



FALMOUTH VETERINARY HOWLER

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Holiday Do It Yourself: Make a Pawprint Stamp

(courtesy of our friends from DogFancy Magazine)

It's almost time to wrap presents!



Why not have your furry friend lend a hand (umm, paw) in the festivities this year with a personalized pawprint stamp!

What you'll need:

- ◊ Clay (use regular molding clay, modeling compound, or Play-Doh)
- ◊ Petroleum jelly
- ◊ Hot Glue Gun and glue sticks
- ◊ Six or eight small blocks of wood, a little larger than your dog's paw (scrap wood is a cheap and easy option)
- ◊ Sandpaper (or a patch of concrete)
- ◊ A roll of butcher paper or other plain paper
- ◊ Nontoxic, washable poster paint in holiday or other appropriate colors
- ◊ Paper plate
- ◊ Paper towel

How to make it:

- Work the clay with your hands until it is soft and pliable, then form six or eight disks of clay, about ¼ inch thick, a little larger in diameter than your pet's paw. The disks should not be very thick, so the pawprint will be as flat as possible to make a good stamp.

- Press your pet's paw gently into each disk. The pawprint should be shallow, while still being clearly a paw print.
- Coat the inside of the pawprints and the surrounding area of the clay with a thin layer of petroleum jelly.
- Plug in the hot glue gun. Fill the pawprints with hot glue, filling in each indentation, then covering the whole pawprint and about ¼ inch surrounding it with a thick layer of glue.
- Gently place a wooden block on top of each pawprint. This will be the back of the stamp. Allow the glue to dry for at least 10 minutes.
- Gently remove the blocks and glue prints from the clay mold. If some of the clay has melted or stuck to the mold, just wipe it off.
- Sand the glue to be somewhat flat or rub it against concrete, such as a front step or your driveway. This will make for a better stamp.
- Spread paint thinly on a paper plate. Dip your stamps in. Make a few sample prints on the plate to find which stamps make the best prints.



Now you can gift the pawprints as they are or you can make some customized pet wrapping paper (or both!). To make pawprint wrapping paper, unroll a section of paper you want to print, in the size you need to wrap your gift. Print pawprints all over the paper, randomly or in a pattern. Wipe off the stamps with paper towels as necessary, to keep the print clean.

Let the paint dry, then use the paper to wrap your gift. You can also use the stamp to "sign" your cards, seal envelopes, or make holiday letterhead.

Fleas Navidad! Tis The Season!

One little flea can't possibly be a problem, can it?

It can. The adult fleas you see on your pet represent approximately 5% of the total flea population, and are only the tip of the infestation iceberg, turning "one little flea" into a full-blown infestation before you even know it's there.



With this being said, this year we are hearing A LOT of grievances about fleas becoming immune to Frontline Plus. Basically, two things are involved with a perceived resistance to Frontline.

First, Frontline's competitors are spreading the rumor concerning resistance. The mechanism of action of Frontline makes resistance very, very, VERY unlikely to ever occur.

Second, a combination of a much worse flea season, the flea life cycle, the way topicals like Frontline work, and a failure to treat the environment.

The flea life cycle isn't quite what we used to think. When the adult flea hatches out of its little cocoon 3-8 weeks after the egg was dropped, it searches for a dog or cat to become its host. Males and females take an initial blood meal in 1-3 minutes, breed, and the female starts dropping eggs off the pet in about 24 hours. The pet walks around like a giant salt shaker dropping flea eggs all over the house/yard, starting the 3-8 week life cycle all over again.

Because of this fact, our biggest recommendation for Frontline Plus is to never try to stretch an application past 4 weeks. Consecutive monthly applications of Frontline Plus for your pet will assist with the elimination of an indoor flea life cycle. We also recommend using a flea preventative year-round on every pet in the home.

With Frontline it can take up to 24-48 hours for the flea to die, depending on whether you are in the first two weeks after application or the second two weeks. So even though the Frontline is killing 100% of the fleas within two days of hopping on the animal, you will see those fleas running around on the pet, biting

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Safe Travels with Your Favorite Furry Friend

Going over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house this holiday season? With more and more pet-friendly options for travelers, you don't have to leave Rover or Princess behind this year. Before you hit the road, here are a few tips from the ASPCA and VPI Pet Insurance to help make your journey a little easier:

Safe Air Travel



- ☐ All pets should wear collar tags imprinted with their name and the phone number of their owner or veterinarian. Tags, though, may become worn and impossible to read or may slip off. Tattooing pets with a number is another method of identifying pets; however, veterinarians and pet rescue experts say tattoos can blur over time, and they can be altered. A microchip is the only form of pet identification that is permanent, with a unique number that cannot be altered or removed.
- ☐ Each airline has different rules when it comes to traveling with pets, so be sure to do your research before booking a flight. In addition to certain federal regulations, most airlines require a health certificate before allowing pets on a flight. Also, keep in mind that seasonal restrictions may apply to pet travel.
- ☐ Smaller animals that meet size and weight requirements are sometimes allowed to travel in the cabin, though they must be in an airline provided carrier.
- ☐ If you have a larger pet that must travel in cargo, be sure the crate is airline approved. Display a photograph on your pet's carrier and write the name, address, and telephone number of the person receiving the animal at your destination. The kennel must be large enough for your pet to sit, stand, turn around, and lie down easily. Buy the crate well in advance of your flight and encourage your pet to become accustomed to it by placing him inside for increasing intervals of time. Remember; always keep your pet's crate training experience positive.

Safe Car Travel



- ☐ Keep your pets safe and secure in a ventilated crate or carrier. Be sure it's large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down, and turn around in. If your dog will be riding on the seat, use a harness and safety belt to keep him secure in case of sudden stops or changes in direction.
- ☐ Don't allow your pet to ride with her head outside the window – she could be injured by flying objects. Cats should always be in a carrier. See our tips on feline travel from our last newsletter for more information.
- ☐ Never leave your animal alone in a parked vehicle! It is critical that pets are never left unattended inside the car, even for a short amount of time. Temperatures can rise and drop to dangerous levels inside a locked car in just a matter of minutes.
- ☐ Take your pet's rabies vaccination records, as some states require this proof at interstate crossings. Be sure your pet has an ID collar with your home address, as well as a temporary travel tag with your cell phone, destination phone and other pertinent contact information. And remember, the best (and most reliable) form of ID is a microchip!

Relax, You've Made It!



- ☐ Once you arrive at your destination, allow your pet to examine and explore the new surroundings, and remain with him until he settles in and feels more at ease.
- ☐ If you're staying in a hotel and have to leave your pet alone, be sure to hang the "Do Not Disturb" sign on your door and then call the housekeeping office to confirm that no one should enter.



Give the Gift of a Well-Behaved Dog!



Do you know someone who has a dog and needs a little help? A friend that enjoys training and working with their dog? Someone who might be getting a puppy this holiday season?

K9 Games Dog Training offers gift certificates! They can be used for canine companion classes, competitive obedience, agility classes, Canine Good Citizen Classes, and more!

K9 Games Inc. uses training techniques that combine gentle guidance with rewards, to shape behavior, helping you to build a trusting relationship with your dog while you teach behaviors you can rely on. The time you spend training your dog is an investment that yields a great canine companion.

New classes are coming to a town near you as well as private lessons at your home!

PoeticGold Farm (7 Trillium Lane, Falmouth) and K9 Games Inc. are proud to announce Puppy, Basic Training 101 & 102 classes on Tuesday evenings.

Brunswick Pet Quarters (Merrymeeting Plaza, Cooks Corker) and K9 Games Inc. offer Puppy, Basic Training 101 & 102 classes on Wednesday evenings.

For a complete list of upcoming classes, please visit: <http://www.k9gamesdogtraining.com/K9-games-class-schedule.htm>

Private lessons are available at your home at a rate of \$50 per hour. Follow up phone consultations after a private lesson, are \$40 per hr.

For more information - contact owner/trainer (and FVH client services rep!) Ginny Seavey: (207) 353-8005 or k9games@gwi.net

Pre-Anesthetic Testing – Frequently Asked Questions

Why should my pet be tested on the same day as the surgery?

- If your pet is having dental work or surgery, it's important to run same-day blood work prior to anesthesia primarily to ensure your pet can properly process and eliminate anesthesia.
- Pre-anesthetic testing helps us understand whether your pet's vital organs are functioning properly, which can help us create an individualized anesthetic plan for your pet and avoid potential complications during surgery.
- Certain conditions are especially risky for pets under anesthesia, and pre-anesthetic blood work can show if there are any hidden or undetected health problems.
- Regardless of why your pet is being anesthetized, pre-anesthetic testing establishes a baseline for their individual health, which is helpful for future reference.



What information will the results of my pet's blood work show?

- Kidney results indicate whether your pet is properly hydrated (electrolytes). Results will also reveal whether they have kidney disease, Addison's disease, gastrointestinal disease, urinary obstruction and other related risks.
- Liver results can tell us if your pet has diabetes, hypoglycemia, Cushing's syndrome, hyperthyroidism, metabolic disease and more. Liver results will also show if there's any residual toxicity in your pet's system.
- A complete blood count (CBC) shows if your pet has underlying stress, inflammation, inability to fight infection, and/or leukemia. The CBC will also indicate if your pet is anemic or has a potential bleeding problem.

What can I do to prepare my pet for surgery?

- Make sure your pet has not eaten anything (fasted) at least 12 hours before surgery. Fasted samples ensure more accurate testing and interpretation of results.
- Ask questions if you don't understand what's being done or why. Surgery can be complicated, so it's important to know all you can about your pet's health.

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the pet, for that period of time. After the application of Frontline Plus, you may see more fleas, but this is an indication that the product is working. Flea preventatives make fleas hyper-excited, drawing them to the top of the hair coat before dying. This will make them more visible to you.

Keep in mind that if you even have one pet that goes outside, all of your pets in the house are effectively outdoor pets as far as flea control (and disease exposure) is concerned. If you don't control the environment, nothing will control the fleas on the pet when the flea season is particularly heavy (like this year for example).

The key to flea control is treating the environment because that is where every single flea on a pet came from. If there are no fleas in the environment, after 48 hours the pet will be flea free. If you see fleas after 48 hours the only possible source is the environment, so you know that is where your problem lies.



The biggest aspect to ridding your pet of fleas is treating the environment (house/yard) aggressively, repeatedly.



Want relief for your furry friend sooner? Luckily, there are a few fast acting products available that can kill adult fleas within one hour of administration.

Capstar is an orally administered tablet that provides fast flea relief. In fact, Capstar starts working within 30 minutes. Capstar is a short-duration flea adulticide. It does not prevent fleas from returning. Capstar is also remarkably safe, you could use Capstar every day. Not very practical (or cost effective), but since it is a systemic product, not a topical, the fleas ingest the drug with the first blood meal and are all dead in 15-30 minutes of the initial bite.

Comfortis for dogs (and dogs only - Comfortis was developed exclusively for administration to dogs) starts killing fleas before they lay eggs and provides a full month of flea protection to help prevent future flea infestations. And Comfortis is a beef-flavored, chewable tablet that can be offered as a treat.

In addition to these adult flea killing treatments, there is another oral preventative called Sentinel. Sentinel is a tablet that protects your dog from heartworm, hookworm, whipworm, and roundworm and helps control fleas. Sentinel is the only product that controls five different kinds of parasites and leaves no pesticide residue. The Sentinel tablets should be given to your pet once a month, preferably on the same day of each month. Sentinel does not kill adult fleas, it inhibits flea egg development. For best results treat your pet with a product designed to kill adult fleas (like Comfortis and Capstar) before Sentinel is administered. This will help reduce the flea population.

In closing, even though colder weather is on the way you could have millions of fleas in your home in one stage of development or another, and dealing with them is an ongoing battle. Winter is the best time to combat fleas because you have a fighting chance of getting a handle on any infestations you may have. It may take some time, but with proper flea control and dedicated cleaning practices, it is a battle you can win.



*Happy Howlidays from
the Doctors and Staff at
Falmouth Veterinary Hospital!*

