

FALMOUTH VETERINARY HOWLER



Falmouth Veterinary Hospital, 174 US Route One, Falmouth, Maine 04103
falmouthvet.com falmouthvet@maine.rr.com 207.781.4028

HOWL-O-WEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween can be fun and festive for people, but for pets it can also be dangerous. Here are some tips from the American Veterinary Medical Association to help you ensure that your pet has a happy and safe Halloween...

- ◇ Don't leave your pet outside unattended on Halloween (or on the days preceding or following this holiday). Halloween pranks committed against pets can be vicious, and black cats are particularly at risk.
- ◇ Halloween treats are for people, not pets. Candy wrappers and lollipop sticks can be hazardous if swallowed and some chocolates can be poisonous for pets.
- ◇ Keep pumpkins out of reach of curious noses and paws. Pets may knock over a lit pumpkin and cause a fire.
- ◇ Despite how much fun it is for people, many pets don't enjoy getting dressed up for Halloween. If you do dress your pet, be sure that its costume doesn't interfere with the pet's ability to breathe, see, hear, move, or bark.

Fleas – The Bloodsucking Menace

Fleas can jump on your pet (and even you!) and hitchhike a free ride into your home where they multiply like crazy. In less than a week, you could discover a full blown flea infestation has taken over. One adult female flea can lay 40-50 eggs a day!

Fleas can transmit disease and cause tapeworm, so getting rid of fleas on your pet is a must for a healthy animal and a healthy home.

Fleas prefer warm and humid conditions and are therefore more than a seasonal problem in some parts of the country. Since we had such a mild winter and a very warm summer, the fleas are out in full force this year.

PET SPOTLIGHT!

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 ACADIA Fox is this month!

Email your pictures to falmouthvet@maine.rr.com and your pet could be the next Howler star!

◇ Consider keeping your pet in a separate room, away from the door, when trick-or-treaters arrive. Strange people in even stranger clothes can frighten some pets.

◇ When you do answer the door for visitors, make sure that your pet doesn't suddenly head for the great outdoors. In case your pet does escape, make sure that it is wearing proper identification. Pets with identification are much more likely to be returned to their owners. Also, think about having your pet microchipped if they aren't already! Ask us for more details.

For more information and tips about holiday safety for pets, visit the AMVA website or call us! Remember, your veterinarian is your very best source for advice on keeping your pet safe, healthy, and happy!



Fortunately, there are steps you can take to make sure your pet and your home are protected:

Begin with a flea preventative such as Frontline Plus or Revolution. It kills fleas already on your pet and helps prevent new fleas from settling in. These products can be purchased through us!

Then be sure to vacuum frequently, especially carpets

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View Your Pet's Records Online!

Imagine the comfort of secure but easy access to view or print your pet's medical information. Traveling, boarding away from home, or while your pet is in someone else's temporary care, you pet's medical records are always available with ePetRecords.com!

- ☺ Review prescribed medications, prior exams, reminders, diagnostic information, and more.
- ☺ Get quick and intelligent emergency care – no concern about your clinic's office hours



or waiting for faxed or phoned information from your veterinarian.

You can also enroll your pet in a national Lost and Found! Imagine the comfort of belonging to a national lost and found registry – lost pets are reunited with owners using a simple internet identification process!

Call and ask us about this valuable service today!

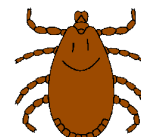
Terrifying Ticks!

Ticks are irritating arthropods that prey on our pets. Their goal in life is to find a warm-blooded creature so that they can feed. Veterinarians and pet owners have been battling these tiny parasites for decades and the war continues.

Ticks thrive in woody, grassy and brushy areas and carry diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease. That's why it's essential to keep them off your pet.

Because ticks can be dangerous, it's a good idea to check your pet thoroughly every day. Build it into your regular routine. Look for ticks as you brush, pet and play with your cat or dog. Examine as much of your pet's body as possible paying particular attention to the head, neck and paws - that's where ticks prefer to attach themselves.

“Veterinarians and pet owners have been battling these tiny parasites for decades and the war continues”



You may feel a tick bump before you see the tick. Contact your vet immediately if you believe your pet has a tick.

If you remove a tick, do so slowly using tweezers (never use your hands), save it in a bottle and bring it to your vet so that they can determine the species.

The battle against ticks must be fought on your pet and in your environment. On your pet, Frontline Plus kills ticks at the larval, nymphal and adult stages of their life cycle. Approved for cats and dogs, it controls ticks continuously. Tick collars are another option - ask your vet for advice on the best preventatives for your pet.

In your environment, minimize the threat of ticks with two simple tactics:

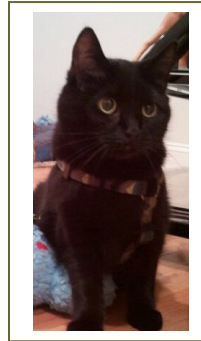
Make your yard unfriendly to ticks by keeping your grass short, bushes trimmed and minimizing mulch or leaf litter.

Avoid tick breeding grounds like tall grass and brush when you are out on walks.

Adoption Avenue

Sweetie is a gorgeous kitty 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. They are a member of the American Association, the American Partnership for Pets, and the New England Federation of Humane Societies.

Sweetie is a great young kitty with a very outgoing and loving disposition. She is an all black kitty who is about two years old. She came to HART as a stray with her three kittens who have all found homes. Shadow lives with a dog and other cats in her foster home –



Sweetie has been looking for a home since 2009.

she does well with dogs, but in her ideal home she would be the only kitty.

Cats in foster care are generally faster to adapt to their adopted home because they have been living in a home environment. Sweetie and all the cats at HART are healthy and awaiting your visit, so please contact the shelter (207-829-4116; email: info@hartofme.com) to make an appointment or stop in to their open house on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Ordering Prescriptions Online? Buyer Beware!



Thinking about buying your flea/tick and heartworm preventatives online?

You might want to think again...

Most prescription drugs sold online are obtained through gray-market or black market means. This means that shipments of US drugs meant for veterinary clinics are diverted to the online company or the medications are obtained from overseas where

manufacturing and quality control going into production and storage do NOT meet the stringent requirements of the FDA.

Certain medications are backed by a “guarantee” from the manufacturer, specifically heartworm prevention (HWP). The manufacturers will NOT honor their warranty if the medications were bought online. This is also true for any intestinal parasites the preventatives may cover.

Medications bought from a veterinarian are tracked by lot numbers. If a drug is recalled for some reason, the dispensing veterinarian is contacted and then notification is sent to clients that may have used the drug for their pets. Online meds cannot be tracked and the appropriate people cannot be contacted regarding the recall!

Also, watch out for counterfeit medication being sent. The General Accounting Office of the United States

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and other soft coverings where your pet tends to lounge. Don't forget your car. It is wise to buy an inexpensive flea collar and put in the vacuum bag/canister - this way you will kill any fleas that are vacuumed up!

Wash your pet's bed, blanket, toys and other soft items in the hottest water possible.

It's a good idea to check pets for fleas on a regular basis. It is especially important to check if your pets seem unusually nervous or grumpy or if they're scratching more than seems natural.

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found that 6% of the time counterfeit medication was sent.

Finally, talk with your veterinarian about your concerns. We may have other options available to help your pet and your wallet. You may find that our prices are less expensive once you account for shipping and the time it takes to receive the medication from the online site. Many veterinarians (including FVH) are offering their own online pharmacy for their clients that will save time and money while maintaining quality.

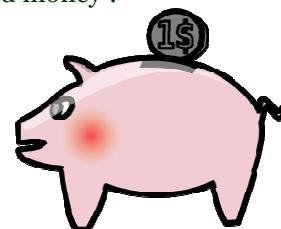
When checking for fleas, look for black specks (flea dirt) on your pet or on its bed. There are two easy ways to do this:

Run a metal comb (available from your vet or pet store) through your pet's coat making sure that you touch the skin below. If the comb gathers black specks you may have found flea dirt.

Place a white paper towel beneath your pet and rub your hands across its fur. If black specks fall on the towel, it may be flea dirt.

If you find live fleas with either of these methods, drown them in soapy water before they can jump back on your pet.

Falmouth Veterinary Hospital is pleased to offer price matching as well. If you find a price online cheaper than ours – call us! Most of the time, if you bring in a print out of what you have found online, we will match the price to save you time and money !



Have ideas for the next Howler? Let us know!

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Falmouth, Maine 04105

Phone: 207.781.4028

Fax: 207.781.4074

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