



# The MVVH Newsletter

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## Rabies



The movie Old Yeller is the first introduction many people had to rabies, and while it is not as common as it used to be in North America, it is still a serious threat. Rabies is an illness caused by a virus that attacks the brain and spinal cord (central nervous system). All warm-blooded animals (including humans) can contract rabies and there is no treatment making it almost always fatal. The only way to test a pet for rabies is to examine the brain after it is euthanized. Rabies is spread through contact with infected saliva, mainly from a bite or scratch. An animal infected with rabies may show signs of aggression, drooling, "drunk" walking or even no signs at all. The wildlife carrier of rabies in our area are bats. Thousands of people die from rabies each year around the world in lesser developed countries. According to the CDC, in the United States today 90% of rabies cases occur in wildlife, compared to 1960 where the majority of the cases were in domestic animals. This is thanks to vaccinating our pets and being aware of the dangers of rabies. In the USA, state laws require all dogs (and most cats) to be vaccinated for rabies by a veterinarian. As of January 1st 2011, all dogs, cats and ferrets in the state of Washington will be required to be vaccinated by a veterinarian. Keeping your pet's rabies vaccine up to date, and avoiding contact with wildlife and unknown stray pets is a good way to prevent rabies exposure.

## Keeping your pet safe this summer

Summer is in full gear and it's every pet's favorite season! Longer days, lots of sun and vacations with the family, it's no wonder they call it the dog days of summer. With summer though, comes some things you should remember when it comes to keeping your pet happy and healthy.

Sunny days playing at the park or lounging in the backyard are fun, but be sure your pet doesn't overheat. Some signs of heat stroke in dogs are: panting, abnormal anxiety or refusal to obey commands, vomiting, rapid heartbeat, and collapse. If any of these signs occur, get your dog to a vet fast! Always supply plenty of fresh water for your pet, along with a way to get out of the sun. Pets with short, thin or white coats can sometimes get sunburns! Light colored noses can also get burned. Pools, rivers and lakes are a fun way to cool off, but be sure your pet can swim well before letting them jump in. They make doggie life jackets for those pets who can't quite dog paddle with the best of them! Older and overweight animals, along with certain breeds (bulldogs and pugs) may also have a harder time handling the heat, so be extra careful with them. With the hot weather, pets may be tempted to drink from puddles, so be careful as some of these puddles could contain chemicals from cars and slug baits, or parasites that could make your pet ill.

If your pet goes with you on vacation, be sure to pack plenty of food and water, and medications if needed. Do remember that hot cars can be a death trap for many pets, even with the windows rolled down. Truck beds without covers can also create a hot surface that can injure your pet's paws too.



## MVVH News

It is with a sad note that we say goodbye to two wonderful MVVH employees who have decided to move on to other things.

Brittney Dawson, our Veterinary Assistant is moving to Pullman WA to start Vet school at WSU. We wish her luck with her future and hope to see her on her summer breaks!

Brandy Taylor, our Veterinary Technician has decided to move on to another job as well. We will miss her always happy and enthusiastic personality in the mornings!

## Favorite Quotes

"Cats can work out mathematically the exact place to sit that will cause the most inconvenience."  
~Pam Brown



## Breed of the month

### Australian Shepherd



The Australian Shepherd is a smart breed that is known to be good at anything it attempts. This breed was first recognized by the AKC in 1991 as a member of the herding group. While the breed is called Australian, it is actually thought to have originated from the area between Spain and France. Named for the Basque Shepherds that came to America from Australia, the breed was actually developed more in North America. It was originally created to be a herding and farm dog, which it still excels at doing today. It is also used in a variety of other things, such as search and rescue, assistance dogs, therapy dogs, agility/performance dogs and much more. This breed is easy to train and needs a lot of exercise to keep it from being destructive. It generally makes a good family dog, as long as it's an active family! If bored, they may look for trouble for entertainment though! Its long thick coat needs regular brushing, but not clipped. This breed comes in a variety of colors and coat

## Client Questions:

### Do "natural" flea products work and are they safe?



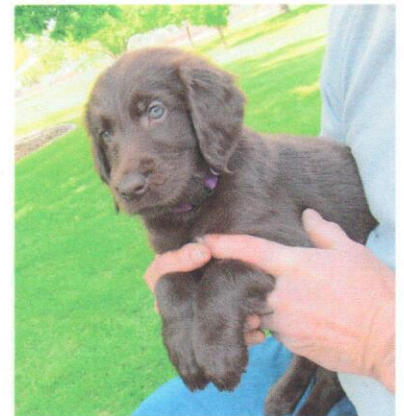
With all the flea products out there today, it's hard to decide on which one to use on your pet. Many claim to be "all natural" which we often falsely assume is safe, and they are generally not effective. Many herbs and other remedies can be more dangerous than many of the chemicals found in commercial flea preventatives. Some people have also tried giving garlic to their pets as a natural flea preventative, however garlic can make pets anemic if given for too long or too high of a dose. Controlled studies have shown garlic has no benefit for flea control in dogs and cats. Some natural herbs or products may be safe for dogs, and deadly to cats, so be sure to always read label instructions before using them on your pet. Fleas themselves can carry various parasites that can pass on to your pets, along with the blood loss from enough fleas feasting on them, so going with an FDA or EPA approved flea preventative that you and your vet agree on is a safer option than trying to use a "natural" product that is not effective in preventing flea infestations.

**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.



This little cutie is the newest member of Dr. Snyder's furry family! "Cookie Monster" is a 3 month old liver colored Flat Coated Retriever and is absolutely adorable. When she's not playing with the kids or hanging off the other dogs in the house, she's usually working hard as a stress relief dog in the doctors office.

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