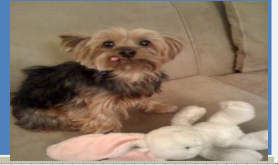


# FALMOUTH VETERINARY HOWLER



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## **PET SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH IS Spencer Mustone!**

Aleta Mustone and her husband Matt Engler adopted Spencer, a one-toothed Yorkshire Terrier, three years ago from Posh Pets Rescue while living in New York City. After their move to South Portland last year, Spencer became certified as a Therapy Dog and visits patients at a local Portland hospital. Everyone – whether at the hospital or Farmers' Market – gets a big kick out of Spencer's floppy-tongued signature grin (due to his lack of teeth!). Spencer is at his happiest snuggling with his pack, which, in addition to Aleta and Matt, includes sister-dog, Mia, and a (human) baby brother come January.

At about 11 years old, Spencer has the energy of a much younger dog and can fetch and “attack” his little stuffed animals with the best of them. Spencer also enjoys summer bike rides to Bug Light House – and of course cruises in style via his comfy bike basket on Aleta's handlebars!



## **Holiday Tips for Keeping Your Pet Healthy and Happy!**

Holiday seasons are a time of celebration with friends and family—furry, four-legged ones included. But colder weather, decorations and parties can create safety hazards for pets. Make sure your holidays stay festive with these simple tips from [VPI© Pet Insurance](#) to keep your pet healthy and safe.

### **Safety Alert!**

De-icing products, salt and ice can get into fur and paws, causing skin irritation or more serious conditions. Wipe your pet's paws and tummy when he comes in from the cold. Take care to wipe up spilled antifreeze—dogs and cats like the sweet taste and can ingest deadly amounts. Better yet, use pet-friendly antifreeze products.

### **Fight the temptation to feed your pet table scraps**

Fatty holiday meats can cause a number of gastrointestinal problems while bones can cause bowel obstructions or choking. And remember: no chocolate for pets! The sweet stuff contains a chemical that is highly toxic to pets.



### **Keep holiday decorations out of your pet's reach**

Ingestion of glass, metal, ribbons or tinsel can lead to serious medical emergencies. Also, snow globes and artificial snow contain chemicals that can be harmful to pets if ingested or inhaled.

### **Keep a watchful eye on your pets**

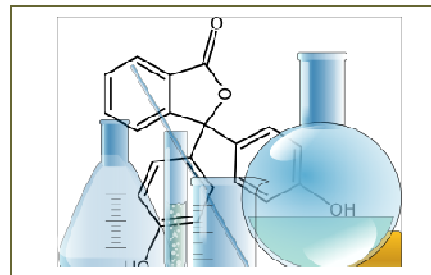
Everyone loves a party, but sometimes the hustle and bustle of holiday guests can frighten animals and cause them to run away. Designate a quiet, secure room for your pets away from the crowd and be sure that your pet is microchipped and wearing a collar with current ID tags.

Please see *HOLIDAY* on page 4

## Technician Tips!

The technicians here at Falmouth Veterinary Hospital thought it might be helpful to pass on some tips to our clients. The focus for our first tech tip is geared toward collecting urine and fecal samples:

- ☺ When collecting a sample for a urinalysis, make sure that we get the sample as soon as possible after the pet has voided. If you can't get the sample right to us make sure to pop it in the refrigerator. In order to ensure an accurate test, the sample should not be refrigerated for more than three hours.



- ☺ When collecting a sample for a fecal analysis, it is also preferred that we receive the sample as soon as possible. But, unlike the urine sample, we have a little more flexibility with timing – we can take a sample up to 12 hours old as long as it has been refrigerated.

If you have further questions on how to obtain a sample or more questions about the testing itself, feel free to give us a call!

## Great Gift Ideas for Any Animal Lover!

The holidays are fast approaching and it is never too early to start thinking about shopping! The Falmouth Veterinary Hospital has a few great gift ideas for any animal lover!

### ❖ Home Again Microchips:

What would be better than giving the gift of safety? A microchip is one of the best chances for owners to be reunited with their pet should the animal get lost. Home Again microchips are designed to last the pet's entire lifetime and they link to a permanent listing in the Home Again national lost pet database. This means anytime/anywhere pet recovery service—no matter how far a lost pet has traveled.

### ❖ Gift Certificates for services and supplies at Falmouth Veterinary Hospital:

What could be better than giving the gift of health to your favorite animal lover? A FVH gift certificate can be applied for any service or supply offered at our facility.

### ❖ Puppy and Basic Training Obedience Classes:

The classes are offered by Client Service Representative and dog trainer extraordinaire, Ginny Seavey. Ginny has been training dogs for more than 45 years and offers all levels of training for young and old dogs alike.

Classes start in mid January and are held Sunday afternoons here at Falmouth Veterinary Hospital! Ginny offers small class sizes for greater individual attention – limiting her classes to four teams per session. Using positive reinforcement, Ginny quickly shows you how to effectively form your dog's behavior. Positive reinforcement is the presentation of something pleasant or rewarding immediately following a behavior. It makes that behavior more likely to occur in the future, and is one of the most powerful tools for shaping or changing your pet's behavior.

Contact us today if you are interested in any of these great gift ideas!

## Adoption Avenue

Schooner and Skiff are two kitty's up for adoption at the Homeless Animals Rescue Team of Maine (HART) in Cumberland. HART is a shelter and adoption center for cats that has operated in Cumberland, Maine since 1997. They provide refuge, comfort, and medical attention to cats and kittens that have been surrendered, abandoned, injured, or abused, and find loving homes to adopt them. HART is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation licensed by the State of Maine.

Are you looking for a pair of fluffy kitties? These two are very friendly, loving and certainly fit the bill as far as being long-hair kitties!

Schooner is the adorable all gray boy and his brother, Skiff, is the handsome all black guy. They are about seven months old now and were just recently returned to HART due to their owner's serious illness. They have never been separated and want to find their new loving home together. They love to be brushed and are full of energy.



The shelter is open for drop-in tours and adoptions on the days listed below. Stop by with your friends and family to tour the facility and meet the cats. Or if you're interested in kittens, please call in advance so arrangements can be made with their foster homes.

Hours:

Sunday thru Tuesday - open by appointment only

Wednesday - open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Friday - open by appointment only

Saturday - open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact: 207-829-4116; email: [info@hartofme.com](mailto:info@hartofme.com)

## FVH's Transition to Interceptor



There are a wide variety of heartworm preventatives available today. In a continuing effort to provide the best veterinary care possible, the Falmouth Veterinary Hospital now recommends Interceptor as a parasite preventative for your pet.

### What is Interceptor?

Interceptor Flavor Tabs are a palatable once-a-month tablet that prevents heartworm disease, controls adult hookworms, and removes and controls adult roundworms and whipworm infections. Interceptor for cats is the only oral monthly preventative that protects against heartworms and removes adult roundworms and adult hookworms.

We've transitioned from Heartgard to Interceptor because of its broad spectrum of parasite prevention – it covers heartworm, roundworm, hookworm, *and* whipworm. Whipworm is becoming more prevalent in our area due to the amount of dogs that are being adopted from the southern states. If your pet is infected, he/she could suffer from symptoms such as diarrhea, anemia, weight loss, or dehydration.

Please see *Interceptor* on page 4

*Holiday* from page 1

### **Place live holiday plants high off the ground**

Pretty as they are, ivy, holly, mistletoe, poinsettia, lilies and Christmas greens can all be toxic to animals when ingested.



*Interceptor* from page 3

Interceptor flavor tabs have a great beefy flavor (derived from pork and soy protein) your dog will love. In studies, over 95% of dogs willingly accepted it from their owner's hand. If your pet is one of the 5% that does not like Interceptor, it is small enough to put in a pill pocket and administer that way.

As with all heartworm preventatives, dogs and cats should be tested for heartworm prior to use. This test is done yearly and we require that testing to be current before we can dispense any heartworm preventative.

**The holidays are both a wonderful and a stressful time. The constant stream of visitors, parties and traveling can take a toll on both you and your pet. Make sure to spend quality time alone with your pet every day. This will allow you to observe your pet for any unusual behavior or symptoms, as well as to enjoy the tranquility the season can bring.**



**Happy Holidays!**

The test is a simple blood draw that can be scheduled with one of our fabulous technicians. Call and schedule your appointment today!



Do you want your pet featured in the Howler?

Send us pictures and your pet could be chosen to be on the front page like Spencer Mustone is this month!

#### **Falmouth Veterinary Hospital**

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*We will treat your pets with the same care and concern as we would our own."*