



Spring 2018



Cross Keys Animal Hospital

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You can also find us on
Facebook!

Hospital Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 am to 7:30 pm
Saturday
8:30 am to 12 pm
Closed Sunday

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Spring Pet Safety Tips

As the weather gets warmer, the days get longer, and the flowers start to bloom, it's easy to forget the spring season can also be filled with hazards for our pets. Keep reading to learn more.

Pesky Critters: Warmer weather brings insects out of their hiding places. Some creepy crawlies are completely harmless to your pet while others could pose a risk. Insect bites or stings can cause allergic reactions involving facial swelling, trouble breathing, or anaphylactic shock. Ticks carry Lyme disease which can cause lethargy, lameness, and lead to more serious effects if not treated. Fleas are a nuisance year-round. The best way to avoid fleas and ticks is to use an effective flea and tick preventative.

Spring Cleaning: No time is better than springtime for a complete house-cleaning, but make sure all chemicals and cleaning products are kept out of your pet's reach. Be careful to read labels, even on all-natural products, before using any chemicals that could harm your pet.

Update ID Tags: Warm, pleasant warm weather means your pet will be spending more time outside which also brings more opportunities for your pet to wander away. Make sure all of the contact information on his ID tag is up-to-date.
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April is National Heartworm Awareness Month!

April is National Heartworm Awareness Month! To celebrate keeping our pets heartworm-free, we are offering \$8 off a heartworm test (normally \$38) and \$5 off a 12-month supply of heartworm prevention plus manufacturer rebates for Heartgard Plus and Sentinel. To learn more about heartworm disease, head to heartwormsociety.org for detailed information.

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If your pet has a microchip, check that all information registered with the microchip company is correct.

Guard your Garden: Be careful of the fertilizer, pesticide, and plants in your garden. Fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides can all contain ingredients that could be dangerous to your pet if ingested. Always store these products out of your pet's reach and make sure to follow all instructions carefully. Certain plants can also pose a risk to your pet. Lilies are very toxic to cats if ingested and can lead to kidney failure without treatment. Flowers like rhododendron and azaleas are also toxic to pets if ingested. Visit aspca.org for a complete list of toxic plants.

Buckle Up: When traveling with your pet, make sure he is secured in either a crate or by a seatbelt harness designed for pets. Driving with a pet in the bed of a truck is very dangerous as is allowing a pet to stick his head out of a moving car's window. Any number of accidents can occur: abrupt stops or turns can cause major injury and flying debris or insects can cause inner ear or eye injuries.

With these simple tips in mind, your pet's spring is sure to be the perfect warm antidote to the cold, dark winter and the perfect lead up to a sunny summer.

Pet Fun Fact!

One human year is equal to 25 hamster years which means a hamster ages approximately one year every 15 days.



Upcoming Promotions at Cross Keys

May is Flea and Tick Prevention Month!

With summer just around the corner, pests like fleas and ticks are already out and about wreaking havoc. Our pets love the warm weather, too, so you will want to protect them from the dangers these critters can pose. You can take advantage of special savings on all flea and tick prevention products, including Seresto collars, Nexgard, Advantix, Frontline, and Advantage during May.

Ticks carry Lyme disease, along with other tick-borne diseases, which can be serious if not treated. Symptoms of Lyme disease vary but generally include lameness, lethargy, fever, and change in appetite. If Lyme disease is not treated, it can ultimately lead to more critical complications like kidney disease.

Fleas are a nuisance for all involved whether it's the pet's constant scratching and discomfort or the owner dealing with all of the cleaning and maintenance required to get rid of fleas.

In the end, the best way to avoid the potential harm in both fleas and ticks is to use a preventative. Stop by to purchase flea and tick preventative to keep your pet happy and healthy this summer.

Employee Spotlight: Melissa Brittingham

At Cross Keys, our staff is integral to the daily operation of the hospital from communicating with our clients to caring for our patients. We thought it would be fun for you to get to know them better. First up, Melissa!

Melissa began working here in January 2005. She is a registered veterinary technician and also handles event coordination, billing, and all retail merchandise. Melissa received her

bachelor's degree in Animal Science with a concentration in Pre-Veterinary Medicine at the University of Delaware in 1996. She earned her Master's degree in Adult Education and Training from the University of Phoenix in 2015. In addition to her responsibilities here, Melissa is an adjunct professor in the veterinary technician training program at Camden County College. Melissa, originally from Washington Township, resides there now with her two daughters, three dogs (Nacho, Nyxxie, Kimber), one cat (Cassius), and two birds (Archie and Gaston). "It's a full house!" she says. Keep reading to learn more about Melissa!



- 1. Why did you want to work in veterinary medicine?** I always had a passion for animal welfare and knew I was destined to work in the field of veterinary medicine; my love for educating clients as well as staff has only fueled this even further. I have been working in the field of veterinary technology for over 27 years and my devotion to the profession has only continued to grow.
- 2. What jobs did you have before you started working at Cross Keys?** I was very fortunate to travel and work in many areas of veterinary medicine including: ultrasound, CT/MRI, orthopedic/soft tissue surgery, emergency/critical care, dermatology, and office management.
- 3. What is your favorite part or the most interesting part of your job?** EDUCATION...I love training staff and students from the Camden County Veterinary Technician Program. I love to see them learn and grow throughout their journey at our hospital.
- 4. What is a typical day for you?** A typical day...what is that? I work two full-time jobs while raising two teenage daughters who are heavily involved in activities. We are always on the run so our days can be quite hectic.
- 5. What's your favorite thing to do or your favorite hobby?** I do love watching my girls participate in their ROTC drill team competitions. I also love to watch my daughter play at softball tournaments all over the tri-state area as well as on a national level. I enjoy anything "crafty" when I get the opportunity.
- 6. What are some of your favorite TV shows, movies, or books?** Anything vampires or zombies. I also love to watch Netflix...there are way too many to name.
- 7. Name a fun fact that people may not know about you.** I absolutely love owls and collect any type of owl décor for my study at home. I also love to thrift shop and am always on the hunt for the next bargain.
- 8. If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?** I would take an extended amount of time to travel Africa and go on safari. I would love to just study the different wildlife...one day!