



# NVH Pawprints

Newtown Veterinary  
Hospital

July 2007

## Vaccinations and Your Pet By: Pfizer Animal Health

### Why is vaccination important?

All dogs are at risk of exposure to various infectious diseases, some of which are life-threatening. Others such as rabies also pose a public health risk. Vaccination to prevent common infectious diseases supports the first goal of medicine: disease prevention. Prevention of infectious disease is more beneficial to your pet than treating disease once it occurs. In general, viral infections cannot be treated, but symptoms may be managed by medication. Preventive vaccination is one of the most reliable and cost-effective methods of health care available to a pet owner.

### How does vaccination work?

Vaccines contain killed or

modified live (weakened) forms of viruses or bacteria. They stimulate production of protective antibodies in healthy animals that neutralize the virus or bacteria if the animal is later exposed. Some vaccines contain combinations of several viruses or bacteria that immunize against several diseases, minimizing inconvenience to the owner and discomfort for the pet.

Why do puppies require more frequent vaccinations than older dogs?

Nursing puppies ingest antibodies from their mothers. These maternal antibodies provide early protection against infectious disease. However, they also neutralize the immunizing agents in vaccines. Maternal antibodies naturally decline during the first three to four

months of life and eventually disappear. For this reason, puppies should receive a series of vaccinations beginning at about six weeks of age. This increases the likelihood of long-term protection from vaccination as soon as maternal antibody levels have declined below protective levels.

What about the potential risks of vaccination?

The benefits of vaccination are usually considered to far outweigh the relatively small risk of vaccine-related adverse effects. Allergic reactions to vaccination and local, injection-site irritation are uncommon, but they do occur. Your veterinarian can advise you of the possible risks associated with vaccination and the steps to take if vaccine-related reactions occur.



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### Fun Animal Facts:

- The Honey Badger can withstand hundreds of African bee stings that would kill any other animal.
- More than 99.9% of all the animal species that have ever lived on earth were extinct before the coming of man.
- Camel hair brushes are made from squirrel hair.
- Elephants have been found swimming miles from shore in the Indian Ocean.
- A group of kangaroos is called a mob.

## About Rabies By: The PA Dept of Agriculture

Rabies is a viral disease most frequently transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. It can also be transmitted by getting infected saliva into an open wound or fresh abrasion, a mucous membrane, or the eye.

Signs of rabies in animals vary from a quiet depressed state to a furious erratic behavior pattern. Changes in behavior and temperament are often early signs of the disease.

If you are bitten by an ani-

mal, wash the wound thoroughly with plenty of soap and water. Contact a physician about medical treatment.

If the biting animal is a domestic dog or cat, confine and isolate it. Contact a veterinarian about having the animal examined and for handling procedures.

Pets exposed to a possibly rabid animal should be confined, isolated and handled as little as possible. Contact a veterinarian for advice.

In the event of a pet or human exposure to rabies, assistance can be obtained through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Health, humane societies and local and state police. If a wild animal is involved, Game Commission representatives in your area should be contacted.

For more information contact the PA Dept of Agriculture at 717-787-3062 or [www.agriculture.state.pa.us](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us)

## 180 Amazing Cat Facts By: American Media Mini Mags, INC



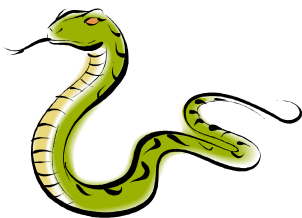
- Despite calling Jesus “the Lion of Judah” and using the lion to symbolize the Gospel of St. Mark, Christianity has not always treated cats kindly. St. Gertrude of Nivelles was associated with cats and St. Francis of Assisi became known as the champion of all creatures. Nevertheless, night-prowling felines somehow came to be associated with the devil and witches, and a host of cruel practices arose in the name of banishing evil.
- After cats started killing plague-bearing rats during the Middle Ages, they began to return to the good graces of European Christians. Popes Leo XII and Pius IX and Cardinal Richelieu were only three of many cat-loving pillars of the Church.
- Catty superstitions persist to this day. Americans believe white cats are lucky and black cats unlucky, while Britons think the reverse is true. Professional gamblers everywhere believe that caring for cats and treating them well will increase their luck. (Cats probably started this rumor in order to increase the number of good homes available to them.)

*“I love cats because I enjoy my home; and little by little, they become its visible soul.”*

Jean Cocteau

*“If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, then animals are better off than a lot of humans”*

James Herriot



## 101 Things You Didn’t Know Could Harm Your Pet

By: ASPCA Strategic Partner Pet Insurance

### Holiday Hazards

The holidays are special times during the year when families and friends come together in celebration. Unfortunately, many pet owners fail to recognize the potential dangers that these special occasions pose.

National Holidays such as the Fourth of July have one

of the most well known hazards to humans who use them, but they also are a major hazard to our pets.



### FIREWORKS

Fireworks not only scare pets and cause them to run off, but they can also cause serious injuries if detonated near your dog or cat. Many formulations can be potentially toxic to pets if ingested as well.

## Out Door Dangers By: The Purina Pet Care Center

When a dog and a porcupine meet, the dog is usually the loser and may leave the encounter with quills in his face, neck and front legs. The dog generally rolls and paws at himself, exacerbating this painful situation. Get the dog on a leash as quickly as possible to control him. Veterinary care is recommended if the quills are to be removed without damaging the tissues and

without excessive pain to the dog. To help prevent this problem, restrain your dog immediately if he encounters a porcupine. Do not let your dog run free without supervision or without a leash (depending upon how well-trained your dog is) in areas known to be inhabited by porcupines. Snakebites present a danger in certain parts of the country. If your dog is bitten by

a nonpoisonous snake, see your veterinarian about appropriate treatment. If the snake is poisonous, immediate veterinary treatment is essential. Call ahead to be certain a veterinarian will be ready to receive the dog and has access to the needed anti-venom. If possible, try to identify the most likely kind of snake.

## It's a Date By: Monica Schultz Dog Fancy August 2007

When Kate Borowske of St. Paul, Minn., adopted Lillie, a 2-year-old West highland white Terrier, she was aware of Lillie's high energy, but did not expect to play hours of fetch.

"That's when my neighbor approached me with a play date offer," she says. "She said no matter how much I love Lillie, she'll drive me crazy sometimes. Now Lillie occasionally visits Sadie, my neighbor's Golden Retriever. I relax. They play." Play dates - planned interactions of two or three dogs - provide socialization and exercise, but aren't the free-for-all environment of the dog park. According to Peter Borchelkt, Ph.D., of Animal Behavior Consultants in Brooklyn, N.Y., "Play dates sound yuppie, but they're a good idea for

puppies, overly dominant dogs, dogs who misinterpret play behavior as dominance, and dogs who are easily intimidated."

Associates Inc. in Littleton, Colo., agrees. She emphasizes benefits for young puppies. "Dog parks may not be a good idea for puppies who have not received their full series of vaccinations," she says. "While physical health is important, so is behavioral health. By the time the last series of vaccinations has occurred, a key social developmental period has ended. Play dates allow a safe, controlled physical environment while promoting social development."

Arranging play dates for your dog is like arranging play dates for your kids, Borchelkt says, "You want to

make certain to find a dog your dog likes, and arrange a situation that is somewhat convenient for you. It takes networking, and it requires that your dog actually meet the potential playmate."

Linda Williams of Grand Rapids, Mich., reports that the family's 8-year-old Boxer Chloe schedules her own play dates. "When Chloe needs company, she looks out the window and waits for her best friend, a yellow Labrador Retriever named Abby. When Abby is outside, Chloe runs to the door and barks. We let her out, and she trots next door."

And how do Abby's owners like this arrangement? "They love it," Linda reports. "Who wouldn't love a friendly neighbor who entertains our dog?"



*"I think I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid and self-contained, I stand and look at them long and long."*

Walt Whitman

*"There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face."*

Ben Williams



Before your play date you should verify that participating dogs have current vaccinations. Ensure that the interaction is supervised either by you or the playmate's owner. Agree how each person is to handle his or her dog should one become aggressive. Restrict toys if you expect disagreement.

## Interesting Wild Animals By: Best Friends March/April 2007

**Home is Where the Dung is!** Burrowing owls may rank among the most pragmatic of nonhuman species. The pint-sized birds (just eight inches long) live underground, and line their nests with doo-doo collected from cows, horses, dogs and other mammals. So what's that all about?

It's part of a strategy to attract insects who like the smell. What a setup! The owls never have to hunt or

forage - they just sit back and enjoy home delivery all the time.

### **Straws? We Don't Need No Stinking Straws!**

Imagine what you could do with a tongue that's longer than your body - lap up someone else's cup of coffee from right across the kitchen!

OK, so that's not civilized behavior for humans, but it's critical to the survival of nectar bats, who live in the

cloud forests of the Ecuadorian Andes. Their primary food source is corollas - flowers hidden at the end of long funnels. The bats need their extra-long tongues to probe the natural roadblocks of plants and grasses to reach their prize.

So while nectar bats only have to stick out a long tongue for their morning cup on the commute to work, we humans are still stuck in long lines at the local coffee shop.



## Newtown Veterinary Hospital

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### CALENDAR

- July 1st - John's Birthday
- July 4th - CLOSED for the Holiday
- July 19th - Riki's Birthday
- September 1st-3rd - CLOSED Labor Day Weekend
- September 15th - PET FAIR CLOSED

### Our four-legged friends who have passed away

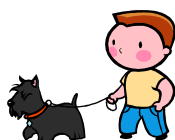
Flick Zacharias, Phoenix Marenghi, Kasey Fife, Kitty Proto, Rocky Nyquisit, Rascal Bucantis, Mulligan Grossman, Chloe Reiser, Shane DeNucci, Susie Landis, Mickey Galley, Sampson Corless, Mittens Johnson, Cinnamon Crane,



Blueberry Paletz, Sophie Linck, Zipper Hammill, Bogie Blau, Julio Conover, Wendy Stieffenhofer, Socrates Stevens, Bucco Sykes-Dick, Yogi Dinon, Riley Curran  
We Will Miss Them All

### Newtown Veterinary Hospital Core Values

1. Communication
2. Community
3. Excellence
4. Compassion
5. Integrity



### Fun Animal Fact

Animals attend church services on St. Anthony's Day in Mexico. This popular saint, who is regarded as a healer of people and animals, is asked to protect pets, who are decorated with flowers and ribbons for the occasion. In rural areas, peasants also bring bags of insects and worms to be blessed in church, in the hope that this will prevent these creatures from damaging crops.

## Once Upon a Dog By: Family Dog Magazine March/April 2007

### BEAGLE-I

Charles M. "Sparky" Schultz (1922-2000) began his "Peanuts" comic strip in 1950. The nominal star was Charlie Brown, but the big breakout character was his dog. By the mid-1960s, Snoopy had transformed Schulz from a working cartoonist to an iconographer in the class of Disney and Dr. Seuss.

It's hard to overstate Snoopy's prevalence during the '60s and '70s. The widely syndicated comic strip spawned books, toys, posters, feature films, songs ("Snoopy vs. the Red

Baron" was a big hit of 1966), and a series of top-rated TV specials.

Snoopy was at peak popularity in 1979, when he became the only dog - fictional or otherwise - to ever receive an honorary AKC registration number: BEAGLE-I.

Schulz was delighted by the tribute and granted an exclusive interview to the AKC GAZETTE. In his studio at 1 Snoopy Way, Santa Rosa, California, he told the magazine that he had only just recently grasped the magnitude of Snoopy's fame. His epiphany came at

ground zero of American culture, the Ice Capades.

"A girl in a Snoopy costume skated onto the ice. Suddenly all the kids in the arena started yelling, 'Snoopy, Snoopy! Hey, look over here!' He was real to them, and it came as sort of a shock to me to realize that it was my creation, that I had thought of it, and at one time there was no Snoopy. Now here they were, yelling at him like he was Mickey Mouse. It gives you a lot to think about."



Picture from snoopy.com  
The official "Peanuts" website