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The Quarterly Paws

WELCOME! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of our Riverside Drive Animal Care Center families! We hope you'll enjoy this holiday edition of our newsletter! It's hard to believe that winter is fast approaching and before we know it, that dreaded four-letter word... SNOW... will once again become a regular part of our everyday vocabulary. Inside this special holiday edition, you will find helpful tips on keeping your pets safe, gift ideas for all the pet-lovers in your life, and suggestions on having a stress-free winter and keeping yourself sane! So grab a mug of hot chocolate, sit back, relax, and enjoy catching up on all things RACC!



Inside this issue

- Gift Ideas
- Cookie Recipe
- Employee Spotlights
- Safe/Unsafe foods for your Pets
- Destress around the Holidays

Special point of interest

Pet Insurance was a life saver for one of our client. Read all about it in side!

THANKS!...



Huge thanks goes out to all the wonderful people who helped make our very first charity fundraiser a big success! While we certainly were hoping for a more robust turnout, we learned a lot about what to do next year to make things even better and with your generous giving, we were pleased to present LifeCare Alliance, and specifically their Senior PetCare program with over \$1,800!! Thank you Matt for educating us on this wonderful program and for taking part in our event!



A special thanks goes to all those who were kind enough to donate fantastic items that made our raffle a huge success!

Jamie Miles with Noxgear, Inc. for donating 2 Lighthouse harnesses – Please check out their website, www.noxgear.com and see for yourself what super cool items they have for both humans and canines to keep everyone safe and “lit” while running or walking. There is also a special coupon code that Jamie has generously offered our clients which is good on orders until December 31. Simply add your item to your cart and enter “racc” for coupon code and receive 35% off any product, but remember,

only until the end of December!

Paul and Christy Liimatta for donating a two-night stay at their retreat, Rustic Ravines, in West Virginia. A great outdoor get-away with luxury cabins, four-wheeling vehicles, fishing, and more! Also perfect for rustic weddings! Be sure to check out their website for more information and reservations. (www.rusticravines.com).

Meso Lee for donating a beautiful canine drawing! She has such an artistic flair and talent...Look at her website (www.behance.net/mesolee) or email her directly at mesoleeart@gmail.com to request a personal portrait for your pet or as a gift!

Our own Alexa and Paul Shumay for donating a hand-crafted, paw print shaped leash holder. These can be custom made with different numbers of hooks and different color choices. Contact our office and ask for Alexa if you’re interested in ordering!

Paul and Vicky Scaperoth for donating an OSU bundle including a T-shirt, sports game, game day tote and bottle opener...Go Bucks!

Our own Adam and Lauren Krueger for donating several Thirty-One purses, handbags, and backpacks! All were gorgeous!

Hank Foister for donating a Potbelly restaurant gift certificate! Be sure to stop by for a delicious meal, yummm!

And of course Riverside Drive Animal Care Center for the filled-to-the-brim gift basket of pet goodies! We have great plans already in the works for our 2nd annual charity event so be prepared for a fun time next autumn!!



Meso Lee

IT'S BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.... SOME THOUGHTFUL GIFTS FOR PETS AND PET LOVERS

FOR PETS:

Dog beds with orthopedic padding for the geriatric pet
Kong wobbler toys that have openings for treats to keep your pet busy while guests are over
Cat climbing tree houses complete with scratching posts
Our homemade pet treats
Warm sweaters
Chew toys
Snazzy collars and leashes
Frisbees and tennis ball throwers (it will be warm again some day!)
Sport team collars and leashes (Go Bucks!)
Bow ties or flowers for collars

FOR PET LOVERS:

RACC gift certificates
Wine and sleep shirts/clothing
Meso artwork
Shelter donations certificates tucked in pet themed tumblers
Pet socks
Travel food/water bowls
Sofa covers
Breed tree ornaments
Picture frames
Paw print jewelry
Matching pet/human pajamas (check Target!)





Spotlight on Bre!

Razzle, dazzle, sparkle, and shine! Our receptionist Bre does all of these! You may see her with her sequined shoes, hair bows, and glitter gloss, she loves everything glitzy. Bre has been a receptionist with us for a little over two years and her favorite thing about RACC is all the kittens she gets to play with! Bre is definitely a “cat person” as she used to volunteer for the Humane Society in her hometown of Tiffin, Ohio and rescued her own kitty, six-year old Mo, from Seneca County when he was only two. With her father being in the Navy for 23 years, Bre was actually born in Hawaii

where she developed her love of learning. She has associate degrees in business, music business, and in music technology and recording. Whew! She also has a true flair for fashion and loves the arts but by far Bre’s biggest passion is the Cleveland Indians! She attends at least 10 games a year and can recite baseball facts like nobodies’ business! We are very lucky to have this talented glam-girl on our team!



Holiday Cautions!!

** If your pet eats tinsel or a broken glass ornament, this could cause a linear obstruction or intestinal lacerations and is a medical emergency!!

** When shopping for walkway and sidewalk ice melting products, make sure they are pet-safe!

something to keep in mind...

We will be having an appointment policy change that may involve additional charges for multiple cancellations of scheduled appointments that occur within a 24-hour period time frame.



“May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve.”

Client Questions

Q – Should I not have poinsettias in my house because it’s dangerous for my pets?

A – While poinsettias are mildly toxic to dogs and cats, it is actually mistletoe and holly that are the most dangerous. To be on the safe side, limit these plants in your house or even better, opt for plastic or silk varieties that can be re-used year after year!

Q – Why does my doctor recommend flea and tick prevention year round?

A – Fleas are able to survive in Ohio until at least one full week of freezing (below 31° F) but if it gets above freezing, even for a day or so during this time, they can still hang in there. Also, if your pet gets boarded anywhere or visits a groomer, there is always the chance they can get fleas by contact. With this being a season of guests coming and going, and not knowing if fleas could be hitching a ride on their clothing, it’s better to keep your pets, and your home, protected all year round! Important to note, heartworm prevention is also highly recommended all year long because it not only prevents heartworm (spread by mosquitoes) but also kills intestinal parasites.





Holiday time means friendly get-togethers and big family meals. While it's expected most of us will over-indulge in the food (think pumpkin pie, candy, turkey, stuffing, cookies and more) how can we make sure our furry little friends stay safe? What foods should they avoid and which ones might be, in moderation, okay? Read on.....

UNSAFE FOODS:

Alcohol	Avocados
Chocolate	Coffee, Caffeine
Grapes/Raisins	Macadamia Nuts
Milk	Ice Cream
Nuts	Onions, Garlic, Chives
Raw eggs	Raw/Undercooked Meat, Bones
Fat Trimmings	Xylitol (sweetener found in gum, candy and toothpaste)
Salt/Salty Snacks	Yeast Dough
Sugary Foods	Raw Fish
Peaches	Plums

So is there anything poor Fido can have? Sure!! Provided your pet has no allergies and all things given are in moderation, there are several tasty treats available...

SAFE TO GIVE:

Peanut Butter	Yogurt
Oatmeal	Chicken (cooked)
Carrots	Eggs (cooked)
Green Beans	Pumpkin (not pie filling)
Salmon (cooked)	Broccoli

If you have any questions or are unsure if something is safe for your pet to ingest, please call our office for prompt advice! Better to be safe than sorry!

Shout Outs!!

- ◇ Congratulations to receptionist Tisha for getting married this past October!
- ◇ We celebrate receptionist Molly for moving to the back to become a vet tech assistant!
- ◇ Congratulations to Cathy for being inducted into Kappa Beta Delta, an international honor society for business students at her college!
- ◇ Congratulations to vet tech assistant Michaela for being a first-time homeowner and for adopting a little black kitten named Dwight to make her new house a home!
- ◇ Congratulations to vet tech Nicole who is expecting her first baby in early January! (morebaby info to come in next issue!!)
- ◇ Thanks to vet tech assistant Robin and her family for adopting one of our in-house stray cats, Jack!



FA, LA, LA, LA, LA!!

HOMEMADE DOG COOKIES

(Be aware of any allergies your dog may have before feeding!)

Ingredients:

½ cup	Canned Pumpkin
2	Eggs
1 ½	Whole Wheat Flour
1 cup	Oats
½ cup	Creamy Natural Peanut Butter (Not containing Xylitol!)
2 ½ teaspoons	Whole Wheat Flour
1 tablespoon	Water

Frosting

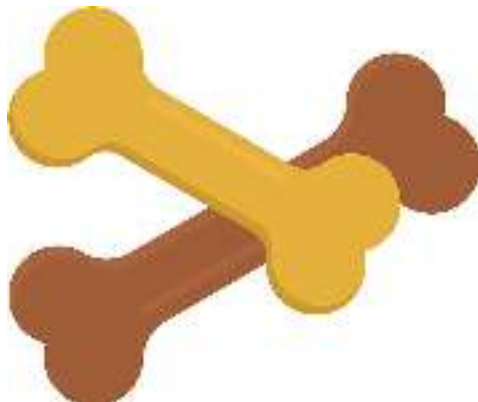
½ cup	Natural Creamy Peanut Butter
2 ½ teaspoons	Whole Wheat Flour
1 tablespoon	Water

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350°F and line a cookie sheet with parchment paper
- With electric mixer, beat together pumpkin, peanut butter, and eggs until combined.
- Gradually add in whole wheat flour and then oats.
- Transfer dough to well-floured countertop or surface and dust with additional flour.
- Knead gently as needed until it forms a cohesive ball.
- Use a rolling pin to roll dough out to a ¼" thickness (if dough is too sticky, dust with more flour) and use a cookie cutter to cut into shapes.
- Use a spatula to transfer cookies to baking sheet and bake at 350°F for 20-24 minutes.
- Allow cookies to cool completely before serving or frosting.

Frosting:

- In microwave, warm ½ cup peanut butter for 15 seconds (until it can be easily stirred)
- Add water and stir well.
- Add flour and stir.
- While the "icing" is still warm, spread over cooled cookies. Re-heat for another 10 seconds if it becomes too difficult to spread.
- The frosting will harden a bit as allowed to sit, but can be served to your dog at any time.



FA, LA, LA, LA, LA!!



HOMEMADE HUMAN COOKIES (Peanut Butter Kiss)

Ingredients:

½ cup	Sugar
½ cup	Brown Sugar
½ cup	Shortening
½ cup	Smooth Peanut Butter
2 tablespoons	Milk
1 teaspoon	Vanilla
1	Egg
1 ¾ cups	Flour
1 teaspoon	Baking Soda
½ teaspoon	Salt
Bag Hersey Kisses (unwrapped)	

Instructions:

- In one bowl, mix sugars, shortening, peanut butter, milk, vanilla, and egg.
- In separate bowl, mix flour, baking soda and salt. Combine the two bowls.
- Make small balls of dough.
- Roll in sugar.
- Bake at 375°F for 8-12 minutes.
- Take out and put one Hersey Kiss in center of each cookie, pressing lightly.
- Bake again for 2 minutes.
- Allow cookies to cool.

Holiday Cautions!!

** If your pet accidentally drinks wine it's extremely dangerous due to the concentration of grapes! Seek emergency help immediately!!

** One of the very worst things for your pet to ingest is bread dough with yeast. It can swell in the stomach or ferment into alcohol and can be fatal. Seek emergency treatment!!

** Do not let your pet chew on bones! Chicken, turkey, lamb, or any other kind of bone can splinter and cause tears and bleeding in your pet's intestines.



Spotlight on Kaitlin!

Our wonderful kennel staff is often overlooked simply because they are “behind the scenes” workers so it’s always great when we can celebrate one of them with the attention they deserve. Our Kaitlin has been with us for over four years now and certainly knows every step of her job and our kennel. Her younger years were spent in Clintinville but she did most of her growing up in Worthington and attended Thomas Worthington High School. Kaitlin is mom to a one-year old cat named Melvin that despite having a cleft lip, seems to get along just fine. So is she strictly a cat-lover? Absolutely not! Kaitlin adores her parent’s three Great Danes and they’ve had Mastiffs and St Bernards too! Kaitlin considers Riverside her “home away from home” but when she actually finds some free time, she loves to hang out with friends, catch up on sleep, and listen to music. We really appreciate all the hard work Kaitlin does in keeping the dogs and cats that board with us safe, clean, and happy. Thanks Kaitlin!!



Just in Case

Keep these numbers handy...

ASPCA Animal Poison Control	1-888-426-4435	\$70 charge
Pet Poison Helpline	1-800-213-6680	\$49 charge
Pet Poison Helpline	1-855-764-7661	\$59 charge





Ever Thought of Pet Insurance?

I sat down with Kendra from Embrace Pet Insurance and asked her some questions to discover the “ins and outs” of having coverage.



Is having pet insurance really worth it?

Absolutely! You never know when an unexpected accident/illness will occur, which is the exact reason why it is smart to look in to pet insurance now.

Is pet insurance only good if you have a puppy? Not worth the money for adult dogs?

Personally, I think it is definitely smart to enroll your pets at a young age. Why? Because chances are your pet is very healthy, meaning lots of coverage. I never exclude older pets from enrolling in a policy. I enrolled my pets when they were older (my dogs were 11 and my cats were 13), I was incredibly surprised and happy with the amount of coverage I received. Embrace enrolls pets up until their 15th birthday too. Regardless, of age I always suggest that pet parents look in to pet insurance, there are a lot of unexpected things that could unfortunately happen to our fur family and you want to be protected and able to move forward with the treatment/care of your pet.

What makes Embrace a good insurance company?

Embrace has been in the pet insurance industry for over 12 years. We offer incredibly comprehensive coverage for our pet parents. The process is a totally personalized experience too, our pet parents can customize their policy to fit their budget and pet insurance needs. Embrace has also received a 9.3/10 on the site: www.petinsurancereview.com. We have also received the NorthCoast 99 Top Workplaces award for 8 years. Did I mention that we love dogs and cats too? We have a dog-friendly office and a lot of our team members participate in local rescue events, vaccine clinics and involvement within our local animal community.

If I have pet insurance, will everything be covered? At what percentage? Are there any conditions not covered?

Every pet insurance goes by this rule, no company will cover a pre-existing condition. If a pet parent is concerned about coverage, I would highly suggest, after they buy a policy, to request the FREE Medical History Review. This review will outline any pre-existing conditions and whether they are temporary/permanent. Embrace covers genetic + chronic conditions too! We have even expanded our coverage to cover Dental Illness as well. As far as what we don't cover: pre-existing conditions/claims related to breeding + whelping/cosmetic procedures/prescription food (covered under our Wellness Rewards) and Supplements + herbs (also, covered under our Wellness Rewards).

What if my pet already has a health issue, is it too late to obtain coverage?

I would not let 1 health issue stand in the way of considering pet insurance. Again, I would highly suggest the Medical History Review. What I usually advise to pet parents who are concerned with a health issue/medical past...is to buy a policy, request the FREE medical history review, then either continue with coverage if you are happy with the results...or, cancel within that first month and receive your money back.

Can the insurance company "drop" my pet?

Absolutely not, Embrace will never drop a pet from coverage. We will also never raise your premium if you claim either.

Go to this link to read an absolutely amazing story of how Embrace helped one of our clients get the medical treatment needed for her dog

<https://www.embracepetinsurance.com/coverage/customer-stories/genetic-conditions/>

STOP THE MADNESS - WAYS TO DE-STRESS

Things can get way out-of-hand during the holidays, there's just so much to do! That's why it's even more important to stay focused on ways to keep things under control and not become victim to too much holiday stress.

Don't wait until the last minute to get things done. Try to keep up on shopping, cooking, baking, and gift wrapping by doing what you can in advance. Avoid too many commitments, it's okay to say no to some of the gatherings you may be invited to and try your best to stick to normal routines as much as possible. Another good idea is to ask friends and family for help if needed, pot-luck celebrations and group decorating are more fun! And even though Aunt Norma's homemade fudge is incredible, moderation is key to feeling your best through the holidays. Most important of all, remember what the season is really about; joy, thankfulness, family, and friends. Slow down and truly enjoy the season, it goes by very quickly.



"Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling."

- Edna Ferber

YOUR PETS CAN STRESS TOO

If stress is a problem for your furry friend, consider pheromone diffusers for both dogs and cats. These diffusers are all natural and drug-free, plug-in kits that can provide comfort and help your pet feel safe and relaxed. While not recommended for cases of aggression or hyperactivity, they can sometimes make a big difference. If your having guests over for the holidays or your pet will be home for longer periods of time than normal, it might be a good idea to try a pheromone diffuser. Just stop by our office during regular business hours to pick one up.





Until Next Time...

Riverside Drive Animal Care Center would like to wish you and yours a very safe, happy, and healthy holiday season! Thank you for being part of our wonderful family!



Riverside Drive Animal Care Center

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Dr. Robert Hanson
Dr. Michelle Wisecup
Dr. Brian Gorby
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