FEAR FREE 111-STAYING HOME WITH YOUR PET

- Sarah, Client Marketing Coordinator

Being home more often these days not only interrupts your schedule, but your pet’s as well. Any change in the environment and/or daily routine can cause stress and anxiety for cats, dogs and even pocket pets. Here are some guidelines to keep your pooch pacified and your kitty content.

1-Give them the space they need. Just like children, there’s play time and nap time. As we know, crowds can be stressful and your pet may feel crowded with you home more often. Consider “alone time” for adult pets. Give them a food toy in a room by themselves and place a baby gate in the doorway to deter any undesired visitors.

2-Socialize while being socially distant. One can be creative with activities for your pet. For dogs, car rides, walks in an empty parking lot or park are just a few ideas. For cats, interactive toys and window watching is beneficial. If you have children, this will also help with pets being bombarded with attention.

3-Provide enrichment toys and activities. Dogs and cats love hunting and searching for their food. Having food puzzle toys or nose work games available stimulate their attention and keeps them happy.

4-Use calming pheromones for the dogs and cats. We recommend Feliway for cats and Adaptil for dogs.

5-Give them a happy place. Cats feel safe when they can view their surroundings. If you don’t have a cat tree already, allow for elevated spaces they can perch on to observe things. Dogs benefit from placing their bed in a quiet private place for them to relax in.

Access to additional information is right at your finger tips.
Sign up for a free account at www.fearfreehappyhomes.com!
February marks National Pet Dental Health Awareness month. Though oral health is important all year round, we want to take advantage of this time to remind you about taking care of your pet’s smile! Just like their humans, cats and dogs (and our other furry critters too!) require good dental hygiene. Studies show animals with healthy teeth tend to have improved longevity. This starts at home with brushing or effective chews or treats for preventing tartar. Your veterinarian should then evaluate your pet’s teeth at least once per year at their wellness visit. Periodontal disease such as tartar or gingivitis can start as early as three years of age and may need extra attention. Problems such as broken teeth, bad breath, bleeding from mouth, and abnormal chewing are indications your pet may need to come in for a full oral evaluation with complete x-rays of all of the teeth.

When your pet arrives for a dental procedure, we start with a pre-anesthetic exam and blood work to make anesthesia as safe as possible. We clean and examine each tooth and take x-rays. At that time, we address any teeth with deep pockets around them or with abnormal x-rays showing bone loss, resorption, abscesses or other disease. Some poorly affected teeth may even require extraction (removal) to prevent further complications.

After a dental scaling and polishing, Care is proud to offer your pet the application of Sanos Dental Sealant. This product is brushed onto your pet’s teeth after their cleaning. It works to reduce tartar formation for up to six months after its use. Our staff is happy to talk with you about dental health and your pet at any time. You can also visit the Veterinary Oral Health Council for a list of published foods, chews, and treats proven to address plaque and tartar or go to the AVMA website for additional information on pet dental health.
There are many things within our households that are toxic to our furry friends and food items that many are not aware of. Listed in this article are a few items you should know about as pet owners!

Let's start with food items. A few that most pet owners know are chocolate, grapes, and garlic. Some that you may not know include coffee, avocados, and certain peanut butters. If your pet is one that loves peanut butter make sure to check the full ingredients before offering to your pet, it may contain xylitol. Xylitol is an artificial sweetener that is very dangerous to dogs. If you are ever unsure about an item that you're thinking of feeding your animal, do a little research or ask your veterinarian.

Some other items that are toxic to your pets if ingested are plants that may be in your household. Some of these include lilies, philodendron, eucalyptus, ferns, and some flowers like irises or hydrangeas. If your animal is curious or likes to nibble on things, make sure to have these out of their reach.

Other products to be aware of that are dangerous for your pet includes over the counter medications. Over the counter medications including ibuprofen, aspirin, and acetaminophen are especially important.

It's important to remember that our pets metabolize these drugs different than humans do. If you are ever thinking about giving your pet medications that you have at home, it is a good rule of thumb to check with your veterinarian first.

Visit ASPCA.org for additional information.

Learn the latest information on our COVID-19 policies at careanimalhospital.com
HOLIDAY WRAP UP

-Becky S., CVT

The holidays have come and gone with a new year upon us. With your help, we were able to collect over $2019.28 for Safe Harbor Humane Society, Specialty Purebred Cat Rescue and Fellow Mortals. This amount will be split amongst these organizations to strive for further care of the pets waiting for their forever home.

Thank you for all who contributed.
May you have a happy, safe and pet filled new year!

We hope you had a safe and happy holiday season!