



Dog Behavior Tips

Does your pup get over-excited and jump up on you when there's a lot of activity going on?

Try "Wild Sits"

How to play:

1. Make sure your dog knows "sit"
2. Start by running around cheering, jumping up and down, and getting the dog riled up
3. Then, mid-romp, instruct the dog to sit
4. He probably won't obey the first time or two, but after a little practice he'll be able to go from acting hyper to sitting patiently on command
5. This is a great way to teach your dog to listen to you while in a state of hyperactivity

Patience is key!

OUR HOURS:

MON	7:30am-7:30pm
TUES	7:30am-6pm
WED	7:30am-7:30pm
THURS	7:30am-6pm
FRI	7:30am-6pm
SAT	8am-1pm
SUN	5pm-5:30pm**

**boarding pick ups and drop offs only

Companion Chatter

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014

Things to Know about Ice & Snow

A few simple measures can keep your dog safe and happy through the winter

Protect Those Paws

Look at the Iditarod sled-dog teams and you'll notice that their paws are covered by booties. Musher's know that the race may be lost because of injuries and abrasions from running on ice. Even if your dog isn't dashing through 1,000 miles of frozen Alaskan wilderness, winter conditions can still do damage. Here are some tips for keeping your pup on his paws.

Bust Fuzz: Hair on the feet of long-haired dogs can form ice balls between pads and toes. Keep them well-trimmed, cutting the hair so that it is even with the surface of the foot.

Clean Feet: City streets are coated with de-icing substances such as sodium chloride (rock salt) and calcium chloride, which make sidewalks safe for pedestrians, but can damage paw pads. Make sure you wash them off. Some people keep a bucket next to the door to rinse their dog's feet as soon as they come in from the cold. Use warm water and make sure to reach spots between the toes and pads. Some dogs will also need a moisturizer for dry skin.

Shoe Fetish: For dogs who will wear them, booties may be the best solution for winter foot protection. For dogs who won't wear shoes, some people use paw

wax, such as Musher's Secret.

Four-legged Fashionistas

Sure, most dogs have their own coat, but you wouldn't want to go out in a blizzard in a light spring jacket. Make sure small, delicate, and short-haired dogs, even large ones like Greyhounds, have an appropriate winter wardrobe. Bonus: You can have fun dressing them up.

Avoid Thin Ice

It might look like fun to slide across that frozen pond, but ice can easily crack and your dog, and you, could fall in. Slipping on ice can also lead to muscle strains and other injuries.

Jack Frost Nipping?

Dogs can suffer from frostbite, especially on delicate earflaps and tail tips. In extreme cold, it's a good idea to keep dogs inside, with the exception of the heavy-coated northern breeds that thrive in low temperatures. If it's not possible to keep the dogs indoors, be aware of the major signs of frostbite, which include skin that appears white or blue.

Puppy, It's Cold Outside

Even a big fuzzy dog who lives in-

doors will need some time to acclimate to freezing temperatures. Short romps outside will help your dog's body get used to the change in the weather.

Not for Children of All Ages

Where climate is concerned, age is more than a number. Like humans, very young and very old dogs have a hard time regulating body temperature, so they have more extreme reactions to changes in weather. Romps in the snow may be too much for their more delicate constitutions. Keep the oldsters and the puppies indoors as much as possible.

Antifreeze Alert

As little as a teaspoon of antifreeze can cause kidney failure. Be alert to the signs that your dog has swallowed some of it, which include drooling, vomiting, seizures, excessive thirst, and a drunken appearance. If you think your dog has ingested antifreeze, it's important to get to a vet as soon as possible. Even if you keep your antifreeze safely tucked away, there is still a danger from residue in the streets. Most antifreeze is green ethylene glycol, but it comes in several different colors, so watch where your dog is sniffing.

February is National Pet Dental Health month!

Did you know **home dental care** is as important for your pet as it is for you? Periodontal disease affects **85% of adult dogs and cats** and can lead to **pain, bad breath and tooth loss**. Even worse, chronic oral infection can spread harmful bacteria to other parts of the body, including the lungs, heart, liver, and kidneys.

Fortunately, **most periodontal disease is preventable** through a program of oral hygiene and regular professional care. Routine home dental care should be a part of every pet's preventive medicine program.

We have a number of **pet dental products** that we carry regularly here at the clinic. Products including toothbrush/toothpaste kits, water additives, Greenies dental treats and enzymatic oral hygiene chews.

Check out our **"Dental Care"** tab on our website for a full description of our products, informational brochures, a list of the top-rated dental treats and food, and even a video demonstrating **how to brush your pet's teeth!**



Have you activated your Petly account?

Did you know Petly is a great way to keep track of all of your pet's vaccine records, bloodwork results and other vital information? Petly is also a great way to stay current on all of the latest announcements such as pet food recalls and announcements regarding the clinic. You can even request appointments and prescription refills! Interested? Ask a receptionist for information on how to get started today!

Change in Saturday Schedule

Starting Saturday, January 18th we will be transitioning over to scheduled appointments instead of walk-ins. Our goal is to decrease your wait time on Saturdays and we hope it will help things to run a lot smoother. If you have any questions/concerns please feel free to speak with a receptionist!



Dana H.
service coordinator

Employee Spotlight

Dana was born and raised in Riner, VA on a small farm. She enjoys volunteering at Winterfrost Farm Horse Rescue. She has a huge heart for animals and takes care of 5 cats, 1 dog, 3 mini pigs, 3 mini horses, 1 pony, chickens, 18 goats, a rabbit, ducks, geese and guineas! Her favorite past time includes working with and taking care of the Winterfrost Farm horses with friends.



EMERGENCIES

If your pet has an emergency after hours, a vet is on call here until 10pm to answer your questions and help you decide if you need emergency care. If your pet needs to see a doctor you can go to the Vet School at VA Tech (540-231-4621, Town and Country (540-382-5042 or Emergency Veterinary Services of Roanoke (540-563-8575).

