

FALMOUTH VETERINARY HOWLER



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PET SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH IS Charlie Paquet!

Charlie came to join his family almost six years ago. Their son had just left for college...and mom (Brenda) was missing him...so what better way to fill the void than with a little Chi-Poo! Charlie has been such a great, loveable addition to their family. He does have a severe skin allergy that certainly keeps them on their toes trying to keep him comfortable, but he still is a happy little guy. One of his favorite things is having breakfast with mom. He is especially fond of the cantaloupe! Charlie does not like to take walks despite numerous tries from his four-legged friend Pepper next door. You can find him inside near a window as he loves to watch birds in the yard. His favorite place of all is the couch. He is their couch potato. They often say he really is a cat in a dog's body! If they are on the couch watching the Red Sox, he is right there cuddling up next to them!

GO SOX 

Spring Garden Safety for Your Pet!

Gardening season is almost here (believe it or not)! Springtime plants are just as excited to break through the ground to add some color to our yards as we are to see some greenery! That said, we need to be aware of the potential dangers spring can bring for our pets. Here is a list of some spring items you might come across and their toxicities. Know how to pet-proof your garden and keep your pet safe! ☺

Toxic Plants

Eating poisonous plants is one of the most common ways that many pets, especially dogs, cats, rabbits, turtles and tortoises, ingest toxic substances. And since there are few effective treatments for toxic plant ingestion, a small mistake in the garden can be catastrophic to your pet and your family.

Plants that are reported to be toxic to dogs, cats or rabbits: Azalea, Bittersweet, Caladium, Clematis, Crocus, Daffodil, Day Lily, Death Camas, Easter Lily, Ferns, Foxglove, Hyacinth, Iris, Lily of the Valley, Morning Glory, Oleander, Rhododendron, Tiger Lily, and Tulip.



Fertilizers and Pesticides

No garden would be complete without fertilizers and weed killers. Though these products may help your garden thrive, they can be deadly to your pets.

Here are a few ingredients to be aware of so you know what toxins and symptoms to watch out for.

- *Blood meal* – This is dried, ground, and flash-frozen blood and contains 12% nitrogen. While it's a great organic fertilizer, if ingested, it can cause vomiting and diarrhea. More importantly, it can result in severe pancreatitis, which is inflammation of the pancreas.

Please see *SPRING* on page 4

Allergy Alert!

Your sinuses may tell you when seasons have changed, but did you know that pets can suffer from seasonal allergies, too?

There are many types of allergies that can affect your pet:

- Allergies caused by things your pet inhales are termed **airborne allergies** or **atopic allergies**. Common sources are pollens, molds, and dust mites.
- Allergies that result from flea-bites are referred to as **flea allergy dermatitis**.
- Certain allergies occur from items your pet ingests, and are typically called **food allergies**.
- **Contact allergies** are caused by something your pet comes in direct contact with, such as carpet fibers, plastics, and other things. Contact allergies are far less common than inhalant allergy and flea allergy dermatitis in pets.

Allergies: Common Symptoms:

EARS:

Appearance: waxy discharge; redness, odor.
Behavior: scratching or rubbing ears with paws or against furniture.

FACE:

Appearance: muzzle, chin and areas around the eyes reddened with hair loss.
Behavior: scratching or rubbing face with paws or against furniture.

SKIN:

Appearance: reddened; possibly with crusts or scales; odor with secondary infections.
Behavior: scratching & licking sides/belly, elbows, groin.

HAIRCOAT

Appearance: bald spots; brown discoloration where licking has occurred.
Behavior: scratching sides/belly; rubbing face against furniture or carpet, licking.

FEET:

Appearance: inflammation, redness, odor; brown discoloration where licking has occurred.
Behavior: licking and chewing of feet/pads.



6-Month Tick Protection for Dogs!

What would you say if your dog could have complete tick protection for up to 6 months? What if we also told you that it is easy to apply, odorless, and water resistant? Too good to be true, right? Wrong!

Introducing the **SCALIBOR** Protector Band for Dogs!



Protecting your dog just got easier! Scalibor Protector Band is an easy and effective way to protect your dog from all blood-feeding stages of ticks, including those that may carry organisms that cause serious diseases such as Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. It also provides protection against adult fleas.

Your dog must wear a Scalibor Protector Band for one to two weeks before protective levels are established over the entire body, and maximum effectiveness may not occur for three weeks. So it's best to apply the Scalibor Protector Band at least

ten to fourteen days before you anticipate tick and/or flea exposure.

Here are three reasons why you should give Scalibor a try:

A Steady Release of Complete Coverage for your dog for up to 6 months ~ As your dog moves, and the band rubs against the coat, the gentle friction releases a small amount of the active ingredient deltamethrin from the surface of the Scalibor Protector Band. The natural oils of the skin then carry deltamethrin over the whole body, forming a protective layer.

It's Completely Odorless ~ Let's face it, some tick and flea products smell bad. But the Scalibor Protector Band has no odor, and transfers to your dog's skin through friction, not by vapor action.

It's Water Resistant ~ Scalibor Protector Band goes where your dog goes! It's water resistant, so there's no need to remove it before your dog swims or walks in the rain. It remains effective, wet or dry.

Availability: This tick and flea collar for dogs is available by prescription only. So stop by our office to get yours today!

Support Animal Welfare!

Pet lovers united and late last year passed a new license plate that honors your very best buddy, whether it is a dog, cat, bird, horse or any other animal in your life!

For each plate sold, the Animal Welfare Program will receive \$10 for its cruelty investigations and spay/neuter program called Help Fix ME. It will truly help all of Maine's companion animals to live "the way life should be." Don't wait for your registration renewal...get your Adopt plate today!

If you don't have your plate already, get to your town hall or Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicle Branch Office, buy one and display it proudly. If the plates are not available in your town, they can be purchased at the nearest branch office or by mailing a copy of your registration and a check for \$20 (\$45 for vanity) made payable to the Secretary of State to: Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Specialty Plate Clerk, 29 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333.

Three Common Questions About Bloodwork and Your Pet

Pets can't say how they're feeling – it's usually how they look or act that tells you something is wrong. Blood testing goes a step further, showing us the earliest signs of illness, often before your pet even seems sick. Testing gives us immediate insights that we might not otherwise discover. And treating your pet early can help with a better outcome and lower treatment costs, too.

1. How does blood work help my pet?

Blood testing can frequently detect illness in your pet before we can see any outward signs of disease. Early detection means earlier prevention and treatment. Testing healthy pets during wellness visits gives us your pet's normal baseline values to compare later.

2. What are the tests you'll run on my pet?

We'll routinely perform a complete blood count (CBC) and a complete blood chemistry panel, including electrolytes and urinalysis. The CBC tells us if there is infection, inflammation or anemia. The chemistry panel and electrolytes tell us if



Not interested in a new plate? You can support the Animal Welfare Program in the following ways:

- License your dog (85% of fee goes directly to AWP)
- Contribute when filing your Maine taxes via tax check-off box #7
- To find out how you can help by making a personal contribution to the Animal Welfare Program, please contact Norma J. Worley, Director at norma.j.worley@maine.gov.

your pet's liver, kidneys and pancreas are healthy and performing as they should. A urinalysis tells us if there's an infection or inflammation in the urinary tract – a common problem for pets of all ages. A T4 test provides information about your pet's thyroid gland function. This is extremely important because thyroid disease is common in dogs and older cats.

3. Why is it better to have results right away?

Immediate results allow immediate treatment. Blood testing takes only a few minutes and can save lives and costs in the long run. In-house blood testing lets you be more involved in your pet's care, as you and your veterinarian can discuss the results right away. If the test results are abnormal, more testing may be necessary there will be fewer trips back and forth to your veterinarian. If the results are normal, then your veterinarian can rule out certain diseases right away so you can worry less. And that's better for you and your pet!

SPRING from page 1

- *Rose and plant fertilizers* – Some of these fertilizers contain disulfoton or other types of organophosphates. As little as 1 teaspoon of 1% disulfoton can kill a 55 lb dog, so be careful!
- *Pesticides/Insecticides* – Most pesticides or insecticides (typically those that come in a spray can) are basic irritants to the pet and are usually not a huge concern unless a pet's symptoms become persistent. Some may contain an organophosphate which we just learned can be life threatening when consumed.
- *Iron* – This is commonly added to fertilizers, and can result in iron toxicity (from ingestion of elemental iron). This is different from “total” iron ingestion, and can be confusing to differentiate. Large ingestions can result in vomiting, bloody diarrhea, and potential cardiac and liver effects.

Always check the label to be sure that anything you apply to your plants is also safe for your pets. When in doubt, don't use it!

Choose pet-safe options for substances like snail bait and weed and feed products. Better yet, try pet-friendly organic alternatives for repelling pests, like planting Mexican marigolds, which naturally repel insects without harming animals.

**Be Mindful Of Your Mulch**

Commercial mulch sometimes contains cocoa bean shells, which many dogs can't seem to resist. The chemicals and caffeine that are naturally present in cocoa can be very dangerous to pets if ingested. Make sure that any mulch you buy for the garden is free of cocoa bean shells.

In order to protect your pet from possible poisoning, it's important to make sure you keep known poisonous plants and toxic items out of reach, keep an eye on your pet for symptoms of poisoning, and take your pet — along with a sample of the plant/toxic item — with you to your veterinarian immediately if you suspect a poisonous item has been consumed. After hours, please feel free to call Pet Poison Helpline at 1-800-213-6680 with any questions or concerns if you're worried that your pet could have inadvertently gotten into anything! Please be advised that there is a \$35/per incident fee.

Spread the word on springtime toxins and help keep your pet safe!

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 Charlie Paquet is this month!

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