



OAKTON-VIENNA VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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VET TALK

Spring Newsletter 2024

Spring Safety for Your Pets

1. Spring Flowers

Spring blooms, such as lilies, daffodils, azaleas, and rhododendrons are toxic to pets. They can cause vomiting, lethargy, diarrhea, and can even be fatal. You can see a list of toxic and non-toxic plants on the APSCA Poison Control website:

<https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>

2. Parasites



Warmer weather leads to an increase in ticks, fleas, and the mosquitos that carry heartworm. Be sure to keep your pets on a year-round preventive. Nexgard Plus is a new product for dogs that can help prevent heartworms, fleas, ticks and many intestinal parasites with one monthly chew. We recommend topical Revolution Plus for cats. If you don't have any, please give us a call!

<https://nexgardforpets.com/nexgard-plus>

<https://www.zoetispetcare.com/products/revolution-plus>

3. Window and Door Safety

Our furry friends love the fresh air as we open our windows and doors to enjoy the warmer weather. This can increase the chances of your pet escaping outside or even falling from a window. Check your window and door screens for holes or tears and replace if damaged. Install screen latches in your windows to prevent the screen from falling out of place. Your screen door may not be heavy enough to prevent your pet from pushing the door open so be sure the latch is secure and lock the screen door when in use.



4) Puddles

Stagnant water can be contaminated by bacteria, environmental pollutants, and mosquito larva. Avoid allowing your pet to drink from puddles or other sources of stagnant water. Dump buckets, planters or other containers in your yard regularly.

5) Gardening Supplies

Insecticides, mulch, and fertilizers are all toxic for pets. Keep both your gardening supplies and gardening tools out of reach. Place signage on your lawn or in your garden to let neighbors know when something toxic to pets has been applied.



6) Bees

A bee sting can cause swelling, redness and pain. Cats and dogs are typically stung on their face or front legs as they are curiously figuring out what that bee is up to. Bee stings can be treated with simple first-aid at home but if their symptoms are severe your pet may need a trip to the vet. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction such as severe swelling, hives, or trouble breathing call your vet right away.

Based on an article by: Sarah Peterson

Site: <https://vetsource.com/blog/7-important-spring-safety-tips-for-pe>



Hiking: Be sure to keep your pup well hydrated! Bring extra water for both you and your pet. A collapsible travel dog bowl is easy to carry in a backpack. Get started with short 15-minute hikes. Your dog may need to rebuild their endurance after being more sedentary during winter. Remember monthly parasite prevention to keep your friend safe.

Diggin' in the Pits: Dogs love to dig! Instead of having them dig in your newly planted garden create a specific place for their favorite activity. A small kiddie pool is highly recommended! Have the pool filled with dirt and some of your pup's favorite toys and allow them to dig and enjoy while you maintain your gorgeous garden.

For other outdoor activity ideas, visit <https://www.zoetispetcare.com/blog/article/spring-activities-pets>



Create a Catio: Consider building or purchasing a catio for your indoor cat. A catio keeps your furry friend in an enclosed area while allowing them to enjoy the fresh, spring air in a protected space. You'll want to provide shade, a comfy perch, water and a litter box if it is not connected to the inside of your home. Be sure your cat is on a monthly parasite preventive, such as Revolution Plus.

A puppy play pen (with top) or a large collapsible kennel can be used as a quick solution to an enjoyable catio for your best friend!

Window Watchers: Create a window perch with a cat hammock and place a bird feeder or bird bath in view from the window to allow your kitty to watch their wildlife buddies.

Home-Made Spring Treats

Yummy Banana Pupsicle

Ingredients:

- One Banana
- 1 and ½ Cup Watermelon
- 1 Cup Freshly Cut Pineapple



Directions:

Cut watermelon and pineapple into chunks and puree them using a blender, set aside.

Slice the banana into pieces and spread these pieces on a cookie sheet.

Layer each banana piece with about 2 tablespoons of watermelon and pineapple puree.

Leave to freeze for about four hours.

Let your pup enjoy!

Site: <https://www.thedogbakery.com/blogs/news/9-yummy-pupsicle-recipes-to-cool-your-dog-off>

Salmon Cat Treats

Ingredients:

- 6 Oz canned salmon with juice
- ½ Cup Cornmeal
- ¼ Cup Non-Fat Dry Milk
- 1 Egg, 2 Tbs Water
- 1 Cup Flour (whole wheat or all-purpose)



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine all ingredients, except flour, and mix well.

Slowly add the flour in continuing to stir.

Place on a floured surface and knead a few times.

Flatten and coat both sides with flour.

Roll out to a little less than ¼- inch thick.

Cut into small kitty bite-size pieces.

Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 15 minutes.

Remove and let cool completely.

Site: <https://missmollysays.com/homemade-salmon-cat-treats-recipe/>