

BigCreek Pet Hospital Beagle

Giving Pets Medication

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It's rarely fun, but sooner or later you're going to have to do it. You come home from the veterinary clinic with medication, and now it's up to you! The good news is that almost all treatments can be given at home, once you learn how. The following tips may help you ensure your animal is medicated properly.

- 1) Appoint one person in the household to be the medicine-giver. This will help to ensure that the pet isn't given an accidental overdose of medicine due to more than one person giving the medication and duplicating efforts.
- 2) Use a calendar or a weekly/daily pill dispenser to keep track of when medicines are given.
- 3) If you observe any abnormalities other than the problem your pet is being treated for, call your veterinarian.
- 4) Make sure all medications are taken for the prescribed number of days, even when your pet appears to be doing better.

Giving a pet a pill

When your veterinarian has prescribed a medicine in pill form, an extra pair of hands may make it easier to give to your pet. One person can restrain and comfort your dog or cat, while the other treats the pet.

Several methods can be used to make sure your pet gets the medication it needs. Try different approaches to see which works best. Here are several suggestions:

- * Gently open your dog or cat's mouth by placing your hand across the mouth and pressing your forefinger and thumb against the jaws, behind the canine teeth. Place the pill as far back on the tongue as possible, then hold the jaws closed while you gently stroke the throat, using a downward motion to encourage swallowing.
- * Hide the pill (for dogs) inside a piece of cheese or rolled inside a piece of soft bread.
- * Crush the pill and add it to food. Remember, with this method, there is always a danger that the full dose may not be taken. Use a small amount of food and try to ensure that all of the food is eaten.

Giving liquid medication

For liquid medication, make sure your veterinarian gives you an eyedropper, or some other type of delivery device. Begin the process by picking up the dropper in one hand. Using your other hand, gently grasp your pet's muzzle from above. Hold the head level. Place the tip of the eyedropper in the corner of your pet's mouth while gently holding his muzzle. Administer the medication in small amounts, with a slight pause between each portion. Hold your pet's mouth closed and his head level until you feel him swallow the medication.

Always praise your dog or cat following any treatment. This helps them associate the activity with good things. Praising should help make the next session run even more smoothly. If you have difficulty medicating your dog or cat, have your veterinarian explain the process. ***

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Pets, People and Pests

Deborah W. Fegan, DVM

April showers bring May flowers but they also bring intestinal parasites. The mud that our dogs bring in on their feet may also include parasite eggs that have survived the winter in the soil. When Fido licks the mud from his feet he can be ingesting these eggs which proceed on to adult worms in Fido's intestinal tract. Cats can be exposed from mud on your shoes.

Hookworm, roundworm and whipworm life cycles all have a soil phase that are very resistant to cold. They have been known to live for years in the soil. Once the soil is contaminated it is almost impossible to remove the eggs. Fire will destroy the eggs (one of my classmates torched his lawn to rid it of eggs) and they can be eliminated by removing the top inch of soil from an area.

Hookworms cause disease in dogs and cats by sucking blood. One species is particularly vicious and is known to be able to bleed a



puppy to death. Anemia, poor appetite, emaciation, and poor hair coat can be signs of disease. Occasionally, a dark, tarry diarrhea may also be present. Some animals can show little signs but contaminate the ground with their bowel movements. In addition, some puppies will have respiratory disease and pneumonia due to the tissue migration of hookworm larva. Hookworms are also a well documented disease in humans causing skin or intestinal disease.

Roundworms cause disease most frequently in puppies and kittens. Poor growth, failure to gain weight, pot-



bellied appearance and poor hair coat are often observed. Adults rarely become sick but spread the eggs in their bowel movements, except for one species of roundworm that produces gastrointestinal disease in adult cats causing vomiting.

(Continued on page 2)

Roundworm is a well-documented, important disease in people. Liver, pulmonary, neurologic, gastrointestinal and eye disease have all been associated with the ingestion of eggs especially in children. These diseases can be very severe and painful.

Whipworms have almost never been seen in cats in North American but are frequently found in dogs. We have seen a particular outbreak of whipworms this spring at our practice. Whipworms are often asymptomatic but can cause diarrhea with blood and mucus, weight loss, anemia and death. They are not known to cause disease in humans.



Fecal Exams are Key to Diagnosis

Diagnosis for these intestinal parasites is established by the fecal examination. However, a patient can have these parasites present but not show eggs in the particular fecal sample examined. That is why your fecal diagnosis will not be negative but rather, no eggs found. If disease is suspected multiple samples may be need to confirm the diagnosis. Year round "Heartworm" medication which is also active against these parasites is recommended. Combined with prompt removal of feces from yards and litter boxes, control will be well maintained. And if disease does occur, effective de-worming medication is available to rid the intestinal tract of these pests. So, don't forget that semi-annual fecal sample. It may mean more than you think. ***

\$5.00 off Fecal Exam
Bring this Coupon with You to Redeem!
Offer good until 7/31/09
 Please, one per family

Join the Revolution!

We have two specials for heartworm/flea medication!

- Purchase 10 months of Revolution® and receive:
 - 2 free doses plus
 - \$20 in Big Creek Bucks (good for any future purchases at BCPH)
- Purchase 6 months of Revolution® and receive:
 - 1 free dose plus
 - \$10 in Big Creek Bucks (good for any future purchases at BCPH)





Call our office to order today! (440) 234-5831

Is Your Pet the Next Animal Idol?

Who will be crowned Animal Idol 2009? Find out on Sunday, June 28th, and support a worthy cause at the same time! Animal Idol 2009 is a fun, family event, a pet show where your pet will be judged on looks and talents.

Sponsored by Big Creek Pet Hospital

Big Creek Pet Hospital will host Animal Idol 2009 on Sunday, June 28th in conjunction with the Middleburg Heights "Summer in the City" Festival. The contest, emceed by Chuck Collier, popular WGAR-FM 99.5 DJ, will be held from 1:30 PM until 3:30 PM in the "Animal Idol" Tent located in the southwest corner of Southland Shopping Center near the Pearl Rd. and Smith Rd. intersection.

Proceeds support W.A.G.S. for Kids

All proceeds from this event benefit W.A.G.S. 4 Kids. W.A.G.S. (Working Animals Giving Service) 4 Kids is a charity that raises and trains service dogs for disabled children. Also benefiting from this fundraiser is Middleburg Heights Animal Foundation (MHAF).

Every pet will receive an award

All pet entrants (under 250 lbs., please) will receive an award, but only one will be crowned Big Creek Pet Hospital Animal Idol 2009. Pre-registration is required to participate in the contest, and a \$10 registration fee is due with registration (fees go to support our charities).

Space is limited so please pre-register your pet prior to Wednesday, June 24.

Please contact Big Creek Pet Hospital at (440) 234-5831 or e-mail to: bigcreekpet@sbcglobal.net for a registration form.

On the day of the contest, June 28, pet check-in begins at 12:30 PM at Southland Shopping Center.

The Animal Idol 2009 title will be awarded by a spectator "votes" (**donations**) for the candidates. Donation baskets representing each candidate will be available for your "vote".

Animal Idol 2009's winner and a judges' pick will have the opportunity to audition for **David Letterman's** "Stupid Pet Tricks" to flaunt their talent!

Prizes

Prizes are generously donated by area businesses: The Animal Idol 2009 Grand Prize package includes \$50 towards dinner at Damon's, movie tickets, and an overnight stay at an area hotel for the owners, and luxury boarding at Big Creek Pet Hospital for up to three (3) pets.

Good luck to all our talented contestants!

And the winner is...

Congratulations to Inga C.! She won the \$50 BCPH Gift Certificate from our April Newsletter Drawing for visiting our website to find out that what we removed from Phyllis C's cat, Wahoo, was a sewing needle she had swallowed!



W.A.G.S. 4 Kids

(www.wags4kids.org)

Working Animals Giving Service

A local charity specializing in raising and training service dogs for children with special needs

Middleburg Heights

Animal Foundation

A community organization that rescues, fosters and adopts abandoned animals from Middleburg Heights

Sunday, June 28, 2009: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Pet Contestant Check-in: 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Middleburg Heights “Summer in the City” Festival

Southland Shopping Center – Southwest Corner

Pearl Road and Smith Road Intersection

Middleburg Heights, OH 44130

Every pet wins a prize! One pet will be named Big Creek Pet Hospital Animal Idol 2009!

To enter your one of a kind pet (under 250 lbs.), please complete the registration form below and submit it with a registration fee of \$10 (supports charities). Please make Checks or Money Orders payable to: Big Creek Pet Hospital – Animal Idol 2009

★ Best Costume!
★ Longest Tail!
★ Biggest Ears!

Send or Bring to:
Big Creek Pet Hospital
16949 E. Bagley Rd.
Middleburg Hts., OH 44130
(440) 234-5831

★ Prizes!
★ Cutest Face!
★ Prettiest Eyes!

Space is limited, so register early. Please pre-register by Wednesday, June 24.

Detach here and return bottom portion with \$10 registration fee to Big Creek Pet Hospital at the address above.

Pet Name: _____ Breed: _____ Age: _____

Description/Color: _____

Dog

Male

Cat

Female

Other: _____

Special Talent: _____

Permission to videotape special talent for David Letterman’s Stupid Pet Trick audition

Owner Name: _____

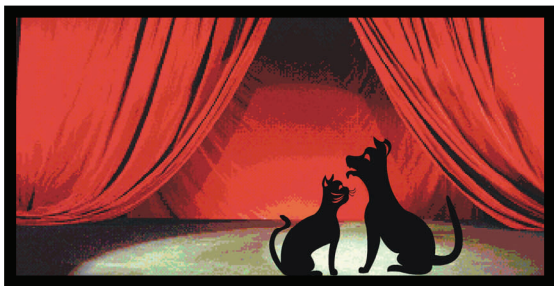
Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (H) _____ E-mail: _____

(W) _____ Cell: _____

Disclaimer: Big Creek Pet Hospital is not responsible for damage done to or by your pet to the grounds, facility or others during the course of this event. Owners are responsible for controlling their pets.



Animal Idol 2009

On June 28, 2009, at 1:30 PM, the curtain will open once more for all animals to show their talents or to simply strut their stuff to stardom!

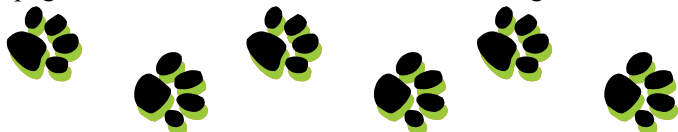
What made Animal Idol 2007 a wonderful event was the wide range of pets who turned out. Animal Idol isn't just a "talent show", but a pet showcase. If your pet has beautiful eyes, long legs, a body that simply doesn't match the head, or can perform a special talent, then bring your baby to be showcased to the city. If your pet is fabulously talented, he or she may be eligible to audition for a David Letterman's Stupid Pet Tricks segment.

When you register your pet, you will be participating in an exciting fundraising event. Each pet contestant's name and picture will appear on a bucket. Throughout the Animal Idol extravaganza the audience will choose this year's winner by voting with donations to that contestant's bucket. So bring your friends, neighbors and co-workers and join in a great fund raising experience!

Donations = Votes

Donate to the cause by voting for your favorite contestant! This fundraising event benefits W.A.G.S. 4 Kids and Middleburg Heights Animal Foundation.

See pages 2 and 3 for more information and a registration form.



W.A.G.S. 4 Kids

(Working Animals Giving Service For Kids)

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to raising and training service dogs, and providing them at no cost to children with disabilities.

We are located at:

112 East Center St.

Berea, OH 44017

For information about our programs and services, please visit our website:

www.wags4kids.org

Or call us at: 216-406-7656

Fun Dog & Cat Facts

- A cat cannot see directly under its nose. This is why the cat cannot seem to find tidbits on the floor.
- Dogs' eyes have large pupils and a wide field of vision, making them really good at following moving objects. Dogs also see well in fairly low light.
- A cat sees about six times better than a human at night because of the tapetum lucidum, a layer of extra reflecting cells which absorb light.
- Every year, \$1.5 billion is spent on pet food. This is four times the amount spent on baby food.
- A cat's sense of taste is keener than a dog's sense of taste.
- Dogs are mentioned 14 times in the Bible.
- Dogs have far fewer taste buds than people...probably fewer than 2,000. It is the smell that initially attracts them to a particular food.
- The first seeing-eye dog was presented to a blind person on April 25, 1938.
- Cats average 16 hours of sleep a day, more than any other mammal.
- Walt Disney based the famous cartoon character, Pluto, on his family's Gordon Setters.
- All cats are born with blue eyes.
- Cats can do tricks. They just sometimes choose not to.
- Most pet owners (94%) say their pets makes them smile more than once a day.
- It has been established that people who own pets live longer, have less stress, and have fewer heart attacks.

