



PAH Quarterly

Flea Infestation

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Fleas are still around. We see many dogs and cats that come in with the complaint that they are itchy, and we often find the small yet efficient culprit upon close examination. Fleas are small external parasites that not only can transmit parasites (such as tapeworm larvae), they can also cause severe irritation, hypersensitivity, and even anemia.

There are many over the counter products that claim to eliminate fleas from your animal. We have seen a few reactions to these medications as well as repeated flea infestations while being treated with OTC products. Therefore it is recommended to use products that are sold only through a veterinarian's office, as these products are very effective at eliminating fleas from the pet.

In addition to treating every animal in your house, it is imperative that you treat the animal's environment as well. We recommend using a product called Prema Spray®. This is a spray that you can use around your house to kill fleas. You should be sure to spray underneath furniture, in corners, behind the couch, etc. Fleas like warm, dark places. Imagine if you were a flea, where would the best place in your house be to raise a family. Flea "bombs" don't work too well because the fumigation is released into the air and then falls on the surface of your furniture, which is not a warm, dark place.

If you have any other questions regarding fleas, please feel free to ask our pet health team.



Yorkie with flea Infestation!

First Aid Kits for Small Animals

It is always nice to be prepared for an emergency. We recommend that on your list of very important phone numbers you place the local emergency animal clinic, if you are a client of PAH, we refer small animal emergencies to Capitol Area Emergency Services (CAVES). CAVES' phone number is 227-1199, and they are located in the Ralph Pill Building off of Loudon Road in Concord.

Having an emergency first aid kit for your pet is a good idea too. Included in it should be the following: bandaging material, to include soft cotton wrap, and either vet wrap or an ace bandage. Be certain not to wrap the ace bandage too tight, as it may cut off circulation. Also include children's benedryl®, which can be used in situations where your dog is having a reaction to either vaccines or a sting.

Regardless of the emergency it is best to call the emergency veterinarian prior to administering any medications to your animals. They can advise if the animal should be seen or not.

While You Are Away

Over the holidays we all travel quite a bit, either for day trips to see family, or for longer, please consider the following ideas. Make sure that if you have someone watching your animal on your behalf that they have contact information for your veterinarian, and that they have permission to authorize treatment of your animal. You may want to make sure that they have your credit card number so that they are not forced to pay for services that your animal requires.

If you are leaving for the day, it is a good idea to take your pet for a long walk in the morning to tire them out a bit. Also, either dog-proof your home, or leave your pet in a kennel so that they cannot get into anything while home alone. Make sure that your pet has access to water while home.

If you will be boarding your animal, it is ok to ask for a tour of the facility to check it out. Call ahead as some establishments request an appointment so that you get a full tour by someone that can answer all of your questions. Be certain that your animal will be kept in an appropriate size kennel, fed the appropriate food and medicated as needed. Make sure that the boarding facility also has a signed form to authorize treatment of your animal with your veterinarian if necessary while you are away.



Litter Box Scoop

Litter box duty comes with every cat. Some cats refuse to go to the bathroom in a dirty litter box, so you must clean the box every day. The rule is that you should have one more litter box than you do cats and that the litter boxes are kept in various places in your house. Some cats will act territorial over their litter box and will keep the other cats from going in the box, thus causing the other cats to sometimes urinate or defecate inappropriately around the house.

Keep in mind that parasites can be passed through animal feces and that after you clean the litter box you should always wash your hands. If you are pregnant, you are especially prone to Toxoplasmosis, a parasite shed in cat feces, so therefore you should not clean the litter box at all.

To avoid any unwanted odors, be sure to clean the box daily, use an appropriate litter, and place the box in a well ventilated room, such as the bathroom.

The FAT Talk

Obesity is much more common than people think. Most owners think that their animals look “thin” when they actually are at a healthy weight. It is human nature to feed animals when they look hungry. Many clients often comment that they are feeding what the bag says they should be feeding. What people don’t understand is that the food companies don’t care if your animal is obese, they just want you to buy more food. Just as human physicians preach to us, obesity can lead to numerous health problems including but not limited to high blood pressure, heart disease, and arthritis. Americans spend millions of dollars on arthritis medication for their pets annually, however if we just instituted the “tough love policy” and fed our animals less than the anti-inflammatories may not be needed. Many large breed dogs do just fine on 1 measured cup of good quality dog food fed twice daily. If you are concerned about your dog’s weight, or have questions regarding what you are feeding, please ask at your next visit.



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First Aid Kit For Horses

Emergencies don't always happen between 9-5. Pembroke Animal Hospital is available 24 hours a day for large animal emergencies, but it is still nice to be prepared in case of an emergency. These are a few things to consider. All barns should have a first aid kit. Included in this kit should be the following: a tube of Banamine, and a tube of Bute, bandage material (to include a non-stick layer, a sheet cotton or cotton quilts, and vet-wrap or a polo wrap), Betadine, a thermometer, and a weight tape. It is not a bad idea to also have a stethoscope. It is best to address any bleeding emergency by applying direct pressure. If it is in a place that is conducive to bandaging, place a snug bandage over the area and leave it — don't peek to see if it has stopped, just leave the bandage in place and call the emergency large animal number. Prior to administering any medication, please speak with a veterinarian first. Some emergencies can not be treated successfully on the farm and need to be transferred to a referral clinic, therefore it is vital that as a responsible horse owner you have access to a trailer. If you own a trailer, make sure that it is in full functional working order, and is not snowed in, and if you don't own a trailer, make sure that you know someone who would let you borrow theirs if need be. Please make sure that the barn where you are keeping your horse has your veterinarian's phone number. If you are going out of town, be certain to leave your contact information and it is helpful to leave a written note that allows someone to make financial decisions on your behalf, and you may want to leave a credit card number so that treatment is not delayed.



First Aide Suggestions

Preventing GI Issues

It is common in the winter for us to have to treat impaction colics. This is usually no fault of the owner but can potentially be prevented. It is VITAL that all year round your horse has access to fresh water. Make sure in the winter that your water supply has not frozen over, and that your horse can safely get to the water source, if the ground is icy, or very muddy, the horse may choose not to go to the water source and then you may run into a situation where your horse may become dehydrated, then may develop gastrointestinal problems. It may be good practice to give your horse a bran mash once weekly, or just add some warm water to their grain at meal times. Some horses will eat really soupy food, and some are more particular and won't eat the meal if water is added, so add as much water as your horse will tolerate eating. Adding a lunch meal of hay will help your horse stay warm in the winter. Don't bulk up their concentrated feeds/grains, but by adding more hay in their diet you can help them maintain normal GI function and help them stay warm.



Fresh Water is vital to maintain GI Health!



PEMBROKE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

13 Sheep Davis Road
Pembroke NH 03275

Phone: 603-228-0019
Fax: 603-228-9378
www.pembroke-animal-hospital.com

“Meeting all your large and small animal medical and surgical needs”

Drs. Julian, Peck, Alizeo are available for large and small animal needs. Our facility on Sheep Davis Road services our small animal patients, and Drs. Peck and Alizeo are available to come to your farm for large animal patients. We do routine surgeries in-house, and are associated with many referral clinics to send our patients to if the necessity arises.

Pembroke Animal Hospital also has boarding and daycare facilities.

Please feel free to contact us at the clinic regarding any information that you may need to ensure your pets health and longevity.

Blanket Biz & Warming Up

This time of year, everyone is asking when to blanket, what to blanket with, etc. Every horse is different and you should vary your blanketing protocol based on the individual horse. If you are able to continue to ride throughout the winter, you may want to body clip them, in which case that horse will need more/thicker blankets than a horse with a heavy winter coat. As would a horse that does not develop a very thick winter coat or a horse that has just moved up north and is not used to our climate. If your barn is fairly sealed up at night, you probably can remove any blankets overnight, if the horses are kept inside. When you start to blanket in the fall, remember that it may feel chilly at 35°F, but it will be in the teens before too long. So don't put your heaviest winter blanket on then, or else your horse may get chilled when it is 10°F. It is important to take off all blankets frequently, maybe every other day, and groom your horse, to prevent any associated pain with rubbing from the blanket. And it is always best to put a blanket on a relatively clean horse, mud can irritate even the toughest horse if left under a blanket for too long. Some hearty horses don't need to be blanketed at all, as long as they have some shelter from the wind and rain.



Blanket Wear

Horses in the wild do well at staying warm in the winter. We however have domesticated them so much that we now need to aide in their thermal requirements throughout the year. It is important that if you ride your horse in the winter and they sweat, be sure to make sure they are dry prior to putting them back out in their paddocks. Regular grooming will help aide in keeping horse's natural winter coat acting as an insulator for their bodies. Hair that is matted from mud or sweat is not very warm. Adding a lunch meal of hay will also help your horse stay warm in the winter. Don't bulk up their concentrated feeds/grains, but by adding more hay in their diet you can help them maintain normal GI function and help them stay warm throughout the day. Make sure that in rain, wind and driving snow that your horse has adequate shelter. It is a law in New Hampshire that every horse has access to a 3-sided shelter November through April. Be aware of footing around your horse's environment. Don't dump water buckets in areas that will then be dangerous when ice forms. If you spill liquids in the barn, be sure to clean them up as soon as possible to prevent ice from forming. Older and sick horses need more help in the winter to stay warm. If you have any questions regarding your horse's winter health, please call the clinic at 603-228-0019.