

Newsletter



wellness care • surgery • dentistry • senior care • 24-hour emergency hospital • nutrition • specialty services

Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital's new newsletter needs a name!

Welcome to Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital's quarterly Newsletter. Inside you will find information on how to keep your pets happy and healthy. We are looking for a fun and creative title for our newsletter. The winner will receive a \$20 credit to your account and a goody bag for your pet. Email your suggestions to mtapp@wrah.com by Friday, December 12.

Microchipping and Your Pet

It has been estimated that one in three pets will get lost during their lifetime. The American Humane Society Association reports that only about 17% of lost dogs and 2% of lost cats ever find their way back from shelters to their owners. Some pets will end up adopted out to different people other than their owners, but unfortunately, almost 20 million pets end up being euthanized every year because their owners cannot be found.

Having multiple forms of identification for your pet is the best way to ensure they won't become lost and end up in a shelter. Tags and collars are a good place to start, however these aren't 100% dependable. They can fade or slip off. Even cats that are kept indoors can escape from an open door or window or be let out accidentally.

Surprisingly, only about 14% of dog and cat owners have microchipped their pets to help ensure a safe return if their pet is lost or missing. This is an interesting statistic considering that more than 85% of pet owners when asked consider losing their pet a very traumatic experience and of those 85%, more than

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Announcements

• Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital has partnered with VCA Alameda East Veterinary Hospital and KBPI to help collect nonperishable food items for the Denver Rescue Mission. We will be accepting donations from now until November 10th. The food will be taken to a KBPI collection site on November 11th.

• In addition to the general AAHA accreditation held since 1963, Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital recently became the first hospital in the United States to be accredited through the new AAHA Referral Standards.



Vincent Charles, Dr. Mazzaferro's pug, was a prize winner in his Einstein costume at the annual Pugoween costume contest.

• If you would like to stop receiving this newsletter or would prefer an email copy please send your email address to mtapp@wrah.com.



3695 Kipling Street • Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
Tel 303-424-3325
Fax 303-420-8360
www.wheatridgeanimal.com

Appointment Hours:
Mon - Fri: 9 am to 9 pm
Sat & Sun: 9 am to 5 pm
24-hour Emergency Hospital

Microchipping continued:

60% of pet owners consider pet loss more traumatic than everyday events such as getting in a car accident, breaking a bone, or losing a job. Colorado is second only to California in the number of pets that have been microchipped. However, Colorado leads the country in the number of animals recovered and reunited with their owners through their microchip.

Microchipping provides a safe, permanent, unalterable and reliable means of identification for your pet if he or she is lost. It consists of a tiny microchip with a unique identification code that is implanted between the shoulder blades of your pet. It is a safe and simple procedure, much like being vaccinated. Once in place, the chip can be read by a microchip scanner that is present in most animal hospitals and shelters. Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital uses the ResQ microchipping system from Bayer Animal Health. Unlike other microchipping systems, ResQ uses technology that complies with international standards and also uses a universal reader that can read all brands of tested microchips currently used in the marketplace. ResQ also provides a no-cost registration database. ResQ has partnered with PetLink.net, an international pet database, so that your pet's information is easily attainable and also comes with free lifetime registration, free lifetime updates, and free 24/7 support for pets and their owners.

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The doctors and staff at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital encourage all dedicated pet owners to properly identify their pets with a microchip.

In order to encourage full participation we have teamed up with the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society and The Denver Dumb Friends League in the Chip Your Cat Program. Starting September 24 and for the next year* we will microchip any cat for free. Registration is also free through ResQ and www.petlink.net.

To not leave anyone out we are continuing our annual Microchip Month this November. We are offering a \$10 discount to any dog that is microchipped during this month. Registration is also free for the life of the pet.

~Dr. Lisa Mausbach, DVM

*While supplies last.

Meet Our Veterinarians



Lisa M. Mausbach, DVM

Dr. Mausbach was born in Omaha, Nebraska and moved to Casper, Wyoming at the age of two. She received her bachelor's degree in molecular biology at the University of Wyoming and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Colorado State University. After that she accepted an internship position at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital. Upon graduating from the internship program in 1999, she agreed to stay on board as a general practitioner.

Dr. Mausbach's professional interests include preventative wellness, dentistry, minor surgical procedures and internal medicine.

She lives in Thornton with her husband, Andrew and their "children": Heidi, a Miniature Schnauzer; Hannah, a poodle; one cockatiel, Scooter; and a Severe macaw parrot, Mack. In her free time, she enjoys working out, road biking and vacations to anywhere with a beach.



Elisa M. Mazzaferro, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVECC
Board-Certified in Emergency and Critical Care

Dr. Elisa Mazzaferro was born in Waterbury, CT, along with her twin brother, Joseph. She is one of only a few board-certified critical care specialists in Colorado. She brings an enormous amount of expertise to our group. She oversees our emergency service and the training of interns and residents. In addition to lecturing throughout the country at national and international conferences, Dr. Mazzaferro is active in the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, the Denver Area Medical Society and has published numerous articles and several textbooks on the topic of emergency and critical care.

Her professional areas of interest include nutritional support of the critically ill veterinary patient, trauma, pain management and acute care of the metabolically unstable diabetic patient.

She has a variety of dogs and cats, including an adorable pug, Vincent Charles. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, gardening and growing orchids.



Happy Birthday!



Penny, 17

Penny has been coming to WRAH since she was 8 weeks old. She loves napping, treats and her Clifford doll.



Buddy, 19

Buddy will turn 19 on October 31st, 2008. He loves to watch T.V., especially LSU football games.



Heidi, 17

Heidi, Dr. Lisa Mausbach's oldest, just turned 17! She loves sleeping and cuddling on the couch with her mom and dad.

Rabies Alert

Rabies is a preventable viral disease that affects mammals and is typically transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes. In the past, the primary carrier of rabies in Colorado has been the bat. However, The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment recently reported that a skunk found near Sloan's Lake in Lakewood, CO, tested positive for rabies. This is of great concern, as it is not uncommon for dogs and cats in the Denver area to interact with skunks and this puts our pets at increased risk of acquiring the disease. Even pets that are considered indoor only are at risk, as rabid skunks act abnormally and have been reported to enter people's homes with people in them.

There is no treatment for rabies after symptoms appear. However, this disease can be well controlled by following the rabies vaccine protocol recommended by your veterinarian. This vaccine can provide immunity to rabies when administered after an exposure or for protection before an exposure occurs. Please contact us anytime to learn more about rabies and to make sure that your pet is up to date on their vaccines.

Halloween Hazards

Ghosts, goblins, witches, warlocks, and (my personal favorite)... CANDY!!! Many people know, or have heard, that chocolate can make our furry friends sick. What is commonly not known, however, is what type of chocolate and how much chocolate is dangerous. Dark and Baker's chocolate contain the highest concentration of methylxanthine and theobromine, the toxic components in chocolate that can cause agitation, tremors, rapid heart rate, and seizures in affected animals. Milk chocolate contains less of those substances on a per weight basis, and white chocolate actually isn't chocolate at all, and is relatively safe, aside from the fat component that can cause signs of vomiting and diarrhea. If you think that your dog has ingested any chocolate, the safest thing to do is to call our hospital, and we can make recommendations for treatment based on the type and amount of chocolate ingested, and your dog's body weight.

More recently, health-conscious consumers have been purchasing sugar free candy and gum that contains the sugar xylitol in place of sucrose. Xylitol does not stimulate the release of insulin from the pancreas, and is safer for humans with Type I and Type II diabetes mellitus. In dogs, however, even very small quantities of xylitol can result in the release of massive amounts of insulin, and result in severely low blood sugar that can cause seizures if left untreated. In other dogs, xylitol can cause sudden liver failure. Carefully check all packaging of candy and gums to see what they contain. If the product contains xylitol, be sure to keep it out of your pet's reach. If you think that your pet has consumed any product that contains xylitol, please contact our hospital immediately.

Other key players in the toxic scheme of things this Halloween include macadamia nuts and grapes and raisins. Did you know that macadamia nuts can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and temporary paralysis of the hind limbs in dogs? Did you know that even small quantities of grapes and raisins have resulted in kidney failure in some dogs and cats? Have you thought about that bag of chocolate-covered raisins, or chocolate-covered coffee beans recently? Is it out of your pet's reach, to avoid accidental ingestion? Be careful this holiday season, not just with yourself and your children, but also with your pets, and have a safe and FUN Halloween!!!!

~ Dr. Elisa M. Mazzaferro, MS, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVECC

EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST.

Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital
 EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST.
 3695 Kipling Street
 Wheat Ridge, CO 80033



Microchip Your Pet!

November is Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital's Microchip Month! Every dog that is microchipped during the month of November will receive a \$10 discount, and registration is free.

Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital is participating in the Chip Your Cat Program. All cats are eligible for a FREE microchip*!

*while supplies last



Blood Donors Needed!

Did you know your dog could save other dogs lives? The need for canine blood is critical and increasing. Wheat Ridge Veterinary Blood Bank is always in need for qualified donor dogs. Help your dog become a hero. To find out more please contact blood bank coordinator, Colleen Todd, at 303-996-1366 or visit www.wheatridgeanimal.com.