



Easy-to-learn Dog Tricks

Spin around:

1. Start with your dog in a standing position.
2. Hold a treat in front of your dog's nose, and give the command "spin."
3. Slowly pull the treat toward the side of your dog's head so he'll have to turn his head to follow it.
4. Keep pulling the treat around in a circle around your dog's body so he'll have to spin in order to keep track of the treat.
5. Once your dog has followed the treat in a complete circle, tell him "good" or "yes" and give him the treat.
6. Spend about 5 minutes several times a day practicing the spin. Your dog will be spinning in a complete circle before you know it!

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

MAY—JUNE 2013

Garden Hazards

Many pet parents are unaware of the fact that a number of common plants in the yard can be highly toxic to pets if ingested. Lilies in particular can be highly toxic to cats, and ingestion of even a small amount or even licking a plant can result in severe kidney damage. Check out the following list of some of the toxic plants common to our gardens in this area.

Poisonous Plants

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Amaryllis | Iris |
| Azalea | Lantana |
| Black Locust | Lilies |
| Blue-green algae | Lupine |
| Chrysanthemum | Marigolds |
| Clematis | Morning Glory |
| Cyclamen | Mountain Laurel |
| Daffodil | Mushrooms |
| Elephant Ears | Rhododendron |
| English Ivy | Sago Palm |
| Ferns | Schefflera |
| Honeysuckle | Tulip |
| Hyacinth | Yucca |
| Hydrangea | |

Please remember that this list does not contain all poisonous plants. If you are concerned about a plant your pet has eaten please contact the ASPCA animal poison control center at 888.426.4435 or online at www.aspc.org/apcc.

Fertilizer

Just like you, plants need food. But pet parents take care—the fertilizer that keeps our plants healthy and green can wreak havoc on the digestive tracts of our furry friends. Ingesting large amounts of fertilizer can give your pet a good case of stomach upset and may result in life-threatening gastrointestinal obstruction. Be sure to follow instructions carefully and observe the appropriate waiting period before letting your pet run wild outside.

Mulch

Many gardeners use cocoa bean shells—a by-product of chocolate production—in landscaping. Popular for its attractive odor and color, cocoa mulch also attracts dogs with its sweet smell, and like chocolate, it can pose problems for our canine companions. Depending on the amount involved, ingestion of cocoa mulch can cause a range of clinical signs, from vomiting, diarrhea and muscle tremors to elevated heart rate, hyperactivity and even seizures. Consider using a less-toxic alternative, such as shredded pine, cedar or hemlock bark, but always supervise curious canines in yards where mulch is spread.



Exams and vaccines for your new puppy/kitten

The single most important thing you can do for your new puppy or kitten is keep them current on their vaccines. Distemper and parvo are 2 examples of highly contagious and sometimes fatal diseases that are easily contracted by unvaccinated puppies. Puppies and kittens are protected by antibodies from mom for a period of time and then they are on

their own. It varies widely how long these maternal antibodies will protect them so it is critical to begin vaccinating at 6 to 8 weeks of age and booster every 3 weeks until 16 weeks of age to ensure your young pet is protected. Our doctors perform a thorough exam every time these pets come in to check for any abnormalities or changes during this rapid growth phase, the

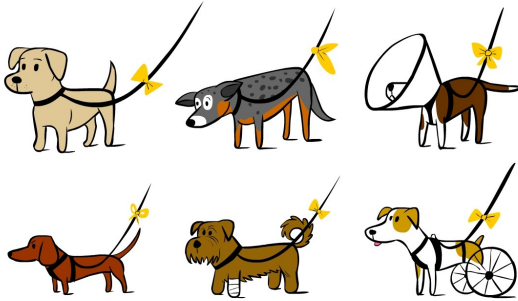
same way a human infant or child is examined frequently as they grow. Ask us today about our vaccine and exam schedule and bring in those cute little puppies and kittens for us to ooh and aww over!



Yellow Dog Project

THE YELLOW DOG PROJECT.com

If you see a dog with a **YELLOW RIBBON** or something yellow on the leash, **this is a dog who needs some space**. Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way.



There are many reasons why a dog may need space:
HEALTH ISSUES
IN TRAINING
BEING REHABILITATED
SCARED OR REACTIVE AROUND OTHER DOGS

THANK YOU!

Those of us who own these dogs appreciate your help and respect!



Illustrated by Jill Chin www.doggiedrawings.net



Does your boarding pet need some extra love and attention during his visit?

Some of our Companion employees can be hired to give your boarding pet some extra TLC while you are gone! When you drop your pet off for boarding, be sure to ask reception about employees that are willing to take your dog for extra walks, or come in to give your kitty some extra loving, for a small fee during their stay.

Sentinel Is Back!!!

Sentinel is the only monthly oral preventive that guards against heartworms, adult roundworms, adult hookworms, whipworms, and prevents the development of flea eggs. Currently we have a rebate for \$10 off every 6-pack you purchase.



Microchipping



Did you know that 1 in 3 pets go missing during their lifetime? And without proper ID, 90% never return home. A microchip for dogs & cats gives the best protection with permanent ID that can never be removed or become impossible to read. When you get your pet microchipped here at the clinic, we will pay for your first year's registration fee! Feel free to call the clinic with any questions you may have and to set up a time to bring your pet in to get chipped! It may just save his/her life.

Employee Spotlight



Sarah Larson

service coordinator

Sarah recently graduated from Radford University with a BBA in Management. She has lived in Blacksburg since 2004 and couldn't imagine leaving. Her very first job at age 16 was at a local pet store where she realized her passion for working with a wide variety of animals. She spends most of her free time with her puppy, Sugar, helping her boyfriend work on his race car, and spending time with her boyfriends' family.

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 Veterinary Teaching Hospital (Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine) 540-231-4621, Town and Country 540-382-5042 or Emergency Veterinary Services of Roanoke 540-563-8575.

