

For Fidos & Felines

And other household pets

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IN HOME PET CARE...WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

When we meet with new clients, we often share with them how we will provide for their pets in their absence. But many people want to know more...they want us to answer the question, "What's in it for me?" The answer is quite simply, "A lot!"

One of the major advantages of using an in-home pet care service is the convenience. Pet owners don't have to take the time to transport their pets to the kennel as they are frantically making those last minute preparations to leave town. Also, they are not inconvenienced by having to pick up their pets according to the time-

table of the kennel when they return.

Clients appreciate that they don't have to impose on their friends, neighbors, or relatives to care for their pet. They can rely on us, pet care professionals to put their pet's needs first.

With crime on the increase, people are becoming more concerned about home security. While they may have a security system, that will only acknowledge that someone has attempted to or has actually entered their home. Having someone around the house at different times of day, turning on and off lights, opening and closing blinds, acts as a deter-



rent to potential thieves.

Knowing that their pets are being cared for by a capable, caring professional, can help pet owners relax and enjoy their time away from home. And isn't that what vacation is all about?

Our mission:

To provide exceptional, trustworthy services to clients and their pets, treating their pets as we would our own and providing clients with peace of mind when away.



...WHAT'S IN IT FOR MY PET?

Pets love their homes with all the familiar sights, smells and sounds. Their homes provide comfort and security to pets. If they could talk, they would probably tell their owners that home is just fine with them.

While at home, a pet's customary diet and exercise routines will continue without interruption or upset to them. And when a professional pet sitter comes to visit, it is all about the pets! They get love, care and the personal attention they de-

serve.

Whenever pets are in a communal facility there is always a possibility of disease. Staying in their own homes will minimize exposure to illness spread by other animals.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR HOUSE MORE SECURE

Top two actions to prevent security problems:

- Call the police if you see any suspicious activity
- Hide personal belongings and lock them up to avoid temptation to others

At a recent Chamber of Commerce meeting, Joe Piccinini, Chief of Police, shared some pointers we might want to consider that will make our houses more secure.

Lights

Houses that are dark broadcast to the world that no one is home. Interior lights should be left on or put on timers that will turn them on and off when no one is home. Dusk to dawn sensors are great gadgets to use on outdoor lights. Motion sensor lights are very popular, but remember it takes motion to turn them on. Why not have a

deterrent before someone approaches the house?

Deadbolts

These are great locks to have on doors. The test of a deadbolt is how secure it is in the door-frame and the construction frame around the door. If you have a deadbolt with short screws into the doorframe, almost anyone can kick in your door. Inserting long screws that go through the door frame and into the construction frame around the door is a much more secure method of installing deadbolts. Beware if you have a window next to the

door. In that case a vertical metal strip between the door frame and the trim may be a better way to go.

Landscaping

Tall hedges, shrubs, or trees near the house serve as a screen for potential burglars. Keep landscaping near the house low and well-trimmed to deter would-be robbers.

Pets

Pets, especially dogs give the impression that someone is or will soon be home. A barking dog attracts attention and discourages break-ins.

PREVENTIVE CARE THROUGH SAFE HANDLING OF FOOD & TREATS

Pet foods, like many other types of foods, can be susceptible to harmful bacterial contamination. Pet owners can take steps to help prevent food borne illness when handling pet foods and treats.

The FDA has stepped up its efforts to educate pet owners of ways to safely handle pet foods and treats after last year's disaster with contaminated foods.

1. Buying—Purchase products in good condition, without signs of damage to the packaging such as dents or tears.
2. Preparation—Wash hands for 20 seconds with hot

water and soap before and after handling pet foods and treats. Wash pet food bowls, dishes and scoops with soap and hot water after each use. Do not use the pet's food bowl as a scooping utensil—use a clean, dedicated scoop or spoon. Dispose of old or spoiled pet food by securely tying it in a plastic bag in a covered trash can.

3. Storage—Refrigerate food promptly or discard any unused, leftover wet pet food. Dry products should be stored in a cool, dry place. If possible, store dry pet food in its original bag inside a clean, dedicated plastic container with a lid, keeping the top of the bag folded closed. Keep pets away from food storage and preparation areas.

FRESH WATER ESSENTIAL FOR HEALTHY PETS

BY JAYNE SIKYTA



Fresh water is essential for your pet's health. There are many water supply systems available to pet owners today, from a simple bowl filled with water, to gravity water bowls, to fountains. How do you decide which is best for your pet? It depends.

The fact is, bacteria grows when water stands. If you pet is drinking then bacteria from

his/her mouth may enter the water and it will grow. If that bacteria is from a healthy animal, then ingesting more of it will likely not hurt your pet in the short run. So bowls and gravity water bowls seem OK.

In nature, moving water is fresher than stagnant water. With the movement, aeration occurs as the water draws oxygen from the air into the water.

For this reason, some feel fountains are the best way to provide water for their pets.

Here's the bottom line. Choose the container that you like and that your pet will use. No matter what type of container you use, keep it clean by washing it regularly with hot, soapy water. Fill it with fresh water at least daily to give your pet the fluids he/she needs.

APRIL IS PREVENTION OF ANIMAL CRUELTY MONTH

We see stories of animal cruelty from other places with Michael Vick's dog fighting conviction in Virginia to puppy mill terrors exposed on Oprah last week. We never think about this horror in our own back yard. Last week's Lee's Summit Journal exposed that many dogs' mutilated bodies were dumped right here in our hometown.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) offers 10 tips on how to identify animal cruelty.

1. Be aware. Get to know and look out for the animals in your neighborhood.
2. Learn to recognize animal cruelty:
 - Wounds on the body, patches of missing hair, extremely thin, starving animals, limping, etc.
 - An owner striking or otherwise physically abusing an animal
 - Dogs who are repeatedly left alone without food and water, often chained up in a yard
 - Dogs that have been hit by cars and have not been taken to a veterinarian
 - Dogs who are kept outside without shelter in extreme weather conditions
3. Know who to call to report animal cruelty. The number for the Lee's Summit Animal Control is 816-969-7405.
4. Provide as much information as possible when reporting animal cruelty
5. Call or write your local law enforcement department and let them know that investigating animal cruelty should be a priority
6. Know your state's animal cruelty laws. You can visit the ASPCA web site at www.asPCA.org/statelaws
7. Fight for the passage of anticruelty laws on federal, state, and local levels
8. Set a good example for others. Show your pets love and provide the good care they deserve.
9. Talk to your children about how to treat animals
10. Support your local animal rescue organization or shelter with donations of money, food or supplies. Volunteering your time or fostering a shelter animal is a good way to make a difference.

LEE'S SUMMIT HAS MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER REQUIREMENT FOR DOGS

With the number of dog maulings in the metropolitan area, Lee's Summit officials decided to consider a local ordinance to address the issue of animal control. A special task force met with a variety of people in our area to develop the new ordinance that was adopted last winter. Part of that ordinance is the mandatory spay/neuter requirement.

The purpose of this requirement

is to reduce the possibility of unwanted litters of puppies. It states that all dogs over the age of 6 months must be surgically altered unless they meet one of the exemptions allowed in the ordinance. These exemptions include dogs used for law enforcement, as qualified assistance dogs, and those who compete. Also, dogs kept as breeding stock and those that cannot

be altered without a serious risk to the dog's health are exempt from this requirement.

"Initially, it was whether or not we needed to consider breed specific legislation. The community standard was such that we didn't see it was necessary," says Ed Cockrell, task force chairperson. Instead the committee chose to define "dangerous dog."

Lee's Summit's ordinance defines "dangerous dog" as one that has inflicted a severe or fatal injury on a human being, killed a domestic animal without provocation, dogs owned or kept primarily for dog fighting, any dog that has bitten a human being without being provoked, or a dog that chases or approaches a person who is not on the dog owner's property in a menacing way.

WELCOME TO NEW CLIENTS AND THEIR PETS

We love meeting new people and the pet family members. So far this year, we have added a number of new pet clients to our list. Welcome to:

Layla (Chocolate Lab) and Dakota (Weimeraner)
Zino & Deogie (Rottweiler)

Keebler (Welsh Corgi mix) & Miss Kitty (DSH cat)
Moose (Bichon Frise)
Harley (Dachshund)

Jake (Lab mix), Aspen (cat),
Bunnie Boo, Chase, and Snickers (rabbits)

Disney (Golden Retriever mix) & Indy (Flat coated Retriever mix)

We love you all!





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**The best place for your pet
is in your own home.**

We appreciate your recommendations to neighbors, friends, and relatives about our service. Your recommendations are our best source of new customers. In appreciation of your kind words about our services to others, we are offering 10% off your next pet-care engagement for any referrals through the end of May, 2008.
Thanks for helping us help others.

Why pay retail?

Shop our on-line store with its great **selection**, **save** money, and enjoy the **convenience** of having your purchases delivered to your door!

www.fidosandfelinesllc.com
Click on the PSI icon to be directed to our on-line store. You can choose from a variety of products, including:

- Toys
- Treats
- Collars and Leashes
- Training Aids
- Stain & Odor Remover
- Beds
- Attire
- Health Care
- Carriers & Crates
- Gifts & Home Décor
- And much, much more

LAWN FERTILIZERS, WEED KILLERS AND PETS

This time of year thoughts turn toward feeding lawns and flower beds and killing weeds before they take over yards. In their zeal to have the greenest, nicest lawn in the neighborhood, people sometimes forget about the effect of the chemicals on pets.

There are many types of lawn fertilizers, some of which are safe for pets. Reading the label carefully is the first step in understanding the potential toxicity to pets. According to one source, fertilizers that don't contain herbicides or pesticides may not be harmful to pets. If there is doubt about its effect on animals, pet owners should

assume it is dangerous.

So how can they have a lush yard and healthy pets? One method is to apply the fertilizer, then water thoroughly to wash the granules into the soil and off the blades of grass. When applying weed or pest control products to plantings in flower beds, place a barrier to keep pets and children out of the area since these products cling to the leaves and stems of plants. Only after the product has dried or the dust settled, should the barrier be removed. There are many organic products available today that have not been available in the past. Again, the key is to read the

label and understand the content. While these organic products may not be harmful to your pet, if they contain bone meal, blood meal, fish meal, alfalfa, etc., they may be a tempting scent that pets cannot resist. They won't hurt your pet, but if the product ends up in your pet's stomach, they won't help your plants and lawns!

No matter what method or product you use, by planning ahead and selecting a safe product, a safe method, or both, you can protect your pet from the potentially harmful effects of fertilizers and weed killers.

