

# Pet Gazette



BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
Animal Care Center of Pasco  
Country Oaks Animal Hospital  
Best Care Animal Hospital



## Spring is in The Air!

Spring is here and unfortunately so is allergy season. There are many things that can make our eyes, skin, and ears itchy and the same goes for our family pets. So keep in mind that they can be just as miserable as we are, sneezing and feeling itchy all over. There are many pollens, mold, and bugs in the air and on the ground that make our pets go crazy. When you see Fido scratching in the corner keeping you up at night, don't hesitate. It's not too late, we have many solutions to solve these problems.

If it's a flea, tick or mosquito problem, there are preventatives offered at the front desk, such as CAPSTAR and Sentinel. If it's not the bugs that are bugging your pet, make an appointment and one of our doctors will do the rest.



## Thunderstorms and your pet

For many pets who reside in Florida thunderstorms can be terrifying. Just try to imagine you're a little poodle minding your own business and an ear shattering sound echoes through your ears. You have no idea where it came from or when it will come to hurt you.

Our pets have to endure many thunderstorms during the rainy and hurricane seasons here in Florida. Some pets could care less about storms while others would squeeze themselves under an owner's bed to get away from the sounds. We, as owners, need to do our part to make things easier for these poor animals. So here are some helpful tips to get your pet through the thunderstorm season.

- 1.) Never cuddle or try to comfort your pet during a thunderstorm. Doing this will make your pet more afraid, because it reinforces fear behavior.
- 2.) Play soft music during the 11/storm
- 3.) Play your pet's favorite game
- 4.) Have a training session. Teach your pet a new trick giving her lots of praise and treats
- 5.) Stuff a puzzle toy with either peanut butter, cream cheese or even a favorite treat
- 6.) Have a safe, place for your pet to go. Never lock your pet in his safe place, always leave an exit.
- 7.) If you see your pet starting to get worried during a storm try to redirect his attention onto something positive to keep his mind off of the thunder

These are just a few tips to prevent thunderstorm fears. If your pet has a fear of storms contact your veterinarian before next summer so he can put you both on a behavior modification program.

### Did you know?

1. A single female flea can lay up to 2,000 eggs over her life time.

2. CAPSTAR tablets begin working to kill fleas within 30 minutes. In studies, CAPSTAR achieved greater than 90% effectiveness against adult fleas on dogs within 4 hours and cats within 6 hours.

Lonely... looking for the perfect mate?

Looking for someone who likes taking long walks on the beach or maybe just someone to curl up on the couch and watch a movie, an all around perfect companion. There are many fish in the sea so don't fall for the first cutie that comes your way. Let Tiffany our pet finder consultant help you find the perfect pet for you and your family

### **Is your dog redecorating your house while you're gone?**

Country Oaks Animal Hospital offers doggie day care. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday your pet can stay in one of our suites which include a raised bed and a comfy mat to sleep on. One of our day care attendants will take your pet to a play area where they will play with other happy dogs for two hours twice a day. Your pet will be served gourmet bowls of kibble for breakfast and, if you choose, dinner as well. We also offer your pet a selection of interactive toys to play with while they are relaxing in their suites.



### **Puppy Please (a.k.a "sit")**

Teaching a puppy to sit is fun and easy. All you need is a puppy and a delicious soft treat. Having a soft treat is important because we want your puppy to gobble it up fast and not be distracted by chewing. Call your puppy over, when she comes to you give her a treat so you have her attention. Show her a treat; hold the treat above her head, when she looks up at the treat move it slowly over her head towards her bottom.

Puppies are like little teeter-totters their head goes up the butt goes down! As her bottom moves toward the ground say "sit". Mark the sit with "good girl" or "boy" and give her a treat when she sits. Smile and repeat!

### **Common problems and simple ways to fix them**

-Porter jumps up when I hold the treat above his nose

Hold the treat closer in his nose he may be jumping because the treat is too high

-Ben just keeps backing away trying to follow the treat

Start with a corner so Ben can not back up and make sure the treat is not too high

-Breeze just acts crazy when try to get her to sit

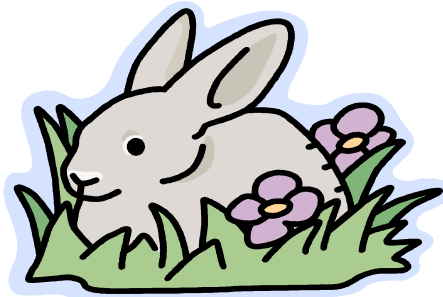
She may enjoy her treats too much! Try after a meal, different treats, or a time during the day when things are very calm. Remember training sessions should always be a positive experience for you and your puppy.

# Puppy Kindergarten

## Attention:

All puppies big and small ages 8 weeks to 4 months grab your owners this is for you!

Classes are held at Country Oaks Animal Hospital on Wednesdays or Saturdays. Classes include, introduction to positive reinforcement, potty training information, basic commands, socialization with other puppies and much more. To make an appointment or for further information contact Joanna at Country Oaks Animal Hospital (727)857-9977.



## Things to consider around Easter before purchasing rabbits, chick's ext.

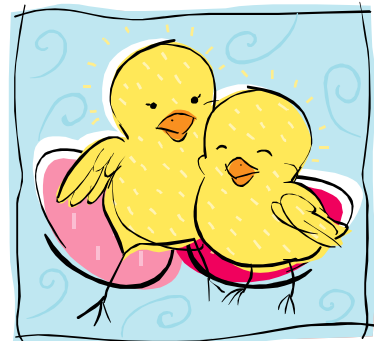
Choosing a rabbit as a pet should not be an impulse buy as a gift for your child. A rabbit's life span is up to 12 years. So your bunny will still be around long after the excitement has worn off. This means that the bunny is usually forgotten about, neglected and later on discarded.

You can't just buy a bunny put it in a small cage with a bowl full of pellets and a water bottle and think that's all your rabbit needs. They are very social animals and want to be made a part of the family just like dogs and cats. They need enrichment, room to roam, a place to forage and dig. Most importantly, rabbits need to feel safe in their home environment. Rabbits are very delicate creatures; they require a responsible owner who is educated on rabbit husbandry.

Live rabbits are not just a cute Easter decoration that's what stuffed ones are for.

Chicks are another impulse buy, they are cute and fuzzy at first but

they will turn into a rooster or hen. Things to keep in mind, you need to check your zoning to see if livestock is permitted. Be sure to keep in mind where they will stay when they no longer fit in the palm of your hand and are not as friendly as they once were. These animals are very fragile and need to be kept very clean, need special heat lamps, and supplemental vitamins as chicks. They are not meant to be handled by immature hands without adult supervision. They can also carry diseases that can spread to your family members without proper handling and disinfecting.



## Meet The Employees

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### Jolene Connors

Jolene has been working at Country Oaks Animal Hospital for about two years. She came to us with about 5 years of technician experience, from general practice to emergency medicine. Jolene is married and has three children, 2 boys and 1 little girl her extended family includes 3 dogs and 1 cat.

Jolene is in charge of Country Oaks Animal Hospitals adoption program helping cats and kittens find loving homes. Jolene also pet sits and visits owners homes to help medicate their pets or take them for an extra walk while they are at work.

Jolene has a special interest in dermatology she ran the Atopica program at Country Oaks which helped owners deal with their pet's allergies. The dogs appreciated her too!

We see a number of puppies at Country Oaks and they all love Jolene, who carries peanut butter and dog biscuits in her pocket! Jolene is a sweet and compassionate person we are lucky to have her.

### Beata Kispal

Beata works at Best Care Animal Hospital. She started her technician career at Animal Care Center about 5 years ago. Beata has 7 furry kids, 3 cats and 4 dogs. She also has a number of fish. She is currently attending Saint Petersburg College to earn her veterinary technician certification.

Beata and fellow technician Gabby (who works at Animal Care Center) have started an adoption program out side of Best Care Animal Hospital which helps sick, injured or abandoned animals find homes. Beata is also in charge of the adoption program at Best Care, which helps cats and kittens find loving homes.

Beata and many other employees of Animal Care Center inc. rushed to Louisiana to help rescue animals after hurricane Katrina. They also brought back a number of dogs and cats later finding their owners. Those whose owners were not found were adopted.

Beata has brought a lot to Animal Care Center Inc. We love her compassion and good natured heart. Many animals have been saved and adopted because of Beata we thank her for all her hard work.

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