

All Seasons Veterinary Care Monthly Newsletter

September



Fall is Coming - Is Your Pet Ready? 🍂

The days are getting shorter, the temperatures are starting to cool down, and before we know it, we'll be trading summer adventures for crunchy leaves and cozy evenings. Fall is a great time to check in on your pet's health and make sure they're ready for the change in season.

Don't Put Away Parasite Prevention Yet!

Cooler temperatures don't mean parasites have disappeared. **Fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes can remain active well into the fall**, especially during Iowa's warmer stretches. Fleas can also live comfortably indoors year-round, meaning your home can provide the perfect environment for them once the weather outside cools down.

Ticks can remain active whenever temperatures are above freezing, and mosquitoes can continue to pose a heartworm risk until consistently cold weather arrives. That's why we recommend keeping your pet on year-round parasite prevention rather than stopping when summer ends. Staying consistent helps prevent gaps in protection when an unexpected warm spell brings parasites back out.

Watch for Fall Allergies

Fall can also bring a new round of allergies for our pets. Ragweed, mold, fallen leaves, and other environmental allergens can cause increased itching and irritation. **If your pet is licking their paws, scratching more than usual, shaking their head, developing recurrent ear infections, or getting red or irritated skin, allergies could be contributing.**

Back to a Routine

Fall often means a change in routine for the entire family. With school starting, vacations ending, and cooler weather changing outdoor activity, your pet's daily schedule may look a little different too. Some pets may spend more time alone during the day, while others may get fewer walks or outdoor adventures as the weather cools down.

Try to keep mealtimes, exercise, medications, and bedtime as consistent as possible while everyone adjusts to the new schedule. Changes in routine can sometimes lead to boredom, extra weight gain, or even anxiety, so make sure your pet is still getting plenty of exercise, mental stimulation, and attention. Fall is also a great time to reassess your pet's weight and activity level and make adjustments before the holiday treats start rolling in!

Your Fall Pet Checklist!

Fall is also a great time to make sure your pet's vaccines, wellness care, medications, and identification information are all up to date. Before we get too far into the season, take a few minutes to make sure your pet is ready for everything fall has to offer. A quick check now can help prevent small things from becoming bigger problems later.

 **Flea & tick prevention is current** - cool weather doesn't mean the risk is  gone!

 **Heartworm prevention is current** - keep protecting your pet from  mosquitoes and heartworm disease.

 **Vaccines are up to date** - especially important if your pet will be traveling,  boarding, or spending time around other animals.

 **Microchip information is current** - make sure your phone number and  contact information are still correct.

 **Medications have been refilled** - don't let an empty bottle sneak up on you! 

 **Weight and activity level look healthy** - changes in routine can mean  changes on the scale.

 **Fall allergies or other health changes are being monitored** - itching, ear  problems, coughing, or changes in behavior are worth discussing with your veterinarian.

World Rabies Day!

September 28th is World Rabies Day, a reminder of the importance of protecting **both our pets and our communities** from this serious and often fatal disease.

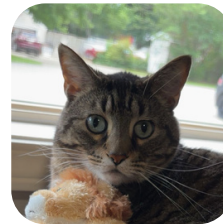
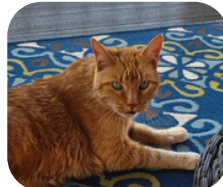
Rabies is a virus that attacks the nervous system and can affect almost any mammal, including people. It is **most commonly spread through the bite of an infected animal**, and once symptoms develop, rabies is almost always fatal. The good news? **Rabies is preventable through vaccination.**

Even pets who spend most or all of their time indoors should remain current on their rabies vaccine. **Unexpected encounters with wildlife can happen, and pets can escape through an open door or yard gate. Additionally, animals like bats can also get into your home!** (Ask one of our technicians! They had a bat slip into their apartment just this year!) Keeping your pet vaccinated provides an important layer of protection and is also **required by law for dogs and cats.**

If you're unsure whether your pet's rabies vaccination is current, give us a call or check their records with us. **A simple vaccine can provide lifesaving protection for your pet, your family, and your community.**

Meet the ASVC Staff Pets!

Ever wondered who our team goes home to at the end of the day? Meet some of the furry faces who keep our staff busy after hours!



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