



Happy New Year from Alvin Animal Clinic

January 2010

Greetings!

We hope the holidays were enjoyable for you and your family.

As we begin this new year, many of you may be thinking of making resolutions. We would like to encourage you to include your pets in those plans. Some of the resolutions for your pets are: to provide better training for their pets, to find their perfect weight, to give them cleaner teeth, to give them more walks, to provide them more treats. Share some of these ideas with your own family and see how they might fit into your New Year's plans. Make it your New Year's resolution to get the best care for your pet, no matter what.

If you received a new puppy or kitten for Christmas, now would be a great time to call and schedule an appointment to make sure their vaccinations and tests are up to date. Preventative medicine is the best medicine.

Sincerely,

Your Alvin Animal Clinic Team

January Health Focus

We often hear client concerns about their cats and dogs. We would like to address the most common concern in this letter for the cats and dogs.

We hear clients concerned that their cats are not using the litter box properly, improper elimination. This is an unfortunate common problem that has many causes. If your cat is eliminating in undesirable locations, first have her examined by us. We will run a test on the urine or feces to make sure there is no medical reason for the problem. Then, if there is no medical reason, follow up with a discussion about your cat's behavior. Many things can influence litter box behavior such as your cat not enjoying where the litter box is located, the litter box being too full, and/or being affected by outdoor cats passing by your windows. There are some things that can be done to help control improper elimination, but it does take time and patience. This problem has been listed as one of the top reasons owners give up their cats, so do not feel alone and abandoned on this issue.

One of the most common concerns we see with our canine patients is eating something they shouldn't. Dogs enjoy items that we would never dream of tasting, such as dead animals in the yard, and household cleaners, all of which can cause various effects on a dog's system. Be careful to place things in your house out of your dog's reach. In the yard, make sure you check the yard first for anything your dog may find appetizing. If you have cats place your litter box in an area the cats can get to, but the dog cannot. If your dog has eaten something unusual, bring him in immediately. The sooner we can detect what and where the item may be, the sooner we can fix the problem.

As always, we are here via phone or email to answer any concerns you may have regarding your pets. We appreciate the comments, compliments, suggestions, and feedback you like to make.

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