

PARKSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL e-NEWSLETTER

1780 Rufe Snow Drive
Keller, Texas 76248



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WELCOME to the 1st edition of Parkside Animal Hospital's monthly newsletter:

September 2008, Vol. 1, No. 1.

Look forward to health care tips and information, including services available for your pet; product rebates/promotions and much more, coordinating with the Parkside Animal Hospital website: www.parksideanimalhospital.com

Please feel free to make suggestions on what YOU would find helpful or enjoyable!

September is Senior Pet Health Care Month

Special packaging of diagnostic tests and special pricing

for pets 7 years and older. Savings up to \$114.00.

Discounts also on dental cleaning for senior pets.

Please call our staff or see our website for services offered

www.parksideanimalhospital.com

GROOMING SERVICES

NOW AVAILABLE!

Margie is here! Call for appointments on

TUESDAYs – THURSDAYs – FRIDAYs

Call 817-281-1111 for information & to schedule.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PET PLAY

Pets need play throughout their lives. As they age, mental activity may slow down; but even in old age, the mental activities of a dog or cat can be preserved by constantly providing stimulating activity. An interesting object of play offers daily exercise and provides even old pets with a youthful enjoyment of life.

Without activity, pets can become bored, and bored pets with energy to burn can be destructive. Playing games with pets keeps their minds active and stimulates their bonding to you. Feel free to ask us which toys and games are best for your pet.

Here are some suggestions for playing games with your dog:

- **The Difficult Catch:** Your pet may enjoy a ball that is too big to put in his mouth. A large ball gives pets the opportunity to use their ingenuity while at the same time exercising their bodies.
- **Tug-of-War:** Your pet may enjoy playing tug-of-war with you on a toy made especially for that purpose. Always use common sense and caution while playing with a dog to avoid possible injury to you or your pet. Some pets can be over-stimulated with tug-of-war play. If you see negative or un-desirable behaviors starting, do not play tug-of-war games.
- **Harmonious Relationship:** When you sing, your dog may want to join in the chorus. Seeming frivolous activities such as this actually serve to strengthen the bond between you and your dog.
- **Hide-and-Seek:** When you curl up on your hands and knees and hide your head, your dog may paw at you. Playing hide-and-peek with people or toys stimulates your dog's natural desire to search and investigate. You may also hide in another room and call to your dog to "find Daddy" or "find Mommy" or have another person tell them to find you. You may be surprised how quickly this game is learned, and how much fun. Start easy, then increase complexity.

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Here are some suggestions for stimulating your cat:

- **Scratching Posts:** Your cat, even if it is declawed, needs to be able to scratch, or at least go through the exercise. Very often, after waking, a cat has the urge to claw something, just as we like to stretch. Providing a good post will prevent damage to you and your furniture.
- **Moving Target:** Swinging toys are often a favorite. A cat will investigate a moving object by feeling, sniffing, tasting and poking. As it swings back and forth, a toy will provide your pet with endless hours of amusement. (and you too!)
- **Balls and Rolling Toys:** Are often favorites. Playful pouncing and rambunctious batting are almost always guaranteed.

SAFETY... FIRST, LAST and ALWAYS! All toys for dogs and cats should be too large to be swallowed and sturdy enough to withstand chewing and tearing. Deadly toys include string, thread and balls of yarn that can become lodged in the intestinal tract.

Always supervise your pet's play with toys. Should toys become damaged, dispose of the toy or mend it, so that it is safe for play. Parts of toys that are chewed or torn off can be ingested and can cost your pet its life!

DID YOU KNOW?? The **Harvard Health Letter** has cited several studies in which scientists have discovered that interaction with pets can reduce mental stress, lower anxiety levels, increase morale and reduce rates of depression. One Australian study went so far as to indicate that pet owners had fewer heart risk factors than people who did not own pets.

Some of the many pets seen this month at Parkside!



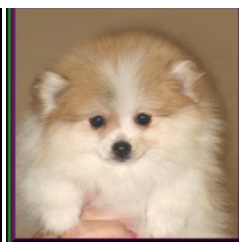
Jake



Daisy



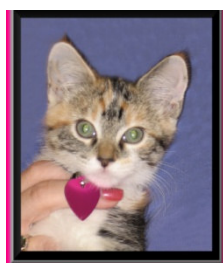
Schatzi



Bug



Max



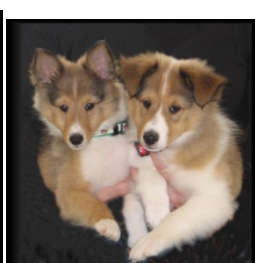
Princess



Ila



Daisy



Jasper & Davey



Jovi

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Just a few of the **FRIENDLY FACES OF PARKSIDE...**



Kaye Wigginton, D.V.M.
...examines ZeZe



Ludy, Practice Manager
& her Boston Terrier, Bosco



Nancy
Lead Receptionist



Cara, Vet Tech
..cuddles Rainbow



Ashley, Vet. Tech.
..snuggles Purrcey



Aaron Herndon, D.V.M.
..examines Brutus



Rhonda w/Misty
Compliance Tech.



Susan Boeving, D.V.M.
..advises treatment plan

Friendly faces, caring hearts

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