

MCLEOD



VETERINARY HOSPITAL



October 2010

Hospital Hours

Mon – Thurs	8 am – 6:30 pm
Friday	8 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday	9 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday	Closed

FYI

We recently received a reminder from The Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association of a by-law that states:

The veterinarian-client-patient relation (VCPR) is the basis for interaction among veterinarians, their clients and their patients. This VCPR exists when your veterinarian has seen your animal at least once in the past 12 months and is aware of the keeping and care of your animal by examination. Dispensing or prescribing a prescription product requires the existence of a VCPR.

If your pet is taking medication long-term, please be advised that the veterinarian will need to examine your pet on an annual basis to continue refilling all prescription medications. Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns regarding this information.

McLeod Veterinary Hospital
880 McLeod Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2G 2T7
Ph: (204)661-3334
Email: mcleodvh@mts.net
Web: www.mcleodvet.com

Is this an Emergency?

Pet owners often hesitate before calling their veterinarian or put off making an appointment when they are unsure of the seriousness of the situation. Here are a few examples of situations which are considered emergencies and should be seen right away.

Difficulty passing urine or inability to urinate is a potentially life threatening problem and getting your animal to a veterinarian is of extreme importance. Urinary obstruction tends to occur most frequently in male cats as they have a naturally long and narrow urethra which obstructs easily. Animals with urinary obstructions may pass small amounts of bloody urine or no urine at all. It is easy to confuse constipation concerns with urinary issues in cats.

Any type of injury to the eye, no matter how small, can quickly become a serious problem. If your animal is blinking more than normal or squinting excessively, rubbing or pawing at its eye, the eye appears red or has an abnormal discharge, making an appointment to see your veterinarian as soon as possible could be a sight-saving decision.

Physical trauma, like a fight with another animal or being hit by a vehicle may seem like obvious emergencies but what if your animal appears to be free of visible injury? The immediate effects of internal injuries can be masked by adrenalin, so although your pet may seem fine, it can take up to 48 hours for signs of injury to appear. In the event of physical trauma, a visit to your veterinarian can help determine if there is more injury than meets the eye.

New Hill's Healthy Advantage Diet

We are excited to offer a new maintenance diet produced by Hill's, called Healthy Advantage. This diet is available exclusively at veterinary hospitals. It is formulated with five essential key preventative benefits, and is ideal for healthy animals.

Feline:

- Kitten: Nutritionally formulated to promote immunity, weight maintenance, urinary health, digestive health, and healthy skin and coat.
- Adult: Many of the same great benefits as the kitten formula: weight maintenance, urinary health, digestive health, skin and coat benefits. In addition the adult formula has oral health benefits, as it reduces plaque and tartar buildup.

Canine:

- Puppy (available in large breed): Nutritionally formulated to promote immunity, weight maintenance, digestive health, skin and coat health. In addition promotes healthy joint development and support.
- Adult: Many of the same great benefits as the puppy formula: weight maintenance, digestive health, joint health, skin and coat health, additionally has oral health benefits by reducing plaque and tartar buildup.

Currently these diets are available in a dry formula. Ask our staff if this diet is appropriate for you pet.

Changes to Hill's Food Bag Sizes

Hill's has recently changed the sizes of some of the bag sizes. It will be comforting to know that the price per pound will remain the same for all the food.



Pet of the Month

Meet Angel

Angel is a three month old Labrador Retriever loving owned by Leslie and Luke.

McLeod Veterinary Hospital Staff Members

Veterinarians

Dr. Robert Newfield
Dr. Alison Bowles
Dr. Jason Kellsey
Dr. Angela Coleman-Wiebe

Animal Health Technologists

Barbe Parke
Cindy Sontag
Kim Nakamura
Amy Weir
Joëlle Tétréault

Receptionists

Martina Korne
Brittini Jensen
Kelly Zelinsky
Carissa Shaw
Ashley Celhar

Veterinary Assistants

Rees Buck
Jennifer Loewen
Laura Tschetter

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Bird Dangers

Some of the most common foods eaten by humans are poisonous and can even be deadly to birds. Here are a few of the common foods which should not be offered to birds.

Avocado – the whole avocado has been known to cause heart distress and eventual heart failure.

Caffeine – causes heart malfunction and can result in cardiac arrest.

Fruit Seeds – most fruit seeds of the cherry family, including apple seeds, peach pit, pear seeds, apricot pit, and cherry pit contain trace amounts of cyanide.

Mushrooms – the caps and stems of certain varieties of mushrooms can cause liver failure.

Salt – too much salt can result in dehydration and eventual death.

Tomato and Potato Greens – are highly toxic.

Dried Beans – contain a toxic chemical. Cooked beans are safe and a favorite of most birds.

Onions – excessive consumption of onions may result in serious digestive problems.

Alcohol – is often fatal. Do not leave your drink unattended.

Dog Licks and Kisses

Most people think that when a dog licks their face, the dog is giving kisses. In fact, dogs do not kiss. Although face licking can reasonably be interpreted as a compliment, it is not kissing as we understand it. Many dogs will lick whatever they can get their tongues on; hands, feet, faces, elbows and ears. In order to have a better understanding of the differences between what we consider kissing and our dogs consider licking, we need to know why dogs lick.



Licking is seen first in the mother-infant situation when the mother grooms her pups after birth. This helps clean the pups and also stimulates their breathing. This continues into puppyhood; the mother's licking not only cleans the pups but encourages them to eliminate. Human mothers bathe their infants and change diapers because they care, but no one would confuse the act of bathing or changing diapers with kissing. Because dogs can manipulate things better with their mouths than with their paws, it makes sense for them to use their tongues when it comes to cleaning. As a veterinary behaviorist so eloquently put it, a tongue is a dog's toilet paper.

Although some face licking is tolerable, "no lick" is a useful command to master. It should be incorporated into the training of all dogs that lick their owners excessively, preferably from an early age. No punishment should be employed during training; in fact, punishment is totally inappropriate and will teach the dog nothing except how to avoid the punishment. It is far better to reward the behavior that you want to promote. This can be achieved using a voice cue, "no lick", patient, motionless waiting on the part of the owner, and a valued reward (a treat, perhaps), delivered instantaneously, for stopping licking.

While many of us enjoy our dog's "kisses", it is important to remember that what humans define as a voluntary act of affection may not be a dog's intention. Licking, in general, is harmless and can be considered normal dog-to-owner behavior. If the licking becomes obsessive, training your dog to only lick on command is a reasonable way to curb the unwanted behavior. Once a dog has been taught when licking is appropriate and how much is tolerated, receiving "kisses" from your dog is more appreciated. Understanding the behavior behind your dog's actions can only help you strengthen the bond between both of you.