



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

Spay/Neuter Awareness Month



Health Tip for the Season

We all want to keep our beloved pets with us as long as possible and proper diet and exercise is the first step to a long and healthy life for our pets. A proper, nutritionally balanced diet is the foundation for good health and exercise reduces the risk of cardiopulmonary issues and diabetes, as well as keeping those pesky extra pounds off our pet's joints.

February is Spay and Neuter Awareness Month and is dedicated to the importance of controlling the unwanted pet population through spay and neuter. Every year thousands of unwanted animals are dropped off at shelters, abandoned by their owners or worse. Spaying and neutering your pet will help save lives by eliminating the possibility of more unwanted animals. One cat can have up to 3 litters a year equaling 4-6 kittens a litter and dogs can have 2 litters a year with 6-10 puppies a litter. Without intervention, those numbers can quickly climb and keep climbing.

In addition to reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies, spaying and neutering a pet also reduces a pet's risk of many types of cancer, including uterine, testicular and mammary. Unneutered males can also

Training Tip for the Season

A pet parent shouldn't wait until a pet is displaying behavioral issues to contact an educated trainer. An educated trainer will work with your pet to stop unwanted behaviors before they start and allow all members of

display behavioral issues, marking, and are more likely to run off and become lost.

Some pet parents delay spay and neuter because they want to breed their pet. As wonderful as all of our pets are, breeding should be left to responsible breeding programs. Responsible breeders will test for health and temperament issues before breeding, whereas most pet parents don't have the means for such testing. This is especially true of rescues. We love all dogs, including rescues and mixes, but most times they come to us without knowledge of their possible health issues.

Pets can be spayed at a very early age, but it's best to discuss with your veterinary professional about the benefits vs risk of spaying young puppies and kittens. Spaying and neutering too early can lead to stunted growth and development and joint issues in larger dogs. If a pet parent does choose to wait until their pet is a year or older before spaying, it's imperative to keep vigilant in regards to unwanted pregnancies.

We believe all animals should be able to have loving homes and spay and neuter will help make that happen by eliminating unwanted pets.

the family to live in harmony with their pets.

Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

Make sure all tags, including rabies, are available to your Professional Pet Care Specialist. All pets being taken out for a walk must have a current license and rabies tag on them. A pet found to be outside without proper licensing and rabies tags could result in hefty fines for the pet parent.

Featured Organization of the Month



CART

The Westmoreland/Fayette/Allegheny County Animal Response Team (CART) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals in times of disaster or emergency. Every County has a CART, which operates under the guidance of the State Animal Response Team (SART). CART Members come from all walks of life but share a love for animals, and are trained, credentialed emergency response officials. CART has two primary missions. The first is temporary sheltering for animals displaced by emergencies or disasters, such as fires, floods,

extreme weather. etc. Like the Red Cross, which opens temporary shelters for people who have had to evacuate their home , CART can quickly set up a temporary animal shelter for animals displaced as a result of a disaster or emergency. It is critically important that when people must evacuate their home that they take their pets with them, and CART can give them peace of mind knowing that there is a safe place for their pets to go while they are in a temporary shelter for people. CART does not just deal with small animals like dogs, cats , reptiles, birds, etc., but can also, if need be during a disaster, arrange temporary sheltering for large animals such as horses as well as livestock. CART can also provide "Pet Care Comfort Kits" of supplies for people who may have lost everything in a disaster.

CART's other main mission is technical rescue, and that generally involves the use of specialized equipment to rescue animals that have somehow gotten themselves "stuck." Just a few of the technical rescues CART has conducted include the rescue of horses stuck in mud or cast in a trailer or stall, the extrication of a calf that had fallen into an abandoned mine shaft, a cat in a wall, and a dog in a sewer line. While all CART Members have completed extensive training, those serving on the Large Animal Team are required to complete specialized large animal technical rescue training due to the dangers involved when dealing with large animals such as horses or livestock, as well as the need to be proficient in the use of specialized rescue equipment.

CART is generally called out through 911 or by other First Responders or the Red Cross. While CART is not authorized to enforce animal cruelty laws, it can be called out to assist Humane Officers or Police for such things as animal hoarding situations. Also, while CART does not normally deal with wildlife, it can provide assistance to the Game Commission or Wildlife Centers by transporting injured wildlife.

CART is especially proud of its Pet Oxygen Mask Program. Program Sponsors provide funding for the purchase of special pet oxygen masks, and CART then distributes the masks to fire departments and other first responders, and also provides them with training on the masks as well as pet first aid and CPR. To date CART has been able to provide over 370 sets of pet oxygen masks to over 125 fire departments or other emergency response organizations.

More information about CART, including how to become a CART Member, sponsor pet oxygen masks, make a monetary donation, or donate items for our Pet Care Comfort Kits, can be found on CART's website:
<http://westmorelandcart.weebly.com/>

You can also find information about recent incidents, activities, etc. on CART's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WFACART.PA/>

February Birthdays



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

Figaro Ball
Tigre Rodriguez-Cochran
Kenai Ellis
Lucy Bishop
Figaro Bishop
Sheriff Miller
Thor Boczar
Gunnar Thomas
DBo Leonard
Leia Mellon
Fluffy Wolfe
Big Ears Wolfe
Bella Matthews
Rosie Adams
Harley Bonacci
Penny Bonacci

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

Heart Shaped Cranberry Cookies for Dogs

Ingredients

- 2 Eggs
- 1.5 Cups Almond Flour
- 1 Tablespoon Coconut Oil
- 3-4 Tablespoons Coconut Flour
- 1/2 Cup Dried Cranberries



Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

Beat the eggs and set aside

Combine almond flour, coconut oil, and dried cranberries in a bowl.

Add in the eggs and knead the ingredients with your hands. Dough will be wet and sticky.

Add in the coconut flour one tablespoon at a time to achieve a consistency that is easy to roll out and not overly sticky. This should take approximately 3-4 TBSP.

Roll out the dough and cut out the treats using heart shaped cookie cutters.

Place the treats on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.

Bake for 15-18 minutes or until crisp.

Catnip Heart Cookies

Ingredients

- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup of whole wheat flour
- 2 tablespoons of wheat germ
- 2-4 tablespoons of catnip
- 1/3 cup of milk
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon of molasses
- 1 egg



Directions

Begin by preheating the oven to 350 degrees.

Combine the dry ingredients in a bowl (flour, wheat germ and catnip).

Combine the wet ingredients in a bowl (egg, milk, vegetable oil and molasses).

Mix the wet and dry ingredients together and work it into a dough

Remove a portion of dough and use a rolling pin to flatten the dough to a thickness between 1/8 of an inch and 1/4 of an inch.

Cut the dough into hearts using a cookie cutter or a knife.

Place the cookies on a lightly greased cookie sheet.

Bake the cookies for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the cookies are crisp and lightly browned.

Barking Truth

Clients, followers and friends have voiced their appreciation of our educational blogs and monthly newsletters and have urged us to release a pet care podcast. We are excited to



Barking Truth

By Comfort at Home Pet Services

announce that we have answered the call with Barking Truth, a podcast exposing the truth in the pet industry to keep all pets safe, healthy and well.

We will be releasing a new podcast every Wednesday and hope you can tune in and support pets everywhere by uncovering the truth of pet care.

Be sure to follow us on Anchor, Spotify or your favorite podcast service.



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner strives to provide educational, informative and fun content to our readers! We love hearing your feedback on our newsletters and blogs and want to know what you, dear reader, would like to see in future newsletters and blogs. Are there topics you are interested in that we haven't covered or you would like more specific information? Please feel free to let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

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