet parents through deworming their young dogs. Medications produce results in a matter of hours and will immobilize worms in the digestive tract before they're soon expelled. It may take a few treatments to get a handle on the problem. In addition, vets will likely Worms are transmitted in various ways, want to examine stool samples on an

> To prevent future outbreaks, clean up pet waste in the yard frequently and administer a monthly heartworm medication with a generalized deworming agent for other parasites.

> Learn more about worms and new puppy care at www.akc.org.



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# Tips for traveling with pets



A sturdy, comfortable carrier can help keep a pet safe during travel.



Many hotel and motel chains now offer pet accommodations.

along can reduce the hassle of finding a pet trips. An unrestrained 75 lb. dog will exert numbers. sitter or a boarding service. Traveling with about 2,250 lbs. of force in a crash in which pets in tow also can be enjoyable for the the car is traveling at just 30 miles per hour. entire family, including pets. Perhaps that's why a recent study from AAA and Best Western International found that more than Visit the vet prior to departing, particularly grooming supplies, medication and first-aid, accommodations. For a fee you can have half of American pet owners take their cats if you will be traveling far or abroad. Pack and any travel documents. Pack a favorite your pet stay in the room. There may be and dogs with them when they travel.

Traveling with pets can be fun, but it means taking some extra steps when planning a trip to ensure pets are safe and content. Before Investigate if the destination country requires BOOK DIRECT FLIGHTS anyone hits the road or soars into the sky, quarantine of the animal. consider these tips.

### ACCLIMATE THE PET TO THE CAR

gauge how he or she handles a car ride. Start This can make travel safer for the animal. choice as well. For example, Pet Airways gets lost at your destination.

their four-legged companions in the pet reacts so you can make adjustments airline-approved crate. Mark the crate with individual crates, and a flight attendant their travel plans. Bringing pets if necessary. Properly restrain pets on car with identification information and contact checks on the animals every 15 minutes.

### **GET A WELLNESS CHECK**

pet. Some countries require pet passports. pets' stomachs.

### **BUY A QUALITY PET CARRIER**

Conduct a trial run with your pet in tow to pet carrier for your dog, cat or small animal. plane. A pets-only airline might be a good data so the pet can be reunited with you if it

any pet parents choose to include with shorter trips and build up. Assess how If flying, you may need to purchase an offers climate-controlled cabins outfitted

### PACK A PET-FRIENDLY KIT

The ASPCA suggests bringing along food, a bowl, leash, a waste scoop, plastic bags, Many hotel and motel chains now offer pet an updated copy of health and immunization toy or pillow. Bring along bottled water as specific requirements, such as restricting the records, as well as proof of ownership of the well. Drinking unfamiliar water can upset pet to a crate when unattended.

will be kept on the tarmac or spend even address and phone number are current. Be sure to have a secure and comfortable longer times in the baggage hold of the Consider adding temporary travel contact

After landing, pets are given a bathroom

### **RESERVE PET-FRIENDLY LODGING**

### MICROCHIP DATA IS CURRENT

Log into the service that coordinates with A direct flight reduces the likelihood a pet the pet's microchip. Check to see that your



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hen the season for outdoor owners like to have entertaining arrives, time spent their furry companions in the yard entertaining friends nearby so they can enjoy and family tends to increase. Barbecuing the fresh air and fun as well. lends itself well to informal warm weather gatherings. grilling or entertaining friends requires some

While spending time outside, many pet forethought to ensure pets stay safe.

**GRILLING** 

The act of grilling can be hazardous to pets NO BONES ABOUT IT that can't resist the aromas of food cooking. Dogs or cats may be drawn to the succulent smells without realizing that there are hot coals or gas nearby. It may be safer to keep animals leashed or contained until the grill has been extinguished to prevent burns and other injuries.

**WATCH THE LEFTOVERS** 

As diners finish their meals, they may leave scraps plates. The occasional nibble here and there may not be overly problematic, but if a dog or cat gets into a food he or she shouldn't eat, the consequences can be anything from

grapes, peaches, and chocolate.

Make barbecues safer for pets

It may be tempting to toss a dog a bone from the grill, but the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention warns pet owners against feeding their dogs or cats chicken on the bone due to the risk of the bone splintering and causing intestinal obstruction. Even large bones can splinter. Owners who want to offer bones to their dogs should consult with a vet about which types of bones are safe, or look for a manufactured bone from the pet store.

### strewn around on ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Both dogs and cats are sensitive to alcoholic beverages, offers the environmental wellness resource TreeHugger. In addition, the APOP warns that even a few ounces of beer or wine can be poisonous to a dog or cat. Discard half-drained wine glasses and beer bottles promptly.

### **FIREWORKS**

gastrointestinal distress to If fireworks are part of the festivities, make severe allergic reaction. Any raw meat sure to keep skittish pets away. The loud However, allowing pets outdoors when or seafood can pose a danger to pets. Other sounds and brilliant sights can frighten pets, foods that can be toxic for a dog include and an animal may dart out of the yard to avocado (and guacamole), garlic, onions, escape, getting lost or injured in the process.

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# The benefits of professional dog groomers

rooming is something few dog dog groomers are well-versed in cutting the But grooming is an important component of haircuts. dog ownership that keeps pooches healthy NAIL TRIMMING and looking their best.

Some dogs are more cooperative than others during grooming sessions. Likewise, break, and such breaks can make dogs some dog owners are apprehensive about more susceptible to infection. In addition, grooming their dogs, knowing that dogs can nails that are allowed to grow too long can easily be hurt during the grooming process. be painful to pooches, pushing the nail into Professional dog groomers can make the nail bed and creating pressure on the grooming that much more comfortable for toe joints. But trimming dogs' nails is not as uneasy dogs and owners while providing a simple as trimming humans', as dogs' nails host of additional benefits.

### **SAFETY**

One of the troubles owners experience when grooming dogs on their own is that dogs tend to move around a lot when getting their hair trimmed. Unlike humans who rest easy in barber or salon chairs and let their hairdressers ply their trade, dogs tend to APPEARANCE fidget or move around during haircuts, and Human beings like to look good, and dog Even the most attentive dog owner may not groomed particular dogs in the past, may be even the slightest movement can lead to owners like their dogs to look good as well. notice certain signs that suggest a dog may more likely to notice such irregularities. This cuts or scratches that can hurt dogs and Experienced professional groomers know be sick or developing a condition that can can provide an important safety net between

owners may consider before bringing hair of fidget-prone pooches and know how man's best friend into their homes. to calm dogs so they can enjoy pain-free

Trimming dogs' nails serves multiple purposes. Nails that are not trimmed can contain nerves and blood vessels referred to as the "quick." When the quick is cut, dogs can experience significant pain and even bleed. The potential for that outcome is one reason many dog owners are hesitant to trim their dogs' nails. Professional groomers do this every day without cutting the quick.

make them even more nervous. Professional how to style dogs' hair in ways that make threaten its long-term health. Dog groomers grooming sessions and vet visits.



Different breeds of dog require different position to recognize any abnormalities grooming supplies, and professional that may be indicative of a larger problem. groomers will have all the tools necessary Owners may not notice rashes, lesions, for particular breeds.

### **LONG-TERM HEALTH**

skin discoloration or lumps right away, but dog groomers, especially those who have





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