



Franklin Farm
Veterinary Clinic

April, 2018

NEWSLETTER

Fear Free Veterinary Care For Your Furry Friend. That's Franklin Farm.

HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 7:30am-6:30pm

Saturday: 8:00am-1:00pm

Sunday: Closed



FROM THE DOCTOR'S DESK

Cat on Cat Aggression After a Veterinary Visit & How to Avoid it.

Unfortunately, it is not an uncommon scenario for a cat returning home from the veterinary office to be treated like an evil, alien being who must be attacked or avoided at all costs. Previously friendly cats can suddenly react with hissing, growling and puffy tails. While it may not make sense to us, cats have a good reason for this strange behavior.

Cats communicate with other cats using vocal, visual and scent cues. Each cat's scent serves as his unique name tag. When cats sleep together, groom each other or simply rub against one another, they share and mingle their unique scents into a group scent. This group scent is recognized by all feline family members and identifies individual cats as belonging to the household.

After a cat visits the veterinarian, he may smell different. The kitty has been handled by strangers, treated with medicines that smell funny and may even smell unhealthy or fearful due to underlying illness or stress from the car ride. These new and unrecognized scents mark him as being different from the other cats. The household cats may not recognize these new odors and can react

with fear and avoidance behaviors, like hissing, swatting and running away.

Preventing Post-Veterinary Visit Aggression:

Schedule annual exams for your cats at the same time.

Use a feline pheromone spray (Feliway) in your car, cat carrier and bedding to help keep your kitty calm before and after their visit. These pheromones may help to minimize alarming scents due to fear and anxiety from developing on your kitty and thus smooth their re-entry into your home and cat family.

Segregate the returning kitty in a room alone for several hours. This time gives it a chance to groom and remove all the foreign smells from its fur. It also allows it to decompress from the stress of leaving the house, decreasing any defensive behavior on the kitty's part. The other cats may also be more willing to become reacquainted after some time apart.

Transferring the group scent to your out-cast can be a very helpful tool. Use a hand towel to pet the other household cats. The scent glands in the cheeks are a

great place to focus. You can then reintroduce recognized family scents to the segregated cat by petting the cat with that towel. This transfer of "normal" scents to your outsider will help it smell more like the group.

Monitor cat interactions for the first several hours after reintroduction and segregate the treated cat immediately if there is any negative behavior.

In some situations, it may even be helpful to change all feline family members' scents to something pleasant and distracting, like tuna water or catnip. Gently stroke each kitty with a towel covered in the pleasant scent. This will encourage grooming and development of a new group scent.



Article written by:
Dr. Kathleen Phillips, DVM
Owner of Franklin Farm Veterinary Clinic

PET DENTAL AWARENESS



Good dental health is **EXTREMELY** important to your pet's overall wellness.

Dental health should be a #1 priority for your furry friend. A dog has 42 teeth, compared to a human's 32. There's a lot more room for disease in there!

In lieu of such a wonderful response to the dental discount of \$100 off dental cleanings, we are extending the offer through the month of April!



Call us today at (703) 435-3335 to take advantage of this limited-time offer!



Five Cat Care Mistakes to Avoid:

- ◆ Letting your cat roam freely outside. Make your cat more comfortable by providing environmental enrichment.
- ◆ Punishing or frightening your cat.
- ◆ Overfeeding your cat. This causes health issues.
- ◆ Using products made for other animals on your cat.
- ◆ Ignoring your cat's litterbox. This will prevent indoor potty mistakes.

NVAC.com



★ PET OF THE MONTH ★

Franklin Farm is thrilled to introduce these adorable Cavalier King Charles Spaniel puppies named Lizzie and Darcy.

These pups just finished the last of their vaccinations against Lyme, Leptospirosis, and Canine Influenza Virus.

Lizzy and Darcy's owners consulted with Dr. Phillips and her knowledgeable staff about which vaccinations were most appropriate for their puppies.

To read more about the importance of vaccines, please see our article on page #3.



*A special thanks to Daniela Morales for her contribution to March's Pet of the Month article.

Worst 20 Human Foods For Your Dog

- ◆ Chocolate
- ◆ Grapes
- ◆ Garlic and Onions
- ◆ Macadamia Nuts
- ◆ Avocados
- ◆ Alcohol
- ◆ Raw Bread dough
- ◆ Moldy food
- ◆ Caffeinated items
- ◆ Cooked bones
- ◆ Ice Cream
- ◆ Raw meat
- ◆ Plums
- ◆ Raw eggs
- ◆ Salt
- ◆ Candy
- ◆ Beer HOPS
- ◆ Jerky
- ◆ Dairy
- ◆ Yeast



Dog's Domain

Dogshow.com

In the month of April:

- * ASPCA's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month
- * American Red Cross's Pet First Aid Awareness Month
- * Prevention of Lyme Disease in Dogs Month
- * National Heartworm Awareness Month



Refer a friend to Franklin Farm and you'll receive \$25 off of your pet's next visit!





Vaccinations

Deciding what vaccines are right for your furry friend.

Deciding which vaccines are right for your pup can be a challenge. Vaccinating against the Rabies Virus is most important given its prevalence in Northern Virginia, and this vaccination is required by law. Rabies is a fatal, zoonotic disease (a disease that can be transmitted from animal to human). Other than this critical vaccine, how should canine caretakers decide how best to vaccinate their pet?

The Canine Distemper 4-way vaccine is the next most important, and the first vaccine you are likely to see on your new pup's records. Protecting against four highly infectious viruses transmissible between dogs, this vaccine is generally given (boostered) every 3 weeks until your pet is 14 to 16 weeks of age.

The third 'core' vaccine provides protection against the Bordetella Bronchiseptica bacterium, the most common cause of the condition known as 'kennel cough'. Any gathering of dogs such as grooming, dog parks, boarding, and training sessions - are the most common places for your pet to be exposed. Generally, one dose after 8 weeks of age is also required for spay and neuter procedures.

There are several other vaccinations that you should consider discussing with your veterinarian. Although every inoculation may not be right for every pet, deciding upon a suitable protection plan can help them live a longer, safer life, and help to protect you and your family. When these vaccines will be administered is also an important topic to discuss with your veterinarian. Generally, these vaccines can be started at 8-10 weeks, but in smaller breeds your vet may recommend waiting until the core vaccine series have finished.

The danger of tick-borne diseases has been steadily on the rise in Northern Virginia. Ehrlichia, Anaplasmosis, and even Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever are frequently diagnosed. Monthly flea-tick prevention year-round is a must; ticks are kept warm by their deer hosts even in the dead of winter. The most frequently detected tick-borne illness is Lyme Disease. This nasty Spirochaete type bacteria is known for causing joint inflammation and kidney damage, and can be fatal if left untreated. We consider the Lyme vaccine to be a 'core' inoculation. Dogs at highest risk are those living on property with woods nearby, or who accompany their owners on hikes and on camping trips. Here is a map showing tick borne disease prevalence across the country. <http://www.dogsandticks.com/map/2012/>)

Another serious disease your dog can contract indirectly from wildlife is Leptospirosis. Like Lyme disease, this disease is also caused by a spirochaete-type bacteria. It is usually contracted by direct contact with urine from wild mammals that your pet can find in your own back yard, or even on a walk.

Contaminated soil and water can harbor the organism for weeks to months. Foxes, raccoons, and possums are the classic vectors, but even mice and rats can carry this disease. In this area, dogs that swim are at higher risk. Leptospirosis is characterized by fever, gastrointestinal upset, weakness and loss of appetite. Untreated cases result in severe liver and kidney failure. Scariest of all, Leptospirosis is also a zoonotic disease.

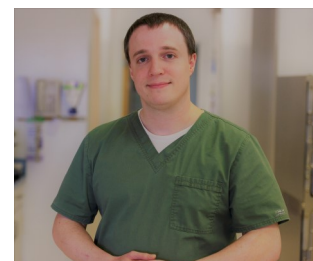
Vaccinating your pet against Leptospirosis is recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/pets/prevention/index.html>)

The second 'non-core' vaccine to consider for your pet is for Canine Influenza. 'CIV' (canine influenza virus) manifests in the form of fever, lethargy, and cough. Morbidity (frequency of transmission) is approximately 80%, and severe, life-threatening disease is much more likely in puppies, elderly, or immunocompromised pets. Unlike human influenza, it is a year-round threat. It is not a zoonotic virus such as swine and bird flu.

Virginia was hit hard along with the rest of the United States less than 10 years ago by the H3N8 strain. A new strain of influenza (H3N2) is now showing up in various locations around the country. Like kennel cough, any pet who spends time in close quarters with other dogs is at risk, especially if you plan to travel with your pet outside of Virginia.

(<https://www.dogflu.com/outbreak-map>)



Written by: Philip Blake