



AVC News

Volume 1, Issue 3



Winter 2008/2009

Agape Veterinary Clinic, Inc.

Catching Up:

Winter is here, and that means we get to enjoy some fun and yummy traditions. But much of what we enjoy is not good for our pets. Be sure to look on page 2 for some very important information and tips for keeping your pets healthy and happy through the holidays.

You may have noticed a "new look" on our billing paperwork. Please be sure to re-familiarize yourself with our policies. We haven't changed anything, but we felt it was important to make our payment policy more visible. If you have questions, please feel free to call us anytime and ask about great payment options such as Care Credit. This offers clients an alternative to paying large bills all at once. See page 2 for more details.

One change we will be implementing this winter is the phasing out of prescription pet foods. A number of you order regularly so we will have an "auto-order" option

where we will place an order the same day each month. Or, if you need a special food for an illness, we will special order it. We just won't be stocking every kind of food anymore. We are encouraging clients to use our online store and this way the pet food will be delivered to your door when you need it. We feel the cost and time involved in stocking foods that never get sold and then expire is not being effective. Call us if this might affect you or to be placed on our "auto-order" list.

We here at Agape want to extend our most heartfelt good wishes to you and your pets this holiday season, and we wish everyone a healthy, prosperous 2009!

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Special Deals

- * Keep a lookout for some fun quizzes and games for your chance to get discounts !
- * Also, we'll feature special discounts on seasonal services.

A Note From Dr. Gray:

Thanks to all of you that came out to visit us at our booths at Haymarket and The Plains Days! We had tons of giveaways and some kitty's and a bunny up for adoption. Look for some pictures on page 3.

We are very excited to announce the arrival of our new digital x-ray equipment! Now with the touch of a button, your pet's x-ray is on a laptop in the exam room for us to review. It also takes great dental views.



Small Animal Medicine:

Holiday binging is as American as apple pie, but did you know that feeding many table foods can lead to stomach upset and even toxicity for your pets? Every year we get a couple of clients who have innocently fed their pet the Christmas hambone, or prime-rib bone. A day or two later they are in our office having surgery or needing supportive care. Many pet owners don't realize that cooked bone will deposit calcium in the GI tract and "stones" will develop and become extremely painful. You should avoid feeding any bones (raw or cooked) to your pets. Other potential hazards are as follows:

- onions
- baker's chocolate
- grapes
- bones (raw or cooked)
- poinsettias
- tinsel/garland/ribbons/bows
- macadamia nuts- dogs
- tomatoes (any form)- cats
- potatoes and mushrooms
- nutmeg
- Xylitol (sugar substitute)- very dangerous to dogs.

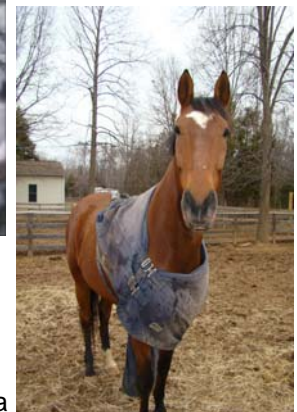
If you suspect your pet might have gotten into any of these items or you notice any questionable behavior, call us!



Equine Medicine:

As cold weather bears-down on us, it's really important to tune in to your horse's health cues. Many of us have to switch to an all (or mostly) hay diet when pastures become scarce. The transition for most will be smooth, but for a few it might cause some stomach upset. Transition horses slowly when making any dietary changes. Always make sure your horses are provided plenty of fresh, clean water at all times. Pasture naturally has a high water content, but hay and grains are dried, so water must be made available. Make sure to be mindful of how much water is consumed so your horse doesn't fall victim to colic or dehydration. Another potential problem is ventilation. Many barn managers think they're protecting the horses by closing off all doors and windows, but without constant airflow, the ammonia from the urine and dust from the bedding can cause respiratory ailments. Also, the increased time horses might be stalled in the winter due to storms, ice, etc. make the ammonia much worse.

Horses still need exercise and attention in the winter to keep their bodies functioning properly. While a romp in the field may not be possible, a handwalk down the barn aisle and a good brushing is great for body and mind. Also, there are great stall toys available to stave-off boredom.



Important Notes:

Recently, we have changed the look of our billing paperwork. We're including our invoicing and billing policy on the bottom of every invoice and statement. Keep in mind, like most doctor's offices, this will show up automatically- irregardless if you've paid us or not. With very few exceptions, payment is always expected when services are rendered. If, for some reason, you do not pay at that time, you will have 30 days to pay before interest

finer will be added to your bill each month at a rate of 1.5%. We do have great credit options such as "Care Credit" which, when approved, can give you a no interest option for your larger vet bills. Also, on a case-by-case basis, we can work out a payment schedule if you find yourself in a jam. We just really need an effort to be made and for you to stay proactive with your account. Thank you in advance for your compliance in this matter.

Cosmo's Corner (a "bird's eye view" of a cat's life in the hospital)

Well, faithful friends, the summer lull is definitely over! I spend all day greeting pets! It's exhausting being nice! I hope everyone appreciates me giving up my precious nap time to constantly look adorable on the front desk. If that's not enough, now, with the shorter days it's been extra hard to find a sunny spot to curl up for a nap. Can't wait for the holidays- I've been so good this year that I'm sure my stocking will be stuffed with my

favorite kitty treats! Hope you make out as well as I will!
May you all stay warm and dry!

-Cosmo the wonder cat

***"In a cat's eyes
all things
belong to cats."
- English saying***



Me, hard at work!

Photo Gallery:



Some photos from Haymarket Day. Lisa with a Revolutionary War soldier; Mia setting up the booth; the kittens up for adoption; marching in "A Day in the Plains" parade!



Food for Thought:

I love a dog. He does nothing for political reasons.

An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language.



See ya next time!

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*Country vet charm, city vet
technology*

**We're on the web!
www.agapevet.net**



Products:

We offer a wide range of prescription and general health foods and treats at prices as low as large pet supply chains—without the hassle of going there. We also carry a wide range of medicated bathing supplies, sprays, and behavior management products.

Other services that set us apart:

* Online pharmacy— have easy access to thousands of prescriptions and products from the comfort of your home. Have your prescription pet food delivered to your door too!

* Laparoscopic surgery *****new!*****

* Wellness programs

* Shockwave treatments— treats degenerative arthritis

Regular clinic hours:

Monday-Friday 8am– 6pm

Saturday 9am– 1pm

Sunday closed



Q & A: answers in the next issue...

1. What is the only animal whose evidence is admissible in an American court?

If you can answer all 3 questions correctly, stop by the clinic to get a free small bag of Lean Treats for your cat or dog!

2. What is the difference between an ailurophile, and an ailurophobe?

Answers to last issue's questions:

1. To hide it's scent glands so it doesn't appear to be dominant.
2. Lexington
3. Kittens

3. What is a "hinny"?

