

Pet Gazette

Brought to you by:
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Get Fit With Your Pet Walk is Back!

Who: You, your dog and the whole family

What: A walk in the park to promote fitness and weight loss for your pet. There will also be a costume contest, food for you and your pet, fun, photos and prizes!

Where: Starkey park Corral Area

When: October 28, 2007 at 10:00am

Why: To get your couch potato pets off the couch and to have a fun filled day with the whole family.



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Watch Your Pets Around Your Picnic!

The smell of back yard BBQ can be pretty tempting even to our pets. Around this time of year we are spending more time outside picnicking and grilling. We have to be sure to pay close attention to our pets around hot grills and food that may be left on the table.

The best thing to do with Rover when you are having a BBQ is to keep him indoors away from scraps that may have fallen to the ground or passed from little hands that can't ignore cute a face begging for something "good to eat". There are fun interactive toys to keep Rover busy. "Busy Buddies" can be filled with your pet's favorite treat or dog food. These toys are available at the front desk at all three of our animal hospitals.

Common sense tells you what hot coals will do to your pet, but many people overlook the dangers in that greasy hamburger and fries that we give to our furry friends. Their digestive systems work differently than ours do. Strange foods can cause a condition called pancreatitis. Pancreatitis occurs after eating a rich fatty meal. Symptoms of pancreatitis include vomiting, diarrhea, fever and abdominal pain. More severe case could also include acute shock, behavioral depression or even death if left untreated. If pancreatitis is suspected, please contact one of our offices. Treatment often requires several days of hospitalization on intravenous fluids.



Did someone
say picnic?

Did You Know

1. That overweight cats may be predisposed to diabetes.
2. Dogs age approximately seven times faster than humans.
3. Dogs and cats are considered to be "senior citizens" around 7 years of age depending on their breed.
4. Every year after the age of seven, dogs and cats should have a wellness exam with blood and urine sample analyzed.
5. Our annual *Get Fit with Your Pet Walk* will have a "Trade-in-You-Cup" booth. Bring in your food scoop to trade and learn about portion control.

Nail Trims

As pet owners, we know when the time has come for our feline or canine friends to have a nail trim. But we hesitate to take them in to a veterinarian or groomer because most pets do not like it, and we know it. They shake and shiver as soon as they walk through the doors of the office and they get in the car they become stressed and upset every time. Nail trims don't have to be this stressful for you or your pet. Try these tips to minimize fear and help prevent stress altogether!

1. START YOUNG! Treats are our FRIEND! When your pet is still a baby pick up their feet and play with their little toes, giving lots of yummy treats. This teaches them that having someone touch their feet isn't so bad. This works for adults dogs too!
2. Bring your dog or cat into the veterinary office for fun visits. These visits should consist of treats, affection from the veterinary staff and more treats, with no poking or prodding.
3. Most of all we have to remember, every nail trim experience has to be a positive experience. This means no yelling or rough handling. Yelling and rough handling NEVER help our pets enjoy their nail trims and may be counter productive.



Pet Super Star



Duchess has been with our family all of her 13 years. My husband purchased her before we were married and she has been with us through three children, five moves, and numerous cats and dogs. I will admit that she was every difficult young dog. Every naughty thing a lab puppy can do, she did. But as soon as our first child arrived, she suddenly found a purpose. So we nick named her "the nanny". She has spent the last 8 years following our 3 children and their friends from room to room, up the stairs and down the stairs a hundred times a day, across the yard and around the block, making sure she keeps them in sight. Unfortunately, her time with us will not last for ever. She suffers from cancer and a form of paralysis that makes getting around difficult. We treat her with several medications to keep her comfortable. And she continues to look after her boys, though we often have to tell them to slow down and wait for Duchie. Our kids sometimes get aggravated that she's always shadowing them, always getting in their way, and like a true Labrador eating anything they leave unattended. I tell the kids that this dog has survived pancreatitis, a rattle snake bite, numerous tumors, and our neglect while we focus on raising our children. I tell them that Duchess has taught us how to be good parents by teaching us patients, fairness, and discipline. She has taught my husband and I about forgiveness, devotion, and enduring love. But what she has taught my children about compassion, selflessness, and responsibility is priceless. For all of these things that she has brought to our family, we are forever indebted to her. She is currently in comfort care at Animal Care Center, a pet hospice program developed to make her last months with us as rich as possible. We carry her up and down the stairs, we change the way we feed and medicate her depending on how she's feeling, and we now look after her as if she were one of the children. Because she has done so much for us for all these years, these are small inconveniences. Duchess is that special soul that is rare and wonderful. For what she has meant to our family, we are forever grateful.

Thank you Amanda Miller for submitting your touching story about your Duchie. Please continue to send in stories and pictures for upcoming issues of The Pet Gazette.



Duchess Miller

September is Senior Wellness Month

Cats and dogs age much faster than humans do.

With increasing age, a pet's body organs may not function as efficiently and his immune system can lose some of its effectiveness. As a result, our older pets are prone to get ill more often, as well as suffer from many more aches and pains. With these body changes also comes a change in energy and dietary requirements.

All three of our hospitals offer senior wellness screening all year long. "Senior at Seven" blood panel includes a comprehensive physical exam, complete blood count, biochemistry profile, thyroid testing and a urinalysis. These screening tests may allow us to detect a disease or condition before a pet begins to show signs of illness. These tests along with a physical exam, guide us in making medical recommendations to manage or correct problems before irreparable damage is done. With senior wellness testing, early detection and correction of medical problems ensure that your older pet will be healthy and active for as long as possible.

COMPARATIVE AGES OF CATS AND HUMANS	
Cat Years	Human Years
1	15
2	24
5	36
7	45
12	64
15	76
18	88
21	100

COMPARATIVE AGE IN HUMAN YEARS				
Dog's Age	0-20 lbs.	21-50 lbs.	51-90 lbs.	>90 lbs.
5 years	36	37	40	42
6 years	40	42	45	49
7 years	44	47	50	56
10 years	56	60	66	78
12 years	64	69	77	93
15 years	76	83	93	115
20 years	96	105	120	-

Pet Portals are Now Available!

Pet Portals are private websites that give you secure online access to your pet's health information.

Here's how you get a Pet Portal

- Sign up on our website
- Give your e-mail address to our receptionists
- Call us on the phone and give us your e-mail address

Do I need a Separate Pet Portal for each pet?

No! Your Pet Portal contains information for each pet with an active file in your account with us. (In order to have an account, your pet must have visited our hospital.)

How secure is my Pet Portal?

Your Pet Portal resides on a secure server protected by a fire wall. Your personal information cannot be viewed by other Pet Portal users.

What do you do with my e-mail address?

We use e-mail to remind you about your pet's health needs and to let you know about new Pet Portal services and features. We DO NOT sell our client list for use by third parties



We have a Pet Portal!

Little Bit Kondourus as a kitten. He is in the gray coat; he is now 7 seven years old.

Meet the Staff

Amanda

Amanda has worked at Country Oaks Animal Hospital for a year and a half. She started as a technician assistant and is quickly moving up as a technician. She enjoys assisting in surgery and taking care of hospitalized and sick patients. Amanda is our adoption manager, she takes care of all the cats and kittens that have been abandoned at or relinquished to Country Oaks. When she is not taking care of pets at work she is at home taking care of her 5 cats and 3 dogs, 2 of which were rescues! She is attending PHCC and aspires to be a veterinarian. Amanda is a sweet and caring team member who we can always count on, we are happy to call her an employee of Country Oaks Animal Hospital.



Amanda Stewart
Country Oaks
Animal Hospital

Erica

Erica has worked at Country Oaks Animal Hospital as a veterinary technician for approximately four years. She really enjoys her role as our dental technician. She is very knowledgeable about preventative care and after care, and performs a lot of our routine dental procedures. Erica also has an interest in canine behavior and has helped teach a number of puppy classes at Country Oaks. When Erica is not working at Country Oaks, she is working even harder at home, as a mother of two beautiful girls, and the pet parent of over 16 pets! Her menagerie includes 2 horses, 3 dogs, 3 cats, 1 bird and several other pocket pets. Erica enjoys horseback riding with both of her girls. She has competed in hundreds of horse shows, riding both Western and English riding styles. Erica has brought a lot to Country Oaks Animal Hospital; we are happy and lucky to have her.



Erica Marquis
Country Oaks
Animal Hospital

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