



## Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

### National Immunization Awareness Month



August is National Immunization Awareness Month, making it the perfect time to educate families on both the positives and negatives of vaccinations for your

pets.

Vaccinations are important for the health of your pet and do keep most pets safe and healthy, and some, like rabies, are required by law if you don't have an exemption. However, what's often not talked about is the danger and risks associated with over vaccinating, the possibility of side effects and the potential for vaccines to lead to long-term diseases. Vaccines should be weighed with risk vs benefit and should ONLY be given to healthy pets with healthy immune systems!

Core vaccinations for puppies and dogs include:

- Canine distemper virus
- Parvovirus
- Rabies

Non-core vaccines include:

- Bordetella ( Kennel Cough)
- Lyme disease
- Leptospirosis
- Giardia
- Parainfluenza
- Canine hepatitis (may come with combination vaccine of DHPP)

Core vaccines for kittens and cats include:

- Feline rhinotracheitis

### Health Tip for the Season

Vaccines should only be given to healthy pets! Pets with pre-existing medical conditions, diseases, injuries or previous adverse reactions should not be given vaccinations!

Speak with your veterinarian about titer testing or state exemptions if your pet is not well enough for vaccinations.

### Training Tip for the Season

One of the many possible side effects of vaccinations is aggression. If your pet is showing signs of aggressive behavior, when they haven't in

- Feline calicivirus
- Feline panleukopenia virus
- Rabies

All vaccinations contain chemicals, such as mercury, aluminum and formaldehyde and these or the vaccine itself could cause side effects ranging from mild to deadly. Adverse reactions can occur immediately after vaccination or years later.

Reactions possible immediately after vaccination:

- Soreness or pain
- Injection site redness
- Fever
- Lethargy
- Facial Swelling
- Circulatory Shock
- Loss of conscious
- Death

Reactions possible weeks, months or even years after vaccination:

- Fibrosarcoma (tumor) at the injection site
- Seizures and epilepsy
- Allergies
- Muscle weakness
- Chronic digestive disorders
- Skin Disease
- Behavioral problems
- Autoimmune diseases, such as immune-mediated thrombocytopenia (ITP) and immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA)

The more vaccines a pet has the greater the risk of having an adverse reaction, which is why many leading veterinarians are calling for the use of titer testing. According to leading veterinarian Dr. Jean Dodds, "A titer test is a simple blood test that measures a dog or cat's antibodies to vaccine viruses (or other infectious agents).

When speaking to your veterinarian about vaccinations, always know what vaccines your pet is getting and beware of combination vaccines. The most popular combination vaccine is the DHPP (distemper, adenovirus [hepatitis], parainfluenza, and parvovirus). The issue with combination vaccinations is if your pet does have a side effect or adverse reaction, you won't know what vaccination caused that reaction! Always know what the initials stand for and never be afraid of asking your veterinarian questions! If your vet isn't taking the time to help you understand what is being put into your pet's body, it may be time to find another vet!

Yes, vaccines save lives but over vaccinating a pet could have lifelong health effects. Don't you owe it to your family member to be educated and informed?

the past, take note of when the behavior started and if it's in relation to a recent vaccination to find out if the new behaviors could be vaccine related.

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### Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

If you are utilizing the services of a Professional Pet Care Specialist, and they don't do group walks, your pet doesn't need the bordetella vaccine.

However, if you take your pet to dog parks or have them boarded at kennels, they may still require the vaccine as they are being exposed to other animals.

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## Featured Pets of the Month

If you have questions about any of our featured pets, want to know the adoption fee, or are interested in giving them a forever home, contact Jen at [Jen@comforthomepetservices.com](mailto:Jen@comforthomepetservices.com).



### Duke and Speckles

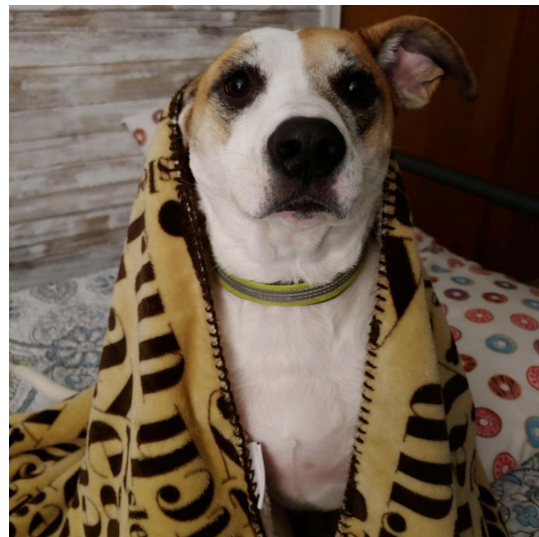
Intelligent and loyal, 5 year old brother and sister with unlimited potential looking for their forever home, hopefully with a veteran in need of two wonderful companions.

Duke and Speckles are up to date on their shots, microchipped, housebroken and neutered/spayed mixed breed! Duke is 103 lbs. and Speckles is 70lbs. The preference would be for them to remain together, as they have been all their lives. They have never been around cats or kids, but get along with other dogs.

They have gone through some obedience training. Speckles has shown signs of being food aggressive but Duke usually waits until she is done before he eats and they are fed in separate areas. Duke can be protective of his house with strangers.

Duke and Speckles are great dogs who will continue to flourish with patience, training and care.

Duke and Speckles are in Pittsburgh, PA.

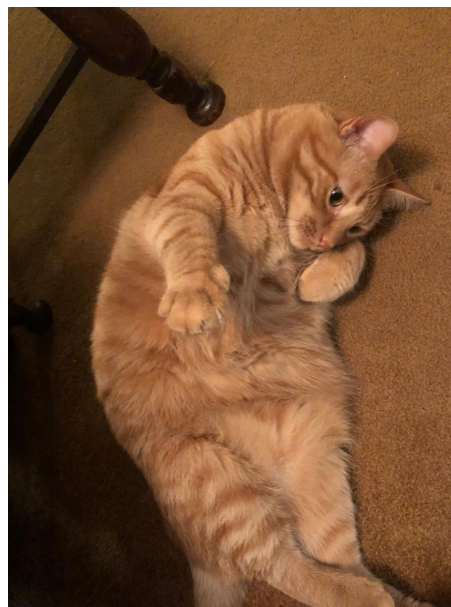




Pretty Boy

We want to introduce you to Pretty Boy, who definitely lives up to his name! This handsome guy is a very sweet 5 year old, neutered, orange striped, domestic shorthair who weighs about 10 -12lbs and is up to date on all vaccinations. Pretty Boy resides in the Penn Hills area of Pittsburgh, PA area.

He can be a very shy at first but once you earn his trust, he loves to cuddle, play and be near you! He loves his toys and will happily roll over for belly rubs and pets. Pretty Boy has lived with a dog and gets along fine with him. Has not been around children or other cats and not sure how well he would do



August Birthdays



These pets will be celebrating a birthday in the month of August!

Phil Kienholz  
Trico Escalante  
Pia Moreau  
Phineas Yates  
Fiona Yates  
Abby McGuire  
Lea Massarelli  
Butters Coleman  
Zeke Diorio  
Aida Diorio  
Rory Gottschall  
Jax Cieslak  
Sidney Poitier Beatty  
Mallie Scheffler  
Cinder Swarts  
Jaxon Standard  
Morty Wiles Ellis

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

## Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

### Apple Cinnamon Delights

Ingredients:

4 cups unbleached white flour  
1/2 cup all natural applesauce (no sugar)  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
1/4 cup honey  
1/4 cup water  
2 eggs  
1/4 cup wheat germ  
1 Tbsp ground cinnamon



1 tsp baking soda

In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients.

Knead the dough on a floured surface.

Roll out the dough to 1/2 inch thickness, and cut out shapes with a cookie cutter. Put the cookies on a baking sheet, 1 inch apart.

Bake at 400 degrees for 8-10 minutes.

When done, the cookies should be firm to the touch. Turn the oven off, and leave the cookies in for 1-2 hours to harden.

## Bacon and Apple Cat Treats

### Ingredients

½ cup bacon grease

1 grated apple with peel

2 cups flour\* plus extra for dusting the dough

Preheat your oven to 350°F (180°C).

Soften the bacon grease in the microwave for about 30 seconds.

Fold in the apple and flour, forming the mixture into a dough.

Mix as little as possible to get an even consistency – or use a pastry dough cutter – this ensures that the cookies have a flaky, delicate texture.

Roll dough onto a well-floured work surface and roll with a rolling pin, sprinkling some flour on top as you go to avoid sticking.

Roll into a sheet approx. 5mm (1/8") thick and use cookie cutters or small object to cut into shapes.

Line cookie sheet with parchment paper, add the pre-cut cookies, and bake at 350°F (180°C) for 20-25 minutes, until golden.



Comfort at Home Pet Services has been featuring many different types of contests on our social media pages! Our contests are fun and educational! Make sure you are following us on all our social media pages for your chance to enter to win fun prizes like a copy of our cookbook or e-gift cards!

You can't win if you don't play! So join the fun!

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