



# Fall 2014 Newsletter

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# Winter Is Coming

by American Heartworm Society

The arrival of Fall signals many changes in the household – switching from salads to soups, pulling sweaters out of storage, changing furnace filters. With pets, however, you may need to think as much about what you **don't** change as what you **do**.

**Don't fall off the exercise wagon.** With days getting shorter – and cooler – it can be tempting to skip your early morning or evening walk. But with more than half of all pets in the U.S. being overweight or obese, exercise is vital. A daily walk can rev the metabolism of both two- and four-legged walkers for hours.

**Do ensure your pet is outfitted for cooler weather.** Small, light-bodied dogs, those with very short hair, and older dogs with weakened immune systems are likely to need sweaters when venturing outside. And once truly cold and snowy weather sets in, dogs may require protective footwear to keep their paw pads from freezing.

**Don't assume that cooler weather eliminates the threat of disease like heartworm,** which are spread by infected

mosquitoes. Mosquitoes have been known to survive well into the winter months, thanks to indoor havens and protected microclimates existing within larger, cooler climate zones. For this reason, the American Heartworm Society recommends year-round heartworm protection for both dogs and cats.

**Do ensure your senior pet has a warm, draft-free place to sleep.** Many older dogs and cats suffer from arthritis. Just as sore joints in people tend to feel worse in cold weather, the same is true for pets. A warm, cozy bed can make nights – and mornings – more comfortable.

**Do be sensitive to your pets' feelings** if fall brings changes to your household. Just like people, pets can get depressed. If you're missing a son or daughter who has moved away to start college or a job, chances are your family pet is also feeling the loss. Spending time with your pet and giving him an extra measure of cuddling and affection can help both of you feel better.



## Holiday Pet Safety

Turn over for our tips for keeping your pets healthy and happy during the upcoming holidays.

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## Therapeutic Laser Treatment

Learn about the benefits of our new Therapeutic Laser Treatment program – available now!

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### *Tell your friends and family to come see us!*

We appreciate your kind words! Each time you refer a new client, we will give you both a \$25 credit toward your next exam. New clients must mention referral at the time of their first visit.

## SOUTHWESTERN VETERINARY SYMPOSIUM

The annual Southwestern Veterinary Symposium was held in Fort Worth, September 25-28. Two of our very own staff members, Technician Morgan Godfrey and Technician Supervisor Doug Stratton, attended the event and participated in specialized training in Veterinary Dentistry techniques and Veterinary Behavior topics. Each member of our team receives continued training throughout the year, and we are pleased that Morgan and Doug were able to attend this event!

# Holiday Pet Safety

Fall and Winter holidays are fun for the entire family, but holidays bring a unique set of cautions for pet owners. Listed below are the most common potential hazards for your four-legged family members.

## Halloween

- **Candy:** Chocolate is toxic to dogs and cats and should never be ingested by your pets. Other candies can pose a health and/or choking hazard as well.
- **Trick-or-Treaters:** Dogs and cats may become anxious or agitated by all the commotion of trick-or-treaters. Secure your pets before the trail of trick-or-treaters begins to ensure their safety and comfort.

## Thanksgiving

- **Human foods:** Foods too rich, too fatty, or too spicy can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or even pancreatitis, which can be very painful and even life-threatening. Prevent your pets from eating any foods they wouldn't otherwise eat as part of their normal daily diet.
- **Cooked poultry bones:** Even the largest cooked turkey bones are prone to splintering, and the shards can irritate or

even pierce the intestines, which can result in a deadly infection. Instead, let your dog chew on sturdy dog toys.

## Christmas

- **Decorations:** the Christmas tree is full of decorations that can be dangerous to pets. Tinsel is appealing to both cats and dogs, and, if ingested, it can twist up the intestines. Tree ornaments can also be dangerous if chewed or swallowed. Ingestion of such decorations may require emergency surgery to remove.

- **Human foods:** Christmas, just like Thanksgiving, can bring delicious treats but danger to your pets if they are given human foods. It is best to stick to AAFCO-approved dog and cat foods.
- **Holiday plants:** Decorative plants such as mistletoe look festive but are toxic to dogs and cats.



## Ohio Drive Animal Hospital is Proud to Offer Therapeutic Laser

When it comes to pain management for your pet, Laser Therapy promotes optimal healing conditions and increases healing circulation to help get them back on their paws faster. This treatment dramatically helps to decrease inflammation, arthritis and pain.

### **What is Laser Therapy?**

Class IV K-Lasers deliver specific red and near-infrared wavelengths of laser light to induce a therapeutic effect within the body.

These include increased circulation, decreased swelling, reduction of pain and enhanced tissue repair.

### **Uses**

Studies show that laser therapy can help patients with: Osteoarthritis, Joint Pain, Ligament Sprains, Muscle Strains, Post-Surgical Pain, Neck and Back Pain, Hip Dysplasia, Burns, Chronic Wounds, and more!

### **Treatment Course**

Acute conditions may be treated as often as once per day, and chronic conditions are usually treated 2-3 times per week at first. The frequency and length of treatment will be tailored for the needs of your pet.

We are excited to bring this special technology to our clients. Call us today to find out if Laser Therapy is right for your pet!