



WVMC NEWSLETTER

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www.wrightvet.com

Best of the Valley 2008



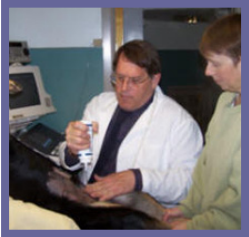
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AN INFORMATION DIGEST FOR PET OWNERS FROM WVMC

SPRING 2009



Geoffrey H. Wright, VMD - Dr. Geoffrey Wright was raised in the upper level (which now serve as offices) of the Wright Veterinary Medical Center with his three brothers. He received his undergraduate degree from Michigan Tech University and his VMD from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine in 1981. Dr. Wright is the President and Hospital Director of WVMC. He resides in Bethlehem with his wife, Beth Ann, and son, Gregory.

This spring Dr. Wright will be traveling to the Hopi and Zuni Reservations in Arizona and New Mexico. This is one of the many community contributions Dr. Geoffrey Wright and the WVMC doctors give of themselves for pets and wildlife in need. Dr. Wright and other doctor and nurse volunteers provide veterinary care for pets and livestock.

TOP TEN BREEDS OF 2008



#10 SHIH TZU

A compact and solid dog, the shih tzu's long, flowing double coat is its most distinctive feature. Shih tzu means "lion" and although this dog is sweet and playful, he is not afraid to stand up for himself! Since the sole purpose of the shih tzu is companion and house pet, he should be lively, alert, friendly and trusting toward all. Weighing between 9 and 16 pounds, he requires minimal exercise, but his long, luxurious coat needs daily brushing and maintenance.



#9 POODLE

The poodle, though often considered high maintenance due to its coat, is actually one of the high achievers of the canine world. The breed is exceptionally smart, hardy and excels in obedience training. The breed originated as a water retriever, and thus requires daily exercise. The stylish "poodle clip" seen in dog shows was designed by hunters to help the dogs move through the water more efficiently. The patches of hair left on the body are meant to protect vital organs and joints, which are susceptible to cold. Most pet poodles sport a simpler cut, although frequent grooming is required regardless of the trim type. His coat - coming in a variety of solid colors, including white, black, apricot and gray - is also hypoallergenic, which may reduce allergic reactions.



#8 BULLDOG

Known for their loose-jointed, shuffling gait and massive, short-faced head, the bulldog is known to be equable, resolute and dignified. A medium-sized dog, they are not your typical lap dog, but would like to be! Very popular due to their lovable and gentle dispositions and adorable wrinkles, the bulldog may be brindle, white, red, fawn fallow or piebald. Bulldogs are recognized as excellent family pets because of their tendency to form strong bonds with children. They tend to be gentle and protective. The breed requires minimal grooming and exercise, but their short nose makes them prone to overheating in warm weather.



#7 DACHSHUND

The dachshund, meaning "badger dog" in German, is a lively breed with a friendly personality and keen sense of smell. Known for their long and low bodies, they are eager hunters that excel in both above-and below-ground work. The breed comes in three different coat varieties (smooth, wirehaired or longhaired) and can be miniature (11 pounds and under) or standard size (16-32 pounds).

Dachshunds are lovable, playful companions, and an ideal pet for many homes. They require moderate exercise, and can adapt to most living environments. Depending on their coat type, dachshunds may need regular grooming.



#6 BOXER

The well-conditioned middleweight athlete of dogdom, the boxer is a powerful dog with an intelligent and alert expression. While they are instinctive guardians, the boxer loves to be with his people. This personality has allowed them to succeed as couriers during wartime and as seeing-eye dogs for the blind.

One of the breed's most notable characteristics is its desire for human affection, especially from children. They are patient and spirited with children, but also protective, making them a popular choice for families. Appearing in both fawn and brindle colors, the boxer's short coat requires minimal maintenance, but he is an active dog that needs daily exercise.



#5 BEAGLE

A sturdy hinting dog, the beagle should look like a foxhound in miniature. His easy-to-care-for coat, combined with a merry personality, has made the beagle a favorite of many families over the years. Today's beagle comes in two height varieties (13 inch and 15 inch) and any true hound color, including tri-color, red and white and lemon. Beagles are happy-go-lucky and friendly, making them a wonderful family pet. Since they lived in packs for

hundreds of years, they naturally enjoy the company of other dogs and humans. Curious and comedic, they often follow their noses – which can lead to some mischief if they are not provided with daily activity.

#4 GOLDEN RETRIEVER



The golden retriever, whose trademark is its light to dark golden-colored coat, possesses great intelligence and an eager-to-please attitude. Originally bred to retrieve game, the

working ability that has made the golden retriever such a useful hunting companion also makes him an ideal service and search-and-rescue dog.

This active and energetic Sporting breed can adapt to many different living situations as long as he has plenty of daily exercise. His water-repellent double coat sheds seasonally and needs regular brushing. With his friendly temperament and striking golden color, this breed is both beautiful to look at and a joy to own.

#3 GERMAN SHEPHERD



The German shepherd dog is hailed as the world's leading police, guard and military dog, however, this dependable breed is more than just a hard worker. It is also a loving family

companion, herder and show competitor. The breed is approachable, direct and fearless, with a strong, muscular body, and can be most colors except white. Energetic and fun-loving, this breed is a loyal family pet, a good guard dog and the ideal choice for many families. He requires regular exercise and grooming.

#2 YORKSHIRE TERRIER



Yorkshire terriers, affectionately known as “Yorkies,” offer big personalities in a small package. Though members of the Toy Group, they are terriers by nature and are brave,

determined, investigative and energetic. They have long, luxurious blue-and-tan coats that require regular brushing. This portable pooch is easily adaptable to all surroundings, travels well and makes a suitable pet for many homes. Due to their small size (they weigh only 4 to 7 pounds), they require limited exercise, but need plenty of daily interaction with people.

#1 LABRADOR RETRIEVER



The gentle, intelligent and family-friendly Labrador retriever is the most popular breed in the United States for the 18th consecutive year, according to American Kennel Club

registration statistics. Because of his aptitude to please his master, they excel as guide dogs for the blind, as part of search-and-rescue teams, and in narcotics detection with law enforcement.

This versatile hunting breed comes in three colors – yellow, black and chocolate – and as a double-coated breed that sheds seasonally, regular grooming keeps his coat at its water-resistant best. An ideal sporting and family dog, the Labrador retriever thrives as part of an active family or as a trusted hunting companion.

TOP TEN DOG NAMES 2008

1. Max
2. Bailey
3. Bella
4. Molly
5. Lucy
6. Buddy
7. Maggie
8. Daisy
9. Sophie
10. Chloe

TOP UNUSUAL DOG NAMES 2008

1. Rush Limbark
2. Sirius Lee Handsome
3. Rafikikadiki
4. Low Jack
5. Meatwad
6. Peanut Wigglebutt
7. Scuddles Unterfuss
8. Sophie Touch & Pee
9. Admiral Toot
10. Spatula

TOP TEN CAT NAMES 2008

1. Max
2. Chloe
3. Tigger
4. Tiger
5. Lucy
6. Smokey
7. Oliver
8. Bella
9. Shadow
10. Charlie

TOP UNUSUAL CAT NAMES 2008

1. Edward Scissorpaws
2. Sir Lix-a-lot
3. Optimus Prrrime
4. Buddah Pest
5. Snoop Kitty Kitty
6. Miss Fuzzbutt
7. 80 Bucks
8. Sparklemoney
9. Rosie Posie Prozac
10. Toot Uncommon

COCOA BEAN MULCH DANGER TO DOGS

A by-product of chocolate production, cocoa bean shells are frequently used for home landscaping. Some dogs find the mulch palatable and ingest varying amounts.

Dogs that consume cocoa bean shell mulch might develop signs consistent with methylxanthine toxicosis, according to a study of case data collected by the poison control center from January 2002 to April 2003. These signs are similar to those seen in chocolate poisonings. Vomiting and muscle tremors were the most common signs of toxicosis that occurred following ingestion. Evidence suggests that the severity of clinical signs increased when larger amounts were ingested. Other signs were tachycardia (fast heart rate), hyperactivity, and diarrhea.

WVMC recommends that you avoid the use of cocoa bean shell mulch for landscaping so that it is not accessible to unsupervised pets. The odds of dogs dying from eating the fresh mulch are low, but those suspected of ingesting it should be examined by a veterinarian.

For the full ASPCA study, log on to www.apcc.aspc.org/cocoabeanmulch

CARING FOR ORPHANED WILD ANIMALS

Every spring we receive calls for instruction and advice on the handling of wild animal orphans. Anxious to help, people often forget that the baby animal's best chance for survival lies in remaining with the natural mother.



HAY FOR BUNNY

Hay keeps a rabbit's digestive tract healthy and should be a part of its daily diet of food pellets and fresh greens if possible. Alfalfa is the best hay you can buy. It is sold loose or pressed into small cubes. Hay from second cuttings is good for baby rabbits and weak animals because it is tender. If you grow your own grasses, you should cut it during warm weather and dry it as soon as possible. This will prevent the loss of nutrients.



WVMC PET OF THE MONTH

Nominate your pet for WVMC Pet of the Month by picking up your pet of the month form at the front desk. Fill the form out completely and return your form back to the front desk. We will feature a picture of your pet in our quarterly newsletter along with your pet information.

PAW PRINTS

When the day comes that you must say farewell to your beloved pet, there are options available for you to memorialize your pet. You may choose to do your own burial, have your pet cremated with the option of having their ashes returned to you, or your pet's paw impression preserved in a wooden shadow box. Your shadow box will come completed with:

- Your pet's paw impression
- The comforting story of the rainbow bridge and will be preserved in an 8 x 10 wooden shadow box.
- Speak to your WVMC veterinarian about which option is right for you.

SUCCESSFUL WVMC ADOPTIONS – SPRING 2009

Article Written by WVMC's Kirsten Williams, Nurse Assistant

There haven't been as many lost pets the last several months, which is good for them! Remember to make sure your pets are wearing identification and microchipped if there is any chance of them getting lost.

Momma, a black and white female pit bull, and Penne, a female three legged chinchilla have been adopted by our own Chelsea Shafer.

We currently have two cats; Bo Jangles and Oscar, ready for adoption. Both boys are less than a year old, orange tabbies who are neutered and up-to-date on their vaccinations.

We also have Obie, a young tan and white pit bull mix who is looking for a new home.

Keep an eye on our website for available pets if you are looking to open your heart and home to a new companion.

WVMC WEBSITE

Please check out our website @ www.wrightvet.com as we have given it a new face—meet our staff members and take our digital tour. We also have our online survey for you to complete which will give us the ability to let us know how we are doing.

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WVMC is seeking to provide our clients and their pets with the highest quality veterinary care possible. We feel the need to begin offering our clients a Weight Management Program in which they can monitor the weight of their pets and is designed to help our clients to learn how to manage their pets' weight. WVMC feels that weight management plays an important role in your pets' health and well-being. If you have an interest in the program, please speak to one of our WVMC Veterinarians.



MICROCHIP

If you are having your pet microchipped, as a service to you and your pet, WVMC enrolls you for the first year. This can be done as an out patient appointment used for discount lifetime licensing. You can read about Home Again's additional benefits on their website www.homeagain.com.

YEARLY OFFICE VISITS

Preventive health care and comprehensive physical examinations are important to your pet's health. Your pet can be brought up-to-date on immunizations, and any future health problems may be recognized before they become severe or life-threatening. It is also a time for the doctor to answer any questions you might have. Older pets should consider 2 times a year exams. So any pets between 6-7 years old should be seen 2 times a year because pets are aging to our 1 year.

BOARDING

Our boarding space is very limited and is only available for our clients. We recommend you make your reservations well in advance. Please call Jen Brown, WVMC Kennel Manager to make your reservation.

WVMC WEBSITE DISCOUNT COUPONS

Check out our discount coupons that are offered on our website www.wrightvet.com. Online discount for the month of April is Senior pet wellness, 10% off, no coupon needed. May is Spay/neuter discount for your pet 1 year or older with coupon—save \$25.00. June is microchip your pet—\$10.00 off with coupon



CARDS OF THANKS FROM WVMC CLIENTS



Dear Dr. LaFerriere,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness on the passing of our handsome Swissy, Koda. He truly was a special dog and will be in our hearts forever, you mentioned that you have friend's with Swissys', so you are aware of their unique personalities. We would also like to thank the staff on the evening of 12/15/08 for their compassion.

Dear Dr. Dulin and Staff,

My husband, Jim and I have just recently had to have our dog Timber treated at your office. Timber was having a seizure when we decided to bring him into your facility December 2, instead of going to Valley Central Animal Hospital.

I have to say, I was completely astonished how quickly and how many staff members came to the lobby to treat him once we carried him inside even though we were not existing patients at your facility. It was like a human going into the emergency room in cardiac arrest and needing immediate treatment.

Dr. Dulin sat with us in the lobby that night (late) and reviewed ALL of our options. Her caring guidance brought us to the decision to try phenobarbital. I had to make a few phone calls to talk to Dr. Dulin in the interim until we could get the correct dose for him. She would call me back that day and discuss what was going on with Timber and try to adjust his medication.

Unfortunately on December 23, Timber had another seizure, this time it was a grand mal. He lost complete bodily function. Again, when we arrived at the clinic, the staff came out to carefully and lovingly transport Timber into a room. They then brought him back to Jim and I in another room and carefully laid him on the table. He just was not the same. He did not respond to either of us.

Dr. Dulin came in to talk to us. She laid out all of our options again. She helped us come to another heartbreaking decision without coming out and saying it. We had to put him down. After we came to our decision, she helped us by reaffirming we were doing the right thing and that we were not giving up on him. He was 13 ½ years old.

This letter is to thank Dr. Dulin and her staff for the fantastic care that was given to our "son" Timber. Also, to thank them for the understanding of the death of a beloved family member, not just a "pet." We sincerely appreciate everything you did for him and us.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.



*****BUYER BEWARE*****



We know it is hard trying to save money, please use caution If you are thinking of or have already purchased an over-the-counter pet product.

In a recent training seminar at WVMC with a

representative from the Merial manufacturer of Heartgard and Frontline, they informed us to caution our clients' about over-the-counter pet products that look like the products only sold at your veterinarian.

The main focus of the discussion was in regards to if you have not purchased your pet medications strictly from your veterinarian, there is no guarantee that you have purchased a legitimate product. At this seminar, we were shown many samples of packaging, labeling and applicators that you would not normally find in your pet medications.

The safety and welfare of your pet is WVMC's main concern. Some of these items are packaged very similar to what we sell and may not be easily identified as a counterfeit product. If you did not buy your products from your veterinarian, and there is a cause for concern upon inspecting the package and before applying you may bring in your product for further discussion with one of our WVMC staff members.

We have added photos of just some of the examples we were shown at this seminar and how some of these counterfeit products are packaged. Please inform anyone you know that may have purchased any of these counterfeit products so that together we are able to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all of our pets.



FLEA AND TICK SEASON

As a loving pet owner, you try to prevent you pet from suffering. After all, they're part of the family. Yet every year when flea season begins, the suffering sets in. Fleas bite, and the scratching and chewing starts again. It's a painful and irritating routine for you and your pet.

Adult fleas on your pet cat or dog. They bite them to feed on the blood. Then the fleas produce eggs. Eggs drop from your pet to the ground or carpet. The eggs develop over time into adult fleas. And the cycle starts all over again.

The adult fleas on your pet can actually cause serious medical problems – like flea allergy dermatitis or tapeworms, and in some extreme cases, anemia.

Please make sure you purchase your flea and tick products before the flea/tick problem starts.



TOP TEN PET POISONS OF 2008 FROM ASPCA
(Due to the high number of pet poisonings, WVMC feels that we needed to inform our clients of the dangers of these poisons that are harmful to your beloved pet)!

HUMAN MEDICATIONS

Human medications have been number one on the ASPCA's list of common hazards. Last year, the ASPCA had more than 50,000 calls involving prescription and over-the-counter drugs, such as painkillers, cold medications, antidepressants and dietary supplements. Pets often snatch pill vials from counters and nightstands or gobble up medications accidentally dropped on the floor, so it's essential to keep meds tucked away in hard-to-reach cabinets.

INSECTICIDES

In 2008, toxicologists fielded more than 31,000 calls related to insecticides. One of the most common incidents involved the misuse of flea and tick products—such as applying the wrong topical treatment to the wrong species. Thus, it's always important to talk to your pet's veterinarian before beginning any flea and tick control program.

PEOPLE FOOD

Food like grapes, raisins, avocado and certain citrus fruit can seriously harm our pets, and accounted for more than 15,000 cases in 2008. One of the worst offenders—chocolate—contains large amounts of methylxanthines, which, if ingested in significant amounts, can cause vomiting, diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst, urination, hyperactivity, and in severe cases, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors and seizures.

RODENTICIDES

Last year, the ASPCA received approximately 8,000 calls about pets who had accidentally ingested rat and mouse poisons. Many baits used to attract rodents contain inactive ingredients that are attractive to pets as well. Depending on the type of rodenticide, ingestions can lead to potentially life-threatening problems for pets, including bleeding, seizures and kidney damage.

VETERINARY MEDICATIONS

Even though veterinary medications are intended for pets, they're often misapplied or improperly dispensed by well-meaning pet parents. In 2008, the ASPCA managed nearly 8,000 cases involving animal-related preparations such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, heartworm preventatives, de-wormers, antibiotics, vaccines and nutritional supplements.



PLANTS

Common houseplants were the subject of nearly 8,000 calls to the Animal Poison Control Center in 2008. Varieties such as azalea, rhododendron, sago palm, lilies, kalanchoe and schefflera are often found in homes and can be harmful to pets. Lilies are especially toxic to cats, and can cause life-threatening kidney failure even in small amounts.

CHEMICAL HAZARDS

In 2008, the Animal Poison Control Center handled approximately 5,500 cases of pet exposure to chemical hazards. A category on the rise, chemical hazards – found in ethylene glycol antifreeze, paint thinner, drain cleaners and pool/spa chemicals – form a substantial danger to pets. Substances in this group can cause gastrointestinal upset, depression, respiratory difficulties and chemical burns.

HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

Everybody knows that household cleaning supplies can be toxic to adults and children, but few take precautions to protect their pets from common agents such as bleaches, detergents and disinfectants. Last year, the ASPCA received more than 3,200 calls related to household cleaners. These products, when inhaled by our furry friends, can cause serious gastrointestinal distress and irritation to the respiratory tract.

HEAVY METALS

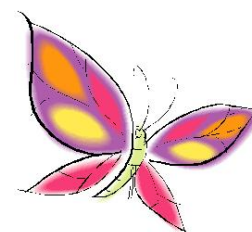
Heavy metals such as lead, zinc and mercury, which accounted for more than 3,000 cases of pet poisonings in 2008. Lead is especially damaging, and pets are exposed to it through many sources, including consumer products, paint chips, linoleum, and lead dust produced when surfaces in older homes are scraped or sanded.

FERTILIZER

It may keep your grass green, but certain types of fertilizer can cause problems for outdoor cats and dogs. Last year, the ASPCA fielded more than 2,000 calls related to fertilizer exposure. Prevention is really key to avoiding accidental exposure, but if you suspect your pet has ingested something lawn-side, please contact your WVMC veterinarian or the Animal Poison Control center's 24-hour hotline at 888-426-4435.

ANIMAL PLANET: PUPPY MILLS EXPOSED

Starting in Pennsylvania, a state which some organizations have dubbed "the puppy mill capital of the east," Animal Planet follows the committed law enforcement officers of the Pennsylvania SPCA (PSPCA) to take viewers inside the world of puppy mills in PUPPY MILLS: EXPOSED. Premiering Monday, April 27, at 10 PM (ET), this special episode of ANIMAL COPS: PHILADELPHIA utilizes photographic and video evidence and the firsthand accounts of investigators and employees who brought down some of the largest puppy mill operations in the country. It will illuminate the horrifying conditions of puppy mills while forcing viewers to ask how this inexcusable business continues to flourish on American soil.



WVMC EMPLOYEE PET OF THE MONTH

Tell us why your pet is special?

Jayde is a fun loving Lab who enjoys her 2 cats, and is loveable with everyone. She is happy every minute of the day, and nothing makes her happier than companionship, her squeaky ball, and summertime swimming.



Hi, My name is: Jayde

Jayde Kromer

I am a: Labrador Retriever (Black)

My master(s): Rhonda & Jesse named me that because of the jewel. Ssh.....don't tell the doctors but my favorite treat is rawhide bones. My age is: 6 years in March.

Something funny that happened to me was the time we taught Jayde how to swim in the pool. I am so special because my mommy & daddy spoil me.

I am so spoiled that I even get to sleep on the cats when I feel like it. I have been a patient at Wright Veterinary Medical Center for 5 years where Dr. Mera & Dr. Flynn gives me special attention when I come in for my checkups.



WVMC CLIENT PETS OF THE MONTH



Tell us why your pet is special? Lucy is a therapy dog, loves people, is in agility. She has a personality to help foster what a Dachshund should be like if trained and cared for properly.

Hi, My name is Lucy. I am a Mini-Dachshund

Lucy Detweiler My master(s) Michael named me. Ssh.....don't tell the doctors but my favorite treat is cheese. My age is 5.

Something funny that happened to me was the time I jumped in through the CVS drive thru and I ran around for 10 minutes before anyone could catch me. I am so special because I am in all that I do.

My master(s) love me so much that he has me in agility, and got me a new brother, Linus.

I am so spoiled that I even get to sleep in his bed.



Otto Fischer

Tell us why your pet is special?

I am so special because I was adopted from Wright Vet. I was around 7 months old and hit by a car. My first owner's didn't want me anymore. The Vets put a pin in my broken hip and a steel plate in my left front leg. In then found a great home with another Dalmatian named Lindy. Thank to the Vets!! Especiall Dr. Flynn.

Hi, my name is Otto. I am a Dalmatian.

My master(s) Dee named me that. Ssh.....don't tell the doctors but my favorite treat is anything. My age is 13, I think.

Something funny that happened to me was the time when I came to see Dr. Flynn for my regular check up. I was so happy to see everyone that my wagging tail got cut at the end and blood was all over the office and waiting room. I could not stop wagging my tail. They had to tape my tail to my hind leg to stop me from wagging. I went home with a bandage on my tail. I am so special because I was adopted from Wright Vet.

My master(s) loves me so much that I go for car rides, boat rides and to special places.

I am so spoiled that I even get to sleep on a soft pillow bed.



Laila Krock

Tell us why your pet is special?

We got Laila when she was 10 months old from her breeder, who took her back because the people who had her kept her in the garage. She bonded with us right away. One time when my husband was away and I was home alone one night, we awoke to hear potential prowlers outside the bedroom window. She started barking and ran out through the pet door and scared them off.

Hi, My name is Laila. I am a Belgian Sheepdog.

My master(s) Barbara and Bob Krock kept the name I had when they got me, it was a beautiful name for a beautiful dog. Shh.....don't tell the doctors but my favorite treat is juju fruits. My age is 6.

Something funny that happened to me was the time I first met my masters grandson. I was so excited about playing with him that when I was chasing him, he jumped on the sofa and I jumped over the sofa and landed on him. I wouldn't let him up and I kept licking his face. Everyone was laughing. I am so special because I am very devoted to my masters. I like being with them all the time. I follow them all over.

My master(s) loves me so much that I get hugs all the time.

I am so spoiled that I even get to sleep on the bed.

