

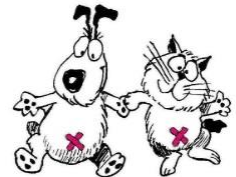


# Hillcrest Animal Clinic

Winter 2018 Newsletter

Psst! Tell your friends....

## It's discount time again!



**Equine:** Hillcrest will be offering a \$25 discount on all dentals and a \$10 discount on all sheath cleanings *performed at the clinic* starting December 1, 2018 until January 31, 2019.

**Small animal:** Hillcrest will be offering a significant discount on all feline spays and neuters starting December 1, 2018 until January 31, 2019.

**Feline:** spays will be \$75, and neuters \$35 (**that's half off!!**)

**Canine:** spays and neuters will receive a 10% discount. The surgery cost includes anesthesia, anesthesia monitoring, antibiotics, pain medication for the day of surgery, and hospitalization.

**CANINE DENTALS ARE \$25.00 OFF STARTING DECEMBER 1, 2018 UNTIL JANUARY 31, 2019**

## Reminders

### Horse Vaccines!

It's time for Flu/Rhino vaccines!

Pregnant mares need to have a Rhino booster at 5, 7, and 9 months of pregnancy! If due to foal in April or May the mare is generally given a 6-way during the 9<sup>th</sup> month!



### Horse Deworming!

Horses should be dewormed with an Ivomec/Praziquantel mix (ie: Zimectrin Gold) after the first **HARD FREEZE!**

## HOLIDAY PET SAFETY TIPS



### Here is a list of some holiday hazards to avoid:

**Poinsettia:** During Christmas time this plant is a popular gift and despite a bad rap regarding its extreme toxicity, this is actually NOT TRUE. This plant is only mildly toxic. The sap of poinsettias leaves/petals is mildly toxic/irritating and can cause nausea, drooling, and vomiting. However, it is not fatal. Medical treatment is rarely necessary unless clinical signs are severe.

**Holly and Mistletoe:** These plants, along with their berries, have a greater toxicity level than the poinsettia and should be kept either out of your house or out of reach of your pets. If ingested, it can cause intestinal upset such as vomiting, diarrhea, excessive drooling, and abdominal pain. Mistletoe is well known to cause severe intestinal upset and even a sudden severe drop in blood pressure, breathing problems, and even hallucinations (unusual behavior). In large ingestion cases, symptoms may include seizures and death.

**Baked Goods:** Sweet treats are a key part of Christmas celebrations. However, many of the ingredients we use are extremely toxic, even possibly fatal to our furry companions.

**Chocolate:** Chocolate poisoning (theobromine) is a serious and potentially fatal issue that many pet owners are faced with during the holidays. The key thing to remember about chocolate poisoning is the darker the chocolate (baking or gourmet dark chocolate) the more toxic it is! Signs of chocolate poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, panting/restlessness, and in severe cases, muscle tremors, seizures and even heart failure. Even though symptoms may take several hours to occur, it is important that a veterinarian be contacted immediately if you believe your pet has ingested chocolate.

**Nuts (Almonds, Walnuts, Macadamia, Pecans, Pistachios)** – While some of these nuts listed are not actually toxic, they are not easily digested by animal and can cause upset stomach and gastric intestinal distress. Walnuts contain a toxin named Tremorgenic Mycotoxin which can cause neurological symptoms that can include seizures. Macadamia Nuts contain an unknown toxin that may result in neurological symptoms as well. If these are ingested, a veterinarian should be contacted immediately.

Please know that the poison center phone numbers are available for both pets and people in case of an emergency.

Feel free to check out other items that are poisonous at: <http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons/>



# Waiting Room Etiquette



## **Rule #1: Cats In Carriers, Dogs on Leashes**

It can be tempting to carry a sick kitty in your arms or let your dog off the leash to socialize once you get inside. However, both of these behaviors are unsafe for your pet and the other pets and people in the waiting area. Cats should always be in carriers. Carriers not only make cats feel safe and comfortable, they also keep a cat from leaping out of your arms, urinating on the floor, or scratching people or animals with their claws. Dogs should be on leashes, but not retractable leashes. Use a leash that will allow you to keep your dog close.

## **Rule #2: Don't Let Your Pet Bother Other Pets**

The waiting room is already a stressful place for pets and pet parents, and it can be made even more stressful if an excited pet is trying to approach, sniff, or play with other animals. In addition, some pets in the waiting room are seriously ill, may have painful injuries that could cause them to lash out, or contagious conditions that could be passed to other pets. And in some cases, your pet might be the sick one. Even if your pet is just trying to be friendly, the safest and most courteous thing to do is leave other pets alone. Cats should always be in carriers, so you won't have to worry about this with them. Dogs, however, are on leashes and owners sometimes give them too much leeway. Keep a short leash and train your pal to "stay."

## **Rule #3: Don't Let Other Pets Bother Your Pet**

Just because you aren't going to let your pet bother other pets doesn't mean that all owners are going to follow the same rule. Regardless of what anyone else is doing, it is your responsibility to keep your pet safe. Avoid sitting next to lunging or barking dogs, and if a pet is bothering you or your pet, ask their owner to stop it or get up and move.

## **Rule #4: For Scared Or Aggressive Pets**

If you have a pet that becomes fearful or aggressive around other animals, people, or specifically at the vet's office, ask if you can wait in your car. Don't let children or adults approach your pet, and keep a good distance from other pets when you do need to go inside. If you are finding it difficult to correct your pet's unsafe behaviors, consider contacting a trainer or animal behaviorist; your veterinarian should be able to provide recommendations.

## **Rule #5: Dealing With Accidents**

Accidents aren't uncommon in waiting rooms — nerves can get the best of many pets. To avoid accidents, allow your pet to go to the bathroom before going inside. If an accident does occur, don't try to rush your buddy outside; that will only create a bigger mess. Instead, let nature happen, and then let the front desk know so that someone can clean it up.



# Water, Sustenance, and Warmth: 10 Wintertime Horse Care Tips

*Your horse requires special care in the winter in order to keep him healthy.*

Caring for your horse during the wintertime can be a challenge, with cold temperatures and frozen water. But your horse needs your care during the winter days more than ever.

These 10 wintertime horse care tips are a great way to make sure that your horse gets everything that he needs during winter weather.

## **Increase Caloric Intake**

Your horse will need more to eat in order to keep his weight on during the cold winter temperatures. Horses shiver if they're cold, which burns calories and turns into quick weight loss.

Additionally, horses can generate body heat as they digest hay, which keeps them warm. As you care for your horse in the winter, make sure that you provide him with enough good quality hay in order to maintain his weight during the coldest winter months.

## **Provide Appealing Water**

Frozen water buckets make it impossible for your horse to drink, and ice-cold water isn't appealing to horses. Water consumption is obviously imperative for healthy horses.

It's important to provide your horse with appetizing warm water in order to keep him hydrated during the winter. Consider using insulated waterers or heated buckets or water trough to keep your horse's water ice-free in freezing temperatures. Your horse must have access to a water source!

## **Give Your Horse Shelter**

It's important that your horse has shelter so that he can get out of the wind and snow during the winter. If your horse spends a good amount of time in a field, then make sure that he has a shed or other run-in to use for protection.

## **Consider Using Horse Blankets**

Some horses may benefit from horse blankets or a turnout blanket. Generally older horses or horses which grow only thin coats and not a winter coat will need the extra protection of a horse blanket. Clipped horses may also benefit from a blanket. If you choose to blanket your horse, make sure that you have a few different blankets to use when temperatures fluctuate or when one blanket gets wet and needs to be removed.



### **Monitor Your Horse's Weight**

It's very important to keep a close eye on your horse's weight during the winter. Your horse can quickly lose weight, so you want to check your horse at least every other day. If your horse wears blankets, then be sure to remove the blankets regularly to monitor your horse's body weight and to check for blanket rubs.

### **Check Your Horse's Hooves Carefully**

If you're not riding your horse during the winter, it may be easy to let his hoof care slide. You will want to still check your horse's hooves carefully to make sure that he hasn't lodged a rock or other debris up into his hooves.

### **Provide Safe Footing**

It's hard to provide your horse with safe footing outside, especially as things get icy. If you're dealing with ice, then spread sand out over the ice before you walk your horse over it. Do your best to provide safe footing so that your horse doesn't slip and injure himself.

### **Allow for Barn Ventilation**

Many horse owners close up their barns during the winter to retain heat, but doing this reduces the ventilation that your horse will have access to. Closing up a barn can cause respiratory issues. So if you must close your barn doors, make sure to leave the windows open for improved air circulation.

### **Keep Your Horse Moving**

It may be tempting to lock your horse in his stall throughout much of the winter since the footing outside is slippery and the weather might be bad. However, when your horse is in his stall, he cannot move about like he normally would. Your horse's circulation and digestive health may suffer as a result. Instead, make an effort to keep your horse moving and get him some fresh air, even if you have to hand walk him outside or turn him out in an indoor arena for a few hours each day.

Wintertime horse care requires hard work and dedication, but it can pay off with a healthy and happy horse. Just remember, spring will be here soon, and this winter will be a thing of the past.

