



## Dog and Cat Lice



Just the thought of lice may make you cringe and scratch your head, but luckily lice infestations in dogs and cats are not very common. Lice are also species-specific, meaning they only stay on one kind of host (dog lice stay on dogs, cat lice stay on cats, human lice stay on humans). Lice are small six legged wingless insects that can be seen with the naked eye. They don't move very fast and generally spend their entire 21 day life cycle on their host. They lay their eggs, called nits, on the hair of their host, which can also be easily seen as white flakes on the coat. There are two kinds of dog lice, one that chews the skin and one that sucks blood. Cats get one type of lice, the type that chews the skin. Regardless of what type of lice they are, pets will have a dry and severely itchy coat with patches of hair loss. Both types of lice can be transmitted from direct contact with an infected animal, or sharing beds or grooming equipment with an infected animal. Treatment for lice depends on what type of lice they are, and the severity of the infestation. A long haired or matted animal may need to be shaved to help get rid of the nits, and multiple treatments along with household treatment may be necessary depending on the severity of the infestation.

## Road trips with your dog

Other than "dinner time", there are two other words that make most dogs jump for joy: "car ride"! If you are planning on taking your pooch on a road trip with you this summer, be sure you are prepared before hitting the road. Make sure your pet does well in the car, and if you are concerned about your pet getting car sick or being too nervous, be sure to discuss this with the vet before leaving. There are special types of anti-nausea meds made specifically for dogs prone to car sickness or sedatives for the overly nervous pet. A crate, or dog seat belt, is also ideal for safely restraining your pet in the car. Be sure you pack properly for your pet, this includes: enough food for the trip plus at least 3 days extra in case you get stuck somewhere; any medications the pet is on; unbreakable bowls; a bed or toy from home; a leash and a collar with ID tags (going to a new place may make even the most well behaved dogs get nervous and possibly run away, and most parks and rest stops require leashes); proof of vaccines, or if needed, a health certificate (depending on where you go, so be sure to research your route and destination requirements first). If you are traveling to an area with heartworm, be sure your pet is on preventatives. If you are unsure of which areas these are, just ask your vet. Ideally, it would also be nice to pack a small first-aid kit for your pet. If your pet is microchipped, make sure you have up-to-date contact numbers registered with your microchip information, including an out-of-state number of a family or friend in case you cannot be reached while out of town. Plan out pet-friendly hotels and parks for your route, as not every hotel and state park is pet friendly. The majority of hotels will not allow your pet to be unattended in the room, so plan to take your pet with you everywhere you go, or see if you can make accommodations to have the pet day-boarded at a local kennel if one is available. For help on planning your dog-friendly road trip, there are many books out there listing local hotels, parks and activities that are pet friendly. A series of books called "The Dog Lover's Companion", which has different books for different areas of the USA, make planning dog friendly hotels, parks, restaurants and emergency vet clinics easy!



## MVVH News

Many of our clients have seen our clinic cats wandering around the hospital. They serve as wonderful paper weights, warm towel testers, and help us observe and entertain the patients. One of them however, has become more of a patient lately. Dodger, the tabby cat with the thinner stripes and currently shaved belly, has had his cancer come back. He originally came to us in 2004 as a kitten who never got adopted. In 2007 he was diagnosed with a Mast Cell Tumor and had to have his toe amputated. He had been doing well until recently when we discovered he had suddenly relapsed and it had spread. After having a major surgery recently to try to slow the spread of the cancer and make him more comfortable, he is back to trying to escape his cage and refusing to be a patient. We are not sure what the outcome of Dodger's story will be, but he is currently doing well on chemo. So if you see the big tabby with the shaved belly wandering around, be sure to give him an extra chin scratch.

## Favorite Quotes

"It is impossible to keep a straight face in the presence of one or more kittens."

~Cynthia E. Varnado

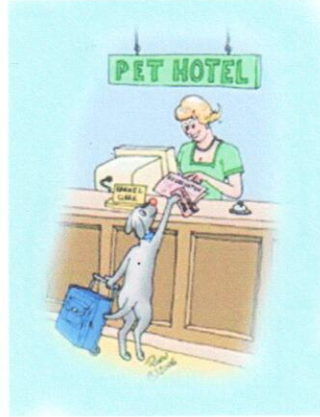


## Breed of the month Komondor



This breed may often be mistaken for a large walking mop, but don't let its odd appearance fool you! This dog was recognized by the AKC in 1937 as a member of the working group. It originated in Hungary as a dog that was used to guard large flocks of sheep or cattle on the plains. Rather than herd the livestock, this dog spent all its time living with the flock or herd, acting as a guardian. Its long dreadlock-like thick coat acted as protection in case it was ever attacked, and also helped it blend in with the herd. Today this breed is still used for its original purpose in Europe; however, it can be seen around North America as a family or working dog. It tends to be protective of its family, and can require an experienced owner to train it. This breed can get to around 80 pounds and requires a fair amount of exercise. Its corded coat also requires an experienced hand at grooming it, as it is unlike any other breed out there. As a puppy this breed starts out with a fuzzy white coat, and as it matures, its coat begins to form into its unique cords. In fact a puppy that does not form the corded coat by 2 years of age is disqualified from the show ring!

## Client Questions: How do I decide where to board my pet?



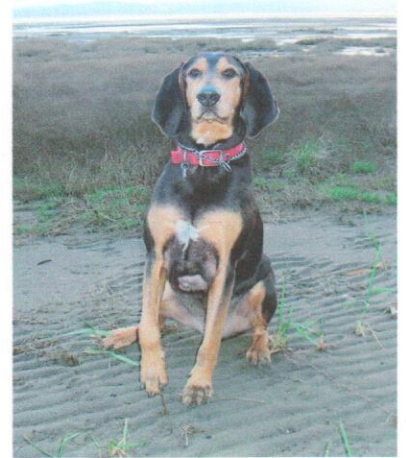
Chances are you are planning on taking a vacation this summer. If that vacation doesn't include your pet, what options do you have? If you decide to board your pet, be sure to take a tour of the facility first. See where your pet will stay, and ensure it meets your criteria for a clean and safe environment. If your pet is on a special diet, ask if they will follow those instructions, and if there is an extra charge for that. Meet the staff and make sure you and your pet are comfortable with them. Ask what their policy is if your pet is injured, and be sure you leave an emergency contact number in case you cannot be reached. Many kennels require proof of vaccines, so be sure your pet is vaccinated and you have the papers to prove it. Try to find a kennel that is a member of the American Boarding Kennels Association, meaning they follow a set standard of pet care. If you would like information on local kennels, just ask the front desk for some brochures so you can decide which one best suits your pet.

**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.



"Boone" is a very handsome Black and Tan Coonhound owned by Veterinary Assistant Jessica and her husband Tom Ellis. This sweet dog loves to serenade the ladies at work with his soulful howl!

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