

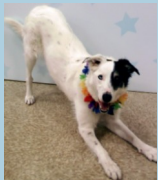


Easy-to-learn Dog Tricks

Take a bow:

1. With your dog in a standing position, wrap your arm underneath your dog's belly
2. Use a treat and lure your dog down until his elbows are on the floor with his rear end remaining up
3. Give lots of praise while your dog is in the correct position
4. After a few repetitions, start to say "bow" or "take a bow" while your dog goes into the position
5. Slowly begin to take your arm away

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

The Truth Behind Lyme Disease

Lyme disease has gained attention recently in Virginia as the infection rate in humans has increased. It is important to understand that Lyme disease in humans manifests *completely* different than it does in canines.

Transmission

In the Northeastern U.S., the deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, transmits Lyme disease to both humans and dogs. A tick must be attached and feeding on a dog for at least 48 hours to transmit the disease. Signs of Lyme disease may not appear until weeks to months after infection.



The deer tick: the main carrier of Lyme disease

Antibodies

In Lyme endemic areas, such as the New River Valley, as many as 90% of

dogs will test positive for Lyme antibodies, which may persist for years. Our in-clinic test used for detection of Lyme disease tests for the antibodies that the body creates when exposed to the organism. It does not mean the pet has an active infection. Most of the dogs that test positive will never develop clinical disease.

Symptoms/Treatment

The majority of dogs that do develop illness suffer from fever, lethargy and joint pain. This disease is readily treated with 2 to 4 weeks of antibiotics. Response is rapid and clinical improvement is generally noted in 24-48 hours.

Rarely, a dog may develop a reaction to the long term presence of the organism in the body and develop serious kidney disease. For this reason, we recommend monitoring dogs that test positive for the Lyme antibody for protein in their urine on a routine basis.

Vaccination: Yes or No?

Vaccination is available for Lyme disease. However,

just as some dogs can possibly react to the long term presence of the Lyme organism in the body, there is also concern the same problem may occur with vaccination. Routinely recommending vaccination for Lyme when so few dogs will actually become ill remains controversial.

Preventative Measures

When it comes to prevention, there is nothing controversial about tick control. It is crucial in Lyme endemic areas to use tick-controlling products. Be sure to keep your pet on a monthly tick preventative.



*This information was taken from VeterinaryPartner.com, a Veterinary information website used by veterinarians worldwide.

For the full article please visit: <http://www.veterinarypartner.com/Content.plx?P=A&S=0&C=0&A=1588>

Dog-friendly Valentine's Day Treats

Ingredients for cookies:

- 1/4 Cup peanut butter
- 1/2 Cup vegetable oil
- 1 Cup water
- 2 Eggs
- 2 Cups whole wheat flour
- 1 Cup oats
- 1 Cup cornmeal



Directions:

Begin by mixing peanut butter, oil, and water until well mixed.

Next, stir in eggs, oats, cornmeal and flour.

The cookie dough will be very firm, this is normal.

Roll this out until it's about 1/4 inch thick and cut it out into whatever shapes you want.

Bake at 400 for about 20 minutes—you may leave them in the oven after turning it off for extra crispy treats

Optional icing:

Melt yogurt chips and add food coloring for a decorative look!



Thank you to those who donated supplies to the Montgomery County Humane Society through our Angel Tree.

Grooming Announcement

Our groomer, Peggy, will be on medical leave through March 1st. We will still be offering baths, brush-ups and paw pad trimming to keep your furry friend looking good! We are sorry for any inconveniences.



Employee Spotlight



Beth, kennel assistant

Beth has two wonderful little boys named Carson and Cole. She has two dogs named Diesel and Porkchop. She is a Blacksburg native and is also currently a student. She enjoys spending time with her wonderful family, shopping, and of course taking care of animals.

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).

