

Helping Hands Veterinary Clinic

Happy New Year!

Top 3 New Year's Resolutions for Your Pet

1) Weight Loss: Over 50% of American pets are either overweight or obese. That's 93 million dogs & cats!

This is the single most important thing the owner of an overweight pet can do for their friend. Recent studies have shown that we can increase a dog's lifespan by two years or more by keeping that extra weight off! In addition to improving the pet's quality of life and lengthening their lifespan, weight loss can reduce the risk of Diabetes, high blood pressure and arthritis. Reduction of calories and increasing exercise are the keys to weight loss. Talk to our weight coaches about how they can help your pet!

2) Dental Care: This is not a cosmetic issue for our pets; it is a serious health issue.

Often people are not aware of the potential consequences of dental disease. Although dogs don't typically get cavities like we do, they certainly do get periodontal disease and that's where the biggest risks lie. Periodontal disease (inflammation & infection of the gum tissue around the teeth) can lead to kidney failure, heart disease, liver infection, and many other problems. The more bacteria present deep in the periodontal pockets, the higher the risk. But pet owners can't see those nasty pockets & often don't realize the dangers. A simple adage: Bad breath is NOT normal! Eighty percent of pets over the age of three have dental disease. After all, imagine if you didn't brush or floss your teeth for 4 to 5 years and never had them cleaned by the dental hygienist it's a miracle dogs don't have more problems with their mouths than they do. And remember, dogs use their mouths like we use our hands... a painful mouth is tremendously detrimental for them. They just don't have the means (or the inclination) to complain! Talk to us today about your pet's teeth!

3) Monitor Labwork for all Pets ages three and up.

Labwork is a unclear term at best, but typically includes basic blood chemistries to look at the kidneys, liver, electrolytes, blood sugar and pancreas. The CBC or complete blood count gives us a view of the white and red blood cell numbers and ratios of different types. These things all give the veterinarian a pretty impressive view of what's happening inside the patient. After all, animals can't tell us what they're feeling, so the vet has to be part detective to get a good picture a pet's health. For seniors, this is best done every 6 months since dogs and cats age so much more quickly than we do. Detecting an illness early on typically improves the prognosis for the patient and makes treatment more straight-forward (and often less costly). Many diseases common to middle-aged and senior pets can be easily managed if detected early on.



Favorite toy?

Jagg, has a stuffed octopus called Takoyaki. Tanz has a stuffed horse that always ends up in their water bowl.

PET OF THE MONTH!

Jagg & Tanz are twin 5 year old Siamese Mixes

Favorite treat?

Tanz, it would be plastic, he chews on it every chance he gets! Jagg, goes crazy for vanilla ice cream.

Favorite sleeping spot?

When the fireplace is on, they like to curl up on a soft throw blanket we keep in front of it.

Best trick?

Tanz, likes to play tag. Jagg recites "emo" kitty poetry.



NEWS & EVENTS

www.helpinghandsvet.com

Firstline Magazine

HHVC made the December issue for HHVC Lynnwood elementary school visits. Check out of website for an online link!



HHVC Online Shopping

HHVC now has online shopping Please check out our front-page of our website for our link to our online store.

January 2013 Clinic Promo

Puppy and Kitten Month! Schedule your new puppy or kitten exam and receive a free nail trim and toy! Call us today to schedule your visit. .