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Pensacola, FL 32534

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Pine Meadow Newsletter

Summer 2017

Pine Meadow Veterinary Clinic, 850-477-2194
550 West Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, FL 32534
www.pinemeadowvetclinic.com contactpmvc@gmail.com

H3N2, Get a Paw Up On the New Strain of Doggy Flu

Canine influenza, or dog flu, is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by the influenza A virus. Two strains have been identified in the US, H3N8 and H3N2. The H3N2 strain is spread more easily and remains contagious longer than the older strain H3N8. Symptoms of the flu resemble kennel cough. Dogs may develop a persistent cough, thick nasal discharge and fever. Other signs can include lethargy, eye discharge, and reduced appetite. Most dogs infected with H3N2 recover within 2-3 weeks. However, some dogs may develop secondary bacterial infections which may lead to more severe illness and pneumonia. While the virus is highly contagious, the fatality rate is extremely low, less than 10%. Dogs infected with H3N2 are most contagious during the 2-4 day period but should be isolated for at least 21 days to prevent the spread of the virus. Dogs infected with H3N8 are recommended to be isolated for at least 7 days. Practice of good hygiene and sanitation is recommended since the flu virus does not normally survive in the environment beyond 48 hours and is killed by commonly used disinfectants. Vaccines and laboratory testing are available for both strains of the virus. Initial Flu vaccinations will need to be boosted in 3 weeks, then repeated annually. The vaccination is a "lifestyle Vaccination" and is recommended for those patients at risk for exposure, such as pets that board, visit dog parks, and go to the groomers. There is no evidence of transmission of the dog flu to humans. There has been one isolated case of cats becoming infected by the dog flu in a shelter in Indiana. At this time there is no evidence of cat to cat transmission of this virus and no vaccination has been approved in cats.



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Upcoming Events

August - Dental Month, 15% off dental cleanings

September - Back to School! Donate a book to ECARE and receive \$5 off your visit

October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 10% of cost of spays will be donated to Baptist Free Mammography Clinic

Paws for Veterans 5K - Registration opens July 1, 2017. Run is Saturday October 28, 2017 from 8am -11am at Escambia County Equestrian Center 7750 Mobile Hwy Pensacola FL, 32526



Heatstroke, Guide to Surviving the Summer Sun

Heatstroke is a life-threatening condition suffered when a pet is unable to lower its body temperature. Cells in the body become damaged when the core body temp reaches anywhere between 106-109°F. Heatstroke is most common in dogs, but also can occur in cats. Exercising in warm weather or being left outside in high temperatures with no shade or access to water are common causes. It is also the main reason to never leave a pet in a parked car. Overweight pets and brachycephalic (short-faced) breeds are at higher risk. Signs of heat stroke include; panting, loud rasping breaths, bright red gums, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, disorientation, and collapse. Immediate action at home to cool a heatstroke pet before transport is recommended, using a cool bath or garden hose. A pet should never be immersed in an ice bath since lowering a pet's body temperature too quickly or too low can cause other complications and even death.



Pets, Parked Cars, and Florida Law

Every year, hundread of pets die from heatstroke because they are left in parked vehicles. On a partly cloudy 93°F day, a parked car can heat up to 120°F in just 15 minutes. But even cooler days can be just as deadly. On a 71°F day, the temperature in a parked car in the sun with the windows cracked can reach 116°F within just an hour. Florida is fortunate enough to be one of the few states with a law that allows a Good Samaritan to rescue a pet trapped in a parked car. However, before you go breaking into a car, please familiarize yourself with the law. (768.139 resucue of a vulnerable person or domestic animal from a motor vehicle/immunity from civil liability) It is limited to domestic animals, not including livestock or farm animals. You must first make every attempt to contact the owner of the vehicle. Law enforcement **MUST** be contacted **FIRST** before entering the vehicle and no more force than necessary can be used. The Good Samaritan also must stay and wait for law enforcemnet to arrive. Pictures of the pet trapped in the car are highly recommended.



Water Toxicity, Too Much of a Good Thing

Most pet owners are concerned about dehydration during the summer months. But some pets can ingest dangerous amounts of water, resulting in a condition called Hyponatremia, which can potentially be fatal. It occurs when more water enters the body than it can handle causing a dangerous electroylte imbalance. Symptoms includes loss of coordination, lethargy, bloating, vomiting, glazed eyes, excessive salivation, difficulty breathing, seizures and coma. This condition is most commonly seen in dogs that love the water and would spend all day in the lake, pond, or pool if allowed. It has also been seen in dogs that overhydrate after exercise or enjoy playing with garden hoses or sprinklers. Continuously lapping or biting at the water, or unintentionally swallowing water as they drive for a toy can lead to this condition. Limit water activities during play and allow for frequent short water breaks during exercising to keep pets hydrated.



VetSource, Our Online Pharmacy

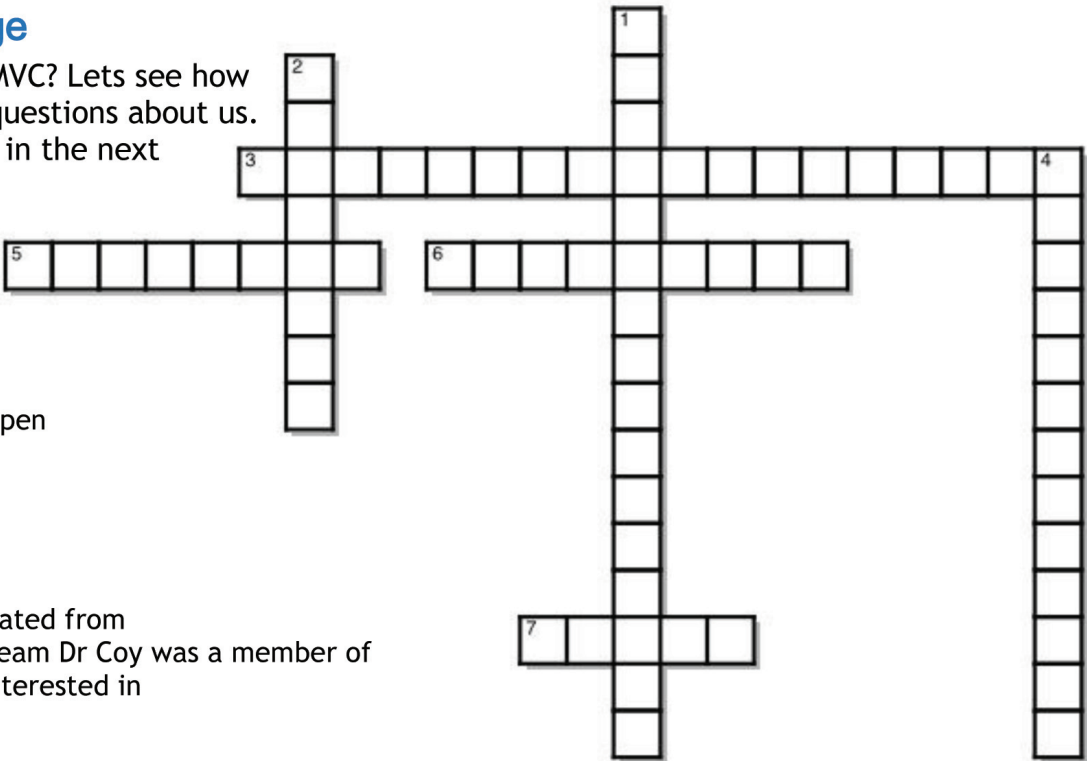
Is there a product we do not carry in our clinic your pet needs? Do you need a medication refilled, but don't have the time to stop by and pick it up? Or do you just prefer the convenience of online ordering and delivery staight to your door? We have teamed up with an online vet pharmacy to meet your online prescription needs. Just check out the link on our website to VetSource for this easy online ordering option.
<http://pinemeadowvetclinic.vetsourceweb.com>

Did You Know You Can Text Us?

You can aslo now text us for quick questions, scheduling appointments, or just to check on your pets that may be here for boarding or surgery! Just text our main number 850-477-2194.

Test Your Knowledge

How well do you know PMVC? Lets see how you do answering a few questions about us. Answers will be provided in the next newsletter. Good luck!



ACROSS

- 3 What year did the clinic open
- 5 Clinic cat's name
- 6 State Dr Stafford is from
- 7 Clinic dog's name

DOWN

- 1 College Dr Hoffman graduated from
- 2 Type of College athletic team Dr Coy was a member of
- 4 Specialty Dr Westrick is interested in