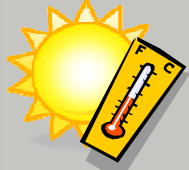




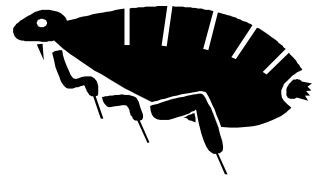
→ Employee News
....Page 4



→ How to keep
your pet safe
this summer and
tips for traveling.
....Page 2-3

Best Friends *Paw PRINTS*

Warning: Read this Article Before Applying Flea or Tick Products!



Supermarkets and pet stores have a variety of flea and tick products lining their shelves (these are NOT the same safe products that are sold at Best Friends). It is critical to read their labels and consult with your veterinarian before using them on your companion. The assumption is made that if these products make it to the shelves, then they must be safe for your pet, but that is not always entirely true. Some of these products may contain ingredients that could harm your pets and children. In general, flea and tick treatments widely available in supermarkets are NOT recommended. **NEVER** use dog treatments on cats, and vice versa.

Recently there has been a sharp increase in the number of incidents being reported from the use of over-the-counter spot-on pesticide products (unlike the ones we sell) for flea and tick control for pets. According to the Center For Public Integrity, at least 1,600 pet deaths related to spot-on treatments with *pyrethroids* were reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over the last five years. *Pyrethroid* spot-ons also

account for more than half of all major pesticide pet reactions reported to the EPA over the last five years. "Major" reactions refers to incidents involving serious medical reactions such as brain damage and violent seizures. In contrast, non-pyrethroid spot-on treatments accounted for only about 6% of all major incidents. In response to the alarming increase, the EPA is evaluating whether further restrictions on the use of these products is necessary to better protect pets.

The harmful effects of these products have touched clinics all over the country. Some of these potentially deadly products have affected patients in this very clinic. Over the past couple of years, two patients have had fatal reactions that were caused by the very products that line store shelves. *Pyrethroids* in spot-on treatments were the main culprit that contributed to these pets' short lives.

The following are a few of the

products, along with the brand names, that the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has compiled that have been found to contain harmful ingredients:

- Bio Spot
- Hartz
- Four Paws
- Adams
- Zodiac

The companies that produce these potentially deadly products are not unaware of the harm that may be caused to animals. For example, Hartz is one such company that is very aware of the fatalities and major reactions that have been caused by the very product that they produce. In fact, Hartz has been known to reimburse owners for their veterinary bill if the reaction was caused by one of their products. A company would not make a policy similar to this if the products were known to be safe. The Hartz products



“The EPA did not begin to review pet products for safety until 1996, therefore there is a backlog of products...”

have caused so many harmful reactions or fatalities that they must have felt responsible by offering to pay owners bills. Most owners would probably feel that they would rather have a healthy pet, rather than a company pay for their vet bill that was caused by a known dangerous product.

The chemicals used in the various products can have numerous health effects on your pet. Studies have shown that some of these ingredients can harm the nervous system. Some symptoms of poisoning by flea/tick treatments may include: salivating, dilated pupils, shaking, vomiting, and skin irritation. Children can be especially vulnerable, because their nervous systems are still developing. Cats are also particularly vulnerable, since they often lack enzymes for metabolizing or detoxifying chemicals and can

ingest them by licking their fur.

Millions of Americans purchase over-the-counter flea and tick products each year believing that they could not be sold unless they were proven safe. The reason some of these products are still on the shelves is because the EPA did not begin to review pet products for safety until 1996, therefore there is a backlog of products waiting to be tested for safety.

Always buy your flea/tick products through your veterinarian to ensure safety.

These products include: imidacloprid (found in Advantage), fipronil (In Frontline or Top-Spot), and selamectin (In Revolution). ALWAYS consult with your veterinarian before using any over-the-counter flea and tick product!

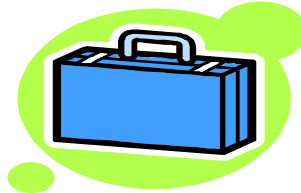
Safety Tips for Pet Owners

- Always call your veterinarian regarding an adverse reaction!
- Consult your veterinarian (especially) : Before use on weak, aged, medicated, sick, pregnant, or nursing pets, or on pets that have previously or are showing signs of sensitivity to pesticide products.
- If you use a spot-on product or any other pesticide on your pet, carefully read and follow the product label.
- Use products specified for dogs **ONLY** on dogs and products specified for cats **ONLY** on cats.
- Apply only the amount indicated for the size of the animal being treated.
- Do not apply to kittens or puppies unless the product label specifically allows this treatment.
- Monitor your pet for side effects or signs of sensitivity after applying the product, particularly when using this product on your pet for the first time.
- If your pet experiences an adverse reaction, immediately bathe your pet with a mild soap (ex: Dawn dishwashing soap), and rinse with large amounts of water.
- Keep the package with the product container in case an adverse reaction occurs.

Heat Stroke

Every year as the weather warms up the number of pets that are affected by heat stroke increases. Do not let your pet be a fatality of this preventable emergency. By following some simple rules, you can ensure that your companion stays safe throughout these hot summer months.

Traveling this Summer?



Summer is one of the busiest travel times of the year and increasingly more people are including pets in their travel plans. Careful planning on your pet's behalf will make things go even more smoothly.

If your travel plans with your pet include flying, then make sure to check with your specific airline regarding rules and regulations about traveling with your companion. You will need to know where and when your pet has to be checked in, and what papers (health certificate, vaccine records) need to be present. Traveling out of the country with your pet will require even more preparation. Each country has specific requirements for animals entering. There are services that are specifically designed to help with travel plans for your companion. Air Animal (www.airanimal.com) is one such service that is up to date on what each specific country requires for travel. Best Friends Veterinary Hospital requires that Air Animal be contacted to take care of all the details before we will issue an international health certificate.

Heat Stroke or hyperthermia is defined as an elevated body temperature. Generally speaking, a temperature that exceeds 103°F (39.4°C) is considered abnormal or hyperthermic. The critical temperature where multiple organ failure and impending death occurs is 109°F (42.7°C). Heat stroke is a life threatening emergency that requires immediate treatment.

The most common cause of heat stroke occurs when an animal is left in a hot vehicle without adequate ventilation. The animal's body temperature in this situation can elevate very rapidly, often within minutes. Heat stroke may also occur due to other conditions, including: being left outdoors in hot/humid weather without adequate shade, exercising in hot/humid weather, an infection causing a fever, and seizures or severe muscle spasms. Even on a somewhat cool day (70°F) the temperature in a vehicle may quickly become unsafe for your pet. A study from Stanford University Medical Center found that the

temperature within a vehicle may increase an average of 40°F within one hour regardless of the outside temperature.

There are various predisposing factors that may increase your pet's risk of heat stroke. Dogs with a restricted airway such as brachycephalic breeds (flat faced dogs such as pugs, boxers, and bulldogs) are at a greater risk. Other factors that put an animal at an increased risk include: obesity, eclampsia (milk fever), and poisonings, to name a few.

The initial signs of heat stroke include panting excessively and restlessness. As the temperature rises, the pet may drool large amounts of saliva from the nose and/or mouth. The pet may also begin to become unsteady on their feet. Inadequate oxygenation may cause the gums to begin turning blue/purple or bright red. If any of these signs are observed, then the animal should immediately be taken to the nearest veterinarian for medical attention.

The prognosis for heat stroke depends on how high the body temperature was elevated, how long the hyperthermia persisted, and the physical condition of the pet prior to the heat stroke. If the body temperature did not become extremely high, most healthy pets will recover quickly if they are treated immediately. Some pets may experience permanent organ damage or may die at a later date due to complications that arise secondarily to the hyperthermia. Pets that experience hyperthermia are at a greater risk for subsequent heat stroke due to damage to the thermoregulatory center.

Severe hyperthermia is a disease that affects nearly every system in the body. Simply lowering the body temperature fails to address the potentially catastrophic events that often accompany this disorder. A pet suffering from hyperthermia should be seen by a veterinarian as soon as possible.

What to Do:



- **Transport to the nearest veterinary facility immediately.** (The following is recommended ONLY if you cannot immediately transport the animal to a veterinarian).
- Remove your pet from the environment where the hyperthermia occurred.
- Move your pet to a shaded and cool environment and direct a fan on the animal.
- If possible, determine the rectal temperature and record it. Treatment should be discontinued once the pet shows signs of recovery or the temperature has fallen to 103°F (39.4°C).
- Begin to cool the body by placing cool, wet towels over the back of the neck, in the armpits, and in the groin region. You may also wet the ear flaps and paws.
- Rubbing alcohol may be applied to the footpads to dilate pores.

What NOT to Do:



- **Do not use cold water or ice for cooling.** While ice or cold water may seem logical, it is not advised because it will actually delay the cooling of the innermost organs of the body. Ice or cold water will cause blood vessels near the skin to shrink, effectively forming an insulating layer of tissue to hold the heat inside.
- Do not *overcool* the pet.
- Do not attempt to force water into your pet's mouth, but you may offer fresh cool water ready to drink should your pet be alert and show an interest in drinking.
- Do not leave your pet unattended for any length of time.



Inside Best Friends Employee News

Congratulations Dr. Riggs!

Our very own Dr. Riggs has been awarded the CCS (Canine Companions for Independence) Jack Warnock Volunteer Service Award! CCS is a group that trains service dogs and Dr. Riggs has contributed much of his time and energy volunteering.

Every year, each CCS regional office submits a nomination for the Jack Warnock Volunteer Service Award. This prestigious award is given to honor the outstanding volunteer throughout CCS's five regional locations. The nominees are reviewed and the winner is selected by CCS's National Board Members. Dr. Riggs was selected as the nominee from the North Central Region.

Here is an excerpt from his nomination:

"Dr. Riggs is a dedicated North Central Region Board Member and volunteer for CCS. He has served on the North Central Region Board for a little over five years. Dr. Riggs' outreach within CCS spans from providing dog wellness checks specifically on dogs that are close to being placed to educating each graduating class about dog care and grooming. Dr. Riggs even went as far as creating his own PowerPoint presentation to provide the best visual information possible to the individuals during their training at CCS. He has proven to be a wonderful resource for veterinary care in the North Central Region when we encounter unique medical complications. Also, often our local graduates, staff, and recipients of our release dogs are patients of Dr. Riggs because of his relationship with CCS and his demeanor not only with the dogs, but with the people as well."

"He is a modest, caring individual and a strong advocate for CCS. Dr. Riggs not only touches those involved with CCS but creates awareness for CCS within the Central Ohio community..."

"Dr. Riggs graduated from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary

Medicine and began his career at Best Friends Veterinary Hospital in Powell, Ohio in 1988. Dr. Riggs is co-owner of the Best Friends Animal Hospital..."

"The North Central Region is both honored and proud to have Dr. Riggs as part of our organization," as are we! Congratulations Dr. Riggs!

A New Arrival is on the Way



Kellie, a receptionist here, has been a member of the Best Friends family for a few years now and in the next several months she will be adding a new member to her own family. Kellie and her husband Rob are expecting their first baby!

The new addition is expected to arrive around September 14, 2010. We will include more details about this exciting news in future issues. Congratulations Kellie and Rob!

Best Friends Veterinary Hospital

275 W Olentangy St.

Powell, Ohio 43065



(614)889-7387

bestfriendsvethospital.com

also www.BFVH.org