



## Canine Distemper



Canine distemper is a virus that is considered highly contagious among dogs, ferrets, and certain wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, coyotes, weasels and even harbor seals. Cats and humans are not affected by the canine distemper virus. The virus is spread through contact with infected body secretions, such as urine or even when coughing. Once in the body, the virus spreads quickly, causing a gooey nasal and eye discharge, fever, poor appetite, and coughing/pneumonia. This can progress to vomiting/diarrhea, seizures/jaw tremoring and snapping, and death. Diagnosing distemper can be difficult, and is often made by observing all the symptoms, knowing the pet's vaccine history, and exposure to possible distemper sources. Treatment is also difficult, and involves mostly supportive care to treat the symptoms. Preventing distemper is luckily fairly easy, and requires being sure your puppy and ferret are vaccinated properly against distemper. Avoiding contact with possibly infected wildlife is also a good idea, as many raccoons in the Puget Sound have tested positive for distemper, and can easily transmit it to dogs through outside water sources.

## Surviving the Holidays with Pets



As fall and winter approaches, it brings with it lots of fun holidays for you and your pet to enjoy! To ensure everyone, including the four-legged members of the family have a good time, here are some things to remember.

**Thanksgiving** is loved by all as the turkey day; however, keep your pets out of the turkey and everyone will stay happy! Turkey bones are not safe for pets to eat and can cause intestinal tears and blockages. Too much turkey can also cause upset stomachs (in people and pets!) but can also possibly cause pancreatitis in pets not used to eating human food.

**Christmas** is a day of family, presents, and food, so give your pet the gift of health by following these tips. Tinsel, ornaments and wrapping paper are pretty, but can be irresistible to many cats and dogs. Eating any of these items can result in deadly intestinal blockages. Many holiday plants can also be toxic, including Holly and Mistletoe, so be sure to only bring pet-safe plants into the house. Be sure your Christmas tree is well secured so that bouncing dogs or climbing cats don't bring it crashing to the floor, potentially injuring the pets and the tree! Many toys may come with small parts that might look delicious to your pet, so make sure your kids are careful Christmas morning!

**New Year's** is a fun and loud time so be sure to keep pets secure inside (and maybe in a quiet part of the house) so that loud celebrating at midnight doesn't make them bolt and run. Nobody wants to start out the year searching for their lost pet! Now would be a good time to microchip your pet, if you haven't already, to help a safe return for escapes. Confetti, streamers and other party supplies can also look tasty to pets, so be sure to keep them from eating these things and causing an intestinal blockage.

## MVVH News

The big MVVH remodel continues to progress as the new addition has been finished! The large two story building at the end of the parking lot will house offices, a meeting room, and storage space, along with the upstairs apartment for the clinic manager. This frees up a lot of space in the main building for things to start expanding! The clinic will be expanded back into the previous apartment space at the back of the building and make room for a procedure room, another exam room, and a larger reception/lobby area. So please be patient with the construction mess as the remodel will one day make for a more spacious MVVH.

## Favorite Quotes

"There's no need for a piece of sculpture in a home that has a cat."

~Wesley Bates



## Breed of the month

### Parson Russell Terrier



This energetic little dog has been around for a long time, long enough to have its name changed a few times! This breed was developed in England over 200 years ago to hunt fox, and was recognized by the AKC in 1997 as a member of the terrier group. Originally called the Jack Russell Terrier, the parent club for the breed requested the name be changed in the AKC to Parson Russell Terrier; however, it is often still referred to by both names. Regardless of what you call it, this is a high energy dog that is often getting into trouble because of its constant need to be doing something! Very intelligent, but also considered stubborn, this breed thrives with training, but without may destroy your house. They may be small in size, but they have energy to burn and need plenty of exercise. This breed excels at agility, obedience, and can be trained to do almost anything with enough patience. Their short coat requires little grooming, and comes either wire-haired or smooth coated and in a variety of colors. They can be prone to knee issues, so any sign of lameness should be checked by a vet.

## Client Questions:

### Are wild mushrooms bad for my dog and cat?



This time of year in the Pacific Northwest, when the weather starts to get cooler and the ground gets wetter, mushrooms start popping out of the ground all over. While some of these mushrooms may be harmless, it is hard to tell the harmless ones from the toxic ones. The "death cap" mushroom, which is as toxic as it sounds, is a plain white/tan average sized mushroom. There are others such as the bright red/white ones pictured above, which are very common in the Sound Sound area, that are also toxic to pets. Signs of mushroom toxicity are anything from drooling, vomiting, loss of balance, seizures to even a coma. Mushrooms can cause hallucinations, kidney and liver damage, and even death in some cases. If you suspect your pet has ingested mushrooms, it is best to call the vet immediately and try to bring some of the ingested mushrooms (in a plastic bag) to show the vet so as to try to identify it so we know how/what to treat. The best way of preventing mushroom toxicity is to check your yard for them every day and remove any you find. Also keep your pet on a leash when outside so they can't go look for any to eat on their own while unsupervised. **Have a question you would like to see answered in the newsletter? Please submit your question in writing to our Comments Box!**

## Pet of the Month

Attention established clients! Enter your favorite photo of your pet for our "pet of the month" contest. Each month the staff will vote for the best picture, and that month's winner will win one bag of lean treats and have its photo featured in our newsletter! Just submit your photo with a brief description of your pet to the front desk.

**Rules:** Please one photo per pet, contest open to pets who have been seen here for an exam within the last year.



"George" is a 1.5 year old Bernese Mountain Dog, who is just as sweet as he is gorgeous! This wonderful and well-mannered boy makes his home with the Hurst Family, and enjoys the finer things in life, including being spoiled and very loved!

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