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SPRING 2025





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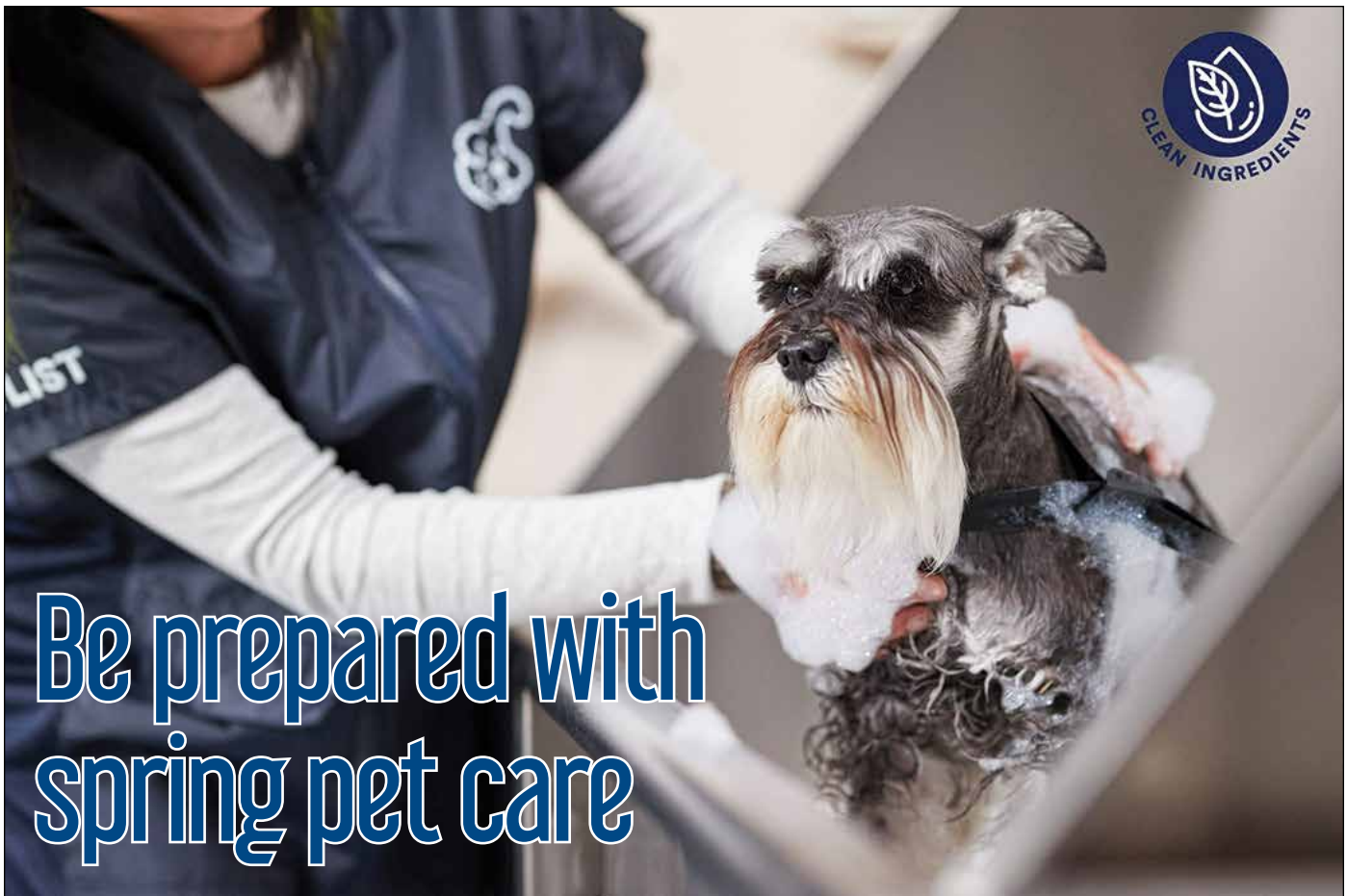
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Be prepared with spring pet care

By Petco Health & Wellness Co. CONTRIBUTOR

With spring underway, it's a terrific time for pet parents to re-evaluate their pets' routines to make sure they are happy, healthy and safe throughout the changing seasons.

Keep safety top of mind

Spring clean pet supplies at home to make sure that everything is in good working order. Items that are used regularly, such as toys, leashes, collars and harnesses, could need replacement.

With more time spent outdoors, understanding the signs of dehydration and overheating is important. Keep fresh water on-hand with a collapsible travel bowl and give pets access to shade or shelter to help them thrive as the weather heats up.

Clean up their grooming routine

Grooming is essential to pets' routine care and overall health. Pets' needs vary based on breed, age and coat type, but pet parents should always keep their furry

friends' teeth, gums, coat, fur, paws, ears and nails fresh, clean and healthy.

Across more than 1,350 Petco pet care centers, petco.com and in the Petco app, pet parents can now easily identify grooming services and products without parabens, phthalates and chemical dyes.

Petco's Clean Grooming initiative helps pet parents feel good about their beloved furry family members' care by offering them the same high-quality options they would choose for themselves. You can schedule a Clean Grooming service at petco.com/grooming.

Protect against fleas & ticks

Spring weather brings not only longer days but also more fleas and ticks that can be harmful to our pets. Flea and tick prevention is the first line of defense against an infestation with solutions like topical and oral treatments.

Schedule an appointment at one of Petco's full-service veterinary hospitals or Vetco vaccination clinics to ensure pets are up to date on important

vaccinations and recommended medications.

According to the website, there are two Vetco locations in this area:

- Vetco Total Care Lake Zurich – 787 W. Main St., Lake Zurich, Illinois. Phone: 847-320-6688.
- Vetco Total Care VTC Southridge – 4950 S. 76th St., Greenfield, WI. Phone: 414-978-4831.

For more information, including services available and

to book an appointment at petco.com/vet.

Encourage playtime & adventure

Springtime fun including regular playtime and hikes in the sunshine will help promote healthy activity with pets.

Prepare for the great outdoors with supplies such as a running belt or dog lead with a built-in bungee.

Spring can also mean muddy

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above: Grooming is essential to pets' routine care and overall health. Pets' needs vary based on breed, age and coat type, but pet parents should always keep their furry friends' teeth, gums, coat, fur, paws, ears and nails fresh, clean and healthy.

PETCO PHOTO Pet Connection

Maximizing barn design for horses

Keeping horses safe and comfortable is the No. 1 priority when constructing a new equestrian barn. But owners also want a stylish and functional building that is durable and can withstand the demands of housing their equine companions.

To help ensure the building will meet the needs of horse owners and their animals, Dennis Lee, equestrian product line manager at Morton Buildings, shares design recommendations.

- **Be realistic about future needs** – In determining barn size, don't limit the building dimensions based on how many horses you have now. That number may increase as your family or equestrian activities expand.

"For example, build a six-stall barn and finish only two stalls now, and use the remaining space for storage," Lee said.

"It will be far more cost-effective to finish additional stalls later rather than having to expand the barn," he added.

- **Think about utilities** – New barn owners often underestimate their lighting, electrical and water needs.

Wash stalls should include two lights to minimize shadows under the horse. Switched outlets for stall fans, weatherproof outlets to run a set of clippers or possibly veterinary equipment, and electric baseboard heat in the feed room to keep feed warm and dry are all popular features.

Don't forget the exterior lights. In the wintertime, when daylight hours are short, you will appreciate having ample outdoor lighting.

- **Consider your horse management style** – Some owners like to leave their animals in the pasture during the daytime; others prefer the convenience of having Dutch doors that give horses access to outdoor paddocks from their stalls.

How you intend to manage your horses will have a direct bearing on the barn design.

- **Plan for the right stall sizes** –

Consider not only the type of horses you own today, but also those you may have in the future. A 10-by-10-foot stall may be fine now for a child's pony, but perhaps not for the larger horse they want when they're older.

"It's far better to have a smaller horse in a large stall than trying to confine a large animal in a stall that's too small. Small stalls are not only unsafe and uncomfortable – they can also drastically affect the future resale value of your property," Lee explained.

- **Ensure good ventilation** – Lee notes that windows and doors alone may not be sufficient ventilation to address the ammonia formed as urine breaks down.

Installing stall fans can be more effective in moving air down into the stalls and



In addition to keeping their horses safe and comfortable, owners also want the barn to be stylish, functional and able to withstand the demands of housing their equine companions. To help ensure a building that will meet the needs of horse owners and their animals, a representative from Morton Buildings (completed projects pictured) shares numerous design tips.

MORTON BUILDINGS PHOTOS *Pet Connection*

creating airflow through the center of the barn compared to just opening windows and doors.

Ventilated cupolas or ridge caps in conjunction with ventilated overhangs are also recommended.

- **Plan for floor comfort and safety** – Equipping stalls with dense rubber mats, 1.5 inches thick, on top of well-compacted stone screenings or an ag-lime base will provide comfort while also helping to prevent slips and falls for people and

animals.

"Stall mats make the stalls much easier to clean and will help prevent hollowing out over time," Lee says.

"In other areas of the barn with a concrete surface, use a textured finish instead of a trowel finish, which can be slippery when wet. Rubber mats in the wash stall are also a great idea," he added.

- **Consider functional aesthetics** – Lee

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Benefits of spaying and neutering pets

While there are many no-kill shelters, each year millions of dogs and cats are euthanized in animal shelters because of overpopulation.

Just a few years ago, during the height of the pandemic, shelters were emptied out as pet adoptions reached all-time highs.

Now that most offices have completely reopened and people have returned to work and other activities, pets increasingly are being surrendered to shelters again, once more leading to overtaxed shelters and other facilities.

Overburdened shelters also are made worse by litters of animals born to unsterilized parents.

The American Veterinary Medical Association says spaying and neutering are important tools for preventing unplanned or unwanted litters and reducing pet overpopulation.

Most experts agree there is little benefit to leaving pets' reproductive systems intact. Even family pets can get loose and mate unintentionally.

The following are notable benefits to spaying or neutering a pet.

1. Prevent the conception and birth of unwanted animals.

2. The ASPCA says spaying prevents uterine infections and decreases the incidence of breast tumors, which are malignant or cancerous in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats.

Spaying a pet before the first heat offers the best measure of protection.

3. Neutering male animals prevents testicular cancer if done before six months of age.

4. Neutered animals are less likely to

What are the risks?

While both spaying and neutering are major surgical procedures, they are also the most common surgeries performed by veterinarians on cats and dogs.

Like any surgical procedure, sterilization has some risks related to the procedures themselves and to the anesthesia. Even so, these risks are typically low.

Your veterinarian can recommend a surgical plan specially tailored to your pet's needs. Before the procedure, your veterinarian will thoroughly examine your pet to ensure they're in good health.

General anesthesia will be used to keep your pet comfortable and asleep during the surgery, and medications will be given to minimize pain. After surgery, you'll be asked to keep your pet calm and quiet for a few days, as the incision begins to heal.

Other risks of spaying or neutering are related to hormonal changes that may come with the procedure. The same hormones that cause mating behaviors also affect other aspects of your pet's health. Because of this, surgical sterilization procedures that remove the gonads may put your pet at increased risk of a few health problems.

Specifically, spayed and neutered dogs and cats are more at risk of becoming overweight. Fortunately, your veterinarian can provide you with personalized nutritional and exercise recommendations to help keep your pet on a healthy course. In dogs, other potential risks include urinary incontinence in females, and certain types of cancer and joint disease.

Talk to your veterinarian about the benefits and risks of the sterilization procedure so you can make an informed decision.

The American Veterinary Medical Association says spaying and neutering are important tools for preventing unplanned or unwanted litters and reducing pet overpopulation. Most experts agree there is little benefit to leaving pets' reproductive systems intact. Even family pets can get loose and mate unintentionally.

METRO CREATIVE PHOTO *Pet Connection*

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



adopt-a-pet

These lovable animals are all up for adoption and hoping you'll give them a happy new home!



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Help pets acclimate to new homes

Consider these tips to make the transition go as smoothly as possible

Welcoming a new pet into a family can be an exciting time. Pets are wonderful companions and can even be beneficial to their owners' overall health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises that pets may create increased opportunities for exercise. In addition, studies have shown that relationships with pets may help lower blood pressure and cholesterol and reduce triglyceride levels, feelings of loneliness, anxiety, and other ailments.

A new pet requires owners to make various changes to help both humans and companion animals. It can take a period of transition for everyone involved to determine their new roles.

Here are some strategies to help pets and people acclimate to new living situations.

Create a safe place

Any person who has moved understands that relocating can be stressful. Pets may be on edge when moving into a new home

because they don't have the capacity to process why a move is taking place – even if the eventual result will be something positive.

Establish a quiet spot that is away from high-traffic areas so the new pet can grow accustomed to the sounds, smells and routine of its new environment. Then he or she can retreat there when necessary.

Retain some of the pet's familiar items

Owners may want to buy their pets new toys and supplies, but they should utilize some of the pet's original and familiar items to make it easier for the animal to adjust. This familiarity can be comforting for the animals.

Consider the 3-3-3 rule

Animal rescue and training organizations, such as Alpha and Omega Dog Training, say the general rule is that pet owners can expect the following:

- Three days of a new dog feeling overwhelmed and nervous
- Three weeks of settling in
- Three months of building trust and bonding with new owners.

New pet owners should not feel disappointed if it takes some time for a pet to settle in. Cats and other animals may acclimate differently.

Be patient with behavior

Pets who have moved to new places may temporarily forget their training. This means engaging in undesirable behavior, such as having indoor accidents (or those outside a litter box), jumping up on people, howling, barking or meowing, and more.

It will take some time for pets to feel safe, so reinforce training with patience.

Stick to a routine

Animals prefer knowing what is coming next and are creatures of habit, says the American Kennel Club.

Individuals should establish and stick to daily routines where feedings, play time, walks, and other activities occur at roughly the same time. This will help pets feel more relaxed.

It can take some time for new pets to settle in, but with patient and reassuring owners, pets will eventually acclimate to their new homes.

(METRO CREATIVE)

A new pet requires owners to make various changes to help both humans and companion animals. It can take a period of transition for everyone involved to determine their new roles but there are some strategies to help pets and people acclimate to new living situations.

METRO CREATIVE PHOTO *Pet Connection*

SPAYING AND NEUTERING

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

roam and become nuisances.

Female cats can go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. While in heat they will yowl and urinate frequently.

Males will be on the prowl for females and can get into fights. Spaying and neutering reduces these tendencies.

5. Neutering and spaying is a lot less costly than having and caring for a litter. It also prevents medical treatment from being needed in the event a pet gets into a fight over mating.

6. Although the surgery will reduce some undesirable behaviors, it is not a magic fix for all behavioral problems, including bad habits.

The ASPCA says the traditional age to sterilize dogs is between six and nine months. Healthy puppies as young as eight weeks can undergo a spaying or neutering surgery.

For cats, it is generally considered safe for kittens as young as eight weeks old. To avoid the start of urine spraying, neuter or spay a cat before the animal reaches five months of age.

Spaying and neutering is important for animal health and helps to reduce pet overpopulation. (METRO CREATIVE)



BARN DESIGN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

adds that design features such as cupolas and wainscots can give visual appeal to a new barn. A diamond M door with a fixed window for the top half lets you work in the barn and still keep an eye on what's going on outside.

Ceiling skylights or translucent sidelights installed at the top of barn walls will allow more light into the building.

For more information, visit www.mortonbuildings.com/projects/equestrian.

(NAPS)

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Tips for successful dog training

Keys include patience, consistency and praising small things

After providing a safe home, veterinary care and nutritious food, the best thing a pet owner can do for a dog is provide adequate behavioral training.

Some of the issues that result in pet surrenders can be traced to behaviors that might have been quashed had the dog undergone thorough obedience training.

All dogs can benefit from learning basic commands, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals says successful training is a rewarding part of dog ownership. There are many things one might want to teach a pet and a variety of strategies to pursue that training.

These tips can help anyone successfully train their dog, leading to an even stronger relationship between owner and pet.

Elect a dog trainer

If a dog resides with many people in the household, select one person who will be the primary trainer to establish the ground rules of the training sessions. If multiple people bring various styles to the dog training, that could result in inconsistencies that confuse the animal.

Once the training sessions have proven

successful, the trainer can share what he or she is doing with others in the home and they can mimic the same commands and gestures.

Use positive reinforcement

According to Small Door Veterinary, almost all vets agree that positive reinforcement training is the most effective method of training a companion animal. This type of training rewards good behavior rather than punishing bad behavior.

The American Kennel Club says training is more successful when owners identify what the dog finds rewarding. Some dogs are very food-motivated, while others might be willing to work for play sessions or just verbal praise.

Consistency is best

Always use the same word and intonation when asking a dog to do something. Everyone in the home also needs to be on the same page with rules, which means that if one person says “no” to the dog on the furniture and another says “yes,” the dog will end up confused.

Patience is key

Although dogs can read human body language and gestures, they do not actually comprehend all language, says the AKC. It can be some time before a dog understands all training requests.

Start small and build up

Teach a dog commands incrementally and reward each step of the learning process. For example, reward the “stay” command even if the puppy only stays for a second or two. Later on, build up to longer durations of staying still.

Praise small things

It is easy to get caught up in the end goal of training, but experts note little victories are equally important. Praising the pet when he or she does something right, even if it is a small thing, will keep the motivation going.

Finish positively

End all training sessions with something the dog knows so that the session will end on a high note.

If training does not come easily after many weeks of going it alone, pet owners may want to seek the help of a professional dog trainer.

Professionals also can be helpful for those pet owners who want to break dogs out of unsavory behaviors, such as leash aggression or excessive barking.

(METRO CREATIVE)

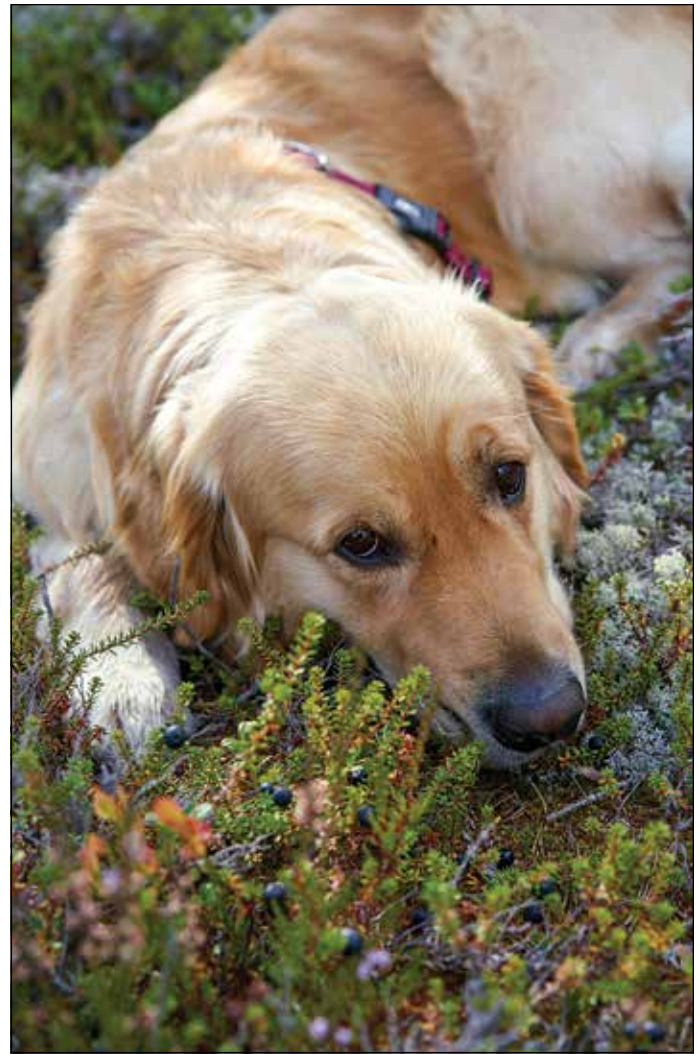
There are many things one might want to teach a pet and a variety of strategies to pursue that training. There are numerous tips to consider that can help anyone successfully train their dog, leading to an even stronger relationship between owner and pet.

METRO CREATIVE PHOTO *Pet Connection*



From the left: According to experts, certain breeds of dogs are more trainable than others including German shepherd and golden retriever.

PEXELS.COM PHOTOS Pet Connection



How breed affects dogs' trainability

While certain types may adapt easier, most dogs will learn necessary skills

Every dog lover has a different set of criteria for what they look for in a dog.

Some make size a priority, preferring a pooch who is small enough to be a constant companion. Others seek a dog that has shorter fur for less grooming upkeep.

Still, some people prefer a breed that is known for flashy looks that will turn heads on neighborhood walks.

Trainability is another consideration when researching potential pet companions. Many veterinarians attest that positive reinforcement training is one of the tools to keep a dog happy, healthy and well-behaved.

Training also can offset behavioral issues that may make spending time in and out of a home with a dog less enjoyable, thus reducing the chances the pet may be surrendered to a shelter.

The American Kennel Club says that each dog breed has a distinct personality, instinctive drive and genetic heritage. These factors can affect trainability.

Highly trainable dog breeds

According to renowned dog researcher Dr. Stanley Coren, certain breeds are more

trainable than others.

- **German shepherd:** There is a good reason this breed is regularly used for police and military work. The German shepherd is a workhorse and wants to please.

- **Border collie:** This breed can learn very fast and will be eager to learn more.

- **Poodle:** Although that curly coat may lead a person to believe this breed is more fluff than brains, quite the opposite is true. Poodles are keen to work and willing to please.

- **Collie:** Collies are known for their unwavering devotion and loyalty, not to mention trainability.

- **Golden retriever and Labrador retriever:** Some of the most popular family dogs around, these retrievers tend to be gentle, friendly, trainable, and eager to please.

- **Rottweiler:** This imposing pup is a natural protector that wants a job to do. That makes the Rottie highly trainable.

Some dogs, such as hounds, beagles, huskies, and Akitas, are among the most challenging to train, according to experts. Such dogs' focus may be on sensing prey or doing other things they find fun, and not on a handler.

However, people should not grow discouraged if they have their hearts set on less-receptive-to-training breeds.

What about mixed breed dogs?

What can you expect if you have an Akita mixed with a golden retriever? Perhaps aloofness will mix with friendly exuberance and result in a mild-mannered pup.

It often is challenging to determine the heritage of a mixed-breed dog with the hopes of gauging its willingness to be trained.

"Mutts" tend to have more muted traits. However, if two highly trainable, active breeds comprise the DNA of a mixed-breed dog, that intense desire to work may be a negative in the home environment.

Much like other factors regarding mixed-breed dogs, an owner won't know what he or she is getting until spending time with the dog over time.

Trainability is a factor many people consider when picking a dog. Certain breeds may adapt to training more readily than others, but most dogs will learn the skills necessary to live peacefully with their human companions.

(METRO CREATIVE)



Dogs and cats quickly can become very sick from dehydration, a medical term for when the body has lost more fluid than it has taken in. Dehydration can occur at any time but is even more common during the warm weather months.

PEXELS.COM PHOTOS *Pet Connection*

Signs that your pet may be dehydrated

Water is essential for mammals' bodies to operate at peak capacity. The American Kennel Club says water is necessary to lubricate joints, facilitate digestion, regulate body temperature, and cushion internal organs, among many other functions.

Such as is the case with humans, pets that fail to consume enough water can face dire consequences.

Dehydration is a medical term for when the body has lost more fluid than it has taken in. Dehydration can occur at any time, but it is even more common during the warm weather months.

Dogs and cats quickly can become very sick from dehydration. That is why every pet owner should learn how to recognize the symptoms of dehydration in their animals.

The Veterinary Emergency Group says symptoms of mild dehydration can include:

- Dry nose, although this also can be a signal of other problems, like fever.
- Excessive drooling occurs as the dog tries to cool down its body.
- A dehydrated dog can exhibit signs of fatigue, including a reluctance to move around much.

• Sticky gums
As the dog becomes more dehydrated, the following symptoms can develop:

- Loss of elasticity of the skin.
- Loss of appetite.
- Thickening of the dog's saliva.
- Gums may go from sticky to dry.
- Excessive panting may begin.
- Vomiting or diarrhea also may occur.
- Dehydration causes the body to redistribute fluid lost, and fluid may be pulled from the eyes, causing the eyes to appear sunken.

If a dog or cat appears to be dehydrated, you can start offering small amounts of water to slowly rehydrate the animal, says Northeast Veterinary Referral Hospital.

It's important to call the veterinarian and get further advice regarding how to address dehydration. Some vets may suggest offering an electrolyte-enhanced fluid like Pedialyte so electrolyte loss does not affect organs.

The vet may want you to come into the office so the dog can receive intravenous fluids, says the American Kennel Club.

The best way to treat dehydration is to prevent it in the first place. Provide dogs

A quick guide

Here is a list of the common symptoms of dehydration including mild to more severe cases:

Mild dehydration

- Dry nose
- Excessive drooling
- Signs of fatigue
- Sticky gums

More dehydrated

- Loss of skin elasticity
- Little or no appetite
- Thick saliva
- Dry gums
- Excessive panting
- Vomiting or diarrhea

If your pet appears to be dehydrated, start offering small amounts of water to slowly rehydrate them. Also, contact your veterinarian for further advice on how to address the issue and schedule a time to take them to the vet's office if requested.

and cats with a constant supply of clean, clear water at all times.

The amount of water needs to increase if the animal is spending time outdoors in hot weather or exercising.

While cats don't go outside or exercise, necessarily, as often as dogs, they are still prone to dehydration and can exhibit the same symptoms as dogs. So, cat owners also must be diligent in checking for dehydration symptoms in their pets.

conditions, and a cargo cover or car hammock can do double duty to keep pets safe and cars clean.

It may also be time for brushing up on training skills to ensure pets are ready for more socialization at the dog park.

Petco offers group and individual dog training classes for all ages and breeds both in-person and virtually.

Refresh their spring style

Just like their parents, pets can

enjoy a spring wardrobe refresh with trendy items like a colorful backpack, straw hat, butterfly dog harness and crossbody dog backpack.

While unpredictable spring weather means a denim jacket

may be needed from time to time, a light cardigan could be just right for temperate weather.

For additional guides and recommendations, visit petco.com or your local Petco pet care center. (NAPS)



adopt-a-pet

These lovable animals are all up for adoption and hoping you'll give them a happy new home!



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Bulldog/Mix
7 Years Old • Neutered Male
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MIKA

Terrier/Mix
6 Months Old • Spayed Female
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GIZMO

Domestic Shorthair
8 Year Old • Neutered Male
Lakeland Animal Shelter
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WAYLON

German Shepard
5 Years Old • Neutered Male
Lakeland Animal Shelter
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MEALY-STENCEL FUNERAL HOME
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TARA

Terrier/Mix
9 Months Old • Spayed Female
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ALL DOG GROOMING
262-210-5262

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SUNI

Domestic Longhair/Mix
3 Years Old • Spayed Female
Lakeland Animal Shelter
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DARIEN STORAGE DEPOT
262-724-5094

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BISCUIT

Domestic Shorthair Mix
1 Year Old - Neutered Male
Lakeland Animal Shelter
262-723-1000

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WHITWATER TRAVEL SERVICE
262-473-5055

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XANDER

Bulldog/Mix
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INGERSOLL LIGHTING
262-723-1212 • ingersollighting.com

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GERTIE

Domestic Shorthair/Mix
5 Years Old • Spayed Female
Lakeland Animal Shelter
262-723-1000

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SOUTHERN LAKES PLUMBING & HEATING
262-723-6422

468808



JETHROE

Terrier/Mix
3 Months Old • Neutered Male
Lakeland Animal Shelter
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Reasons to try high-value dog treats

If you're like most pet parents, you want to give your pups the best when it comes to special treats.

Here 's why, according to the experts on canine health and happiness, Kolby and Kaleb Rush of Saint Rocco's all-natural, human-grade treats.

Training

Professionals agree that introducing a brand-new behavior, working on socialization, or emphasizing counter conditioning all take incredible focus.

High-value treats are like giving your dog an A+ for behavior and training, enabling the highest focus and encouraging better results.

Health

Veterinarians have been touting the perils of processed dog foods and treats for years.

Feeding dogs sub-par treats using rendered leftover meat waste, sugar, sodium, BHA, food coloring, and additives made in potentially filthy conditions or processing plants can contribute to lower life expectancy, allergies, certain cancers and unnecessary weight gain.

Taste

A treat should be just that: a TREAT and not an hourly occurrence or something sub-par and not worth it. Consider high-value treats the ice cream of options.

The "mouth feel" that jerky-style high protein treats provide, and the quality, healthful ingredients and thoughtful, transparent production, mean even the most finicky pet (and owner) can see that high-value dog treats put the "eats" in treats.

About Saint Rocco's

Saint Rocco's founders, Kolby and Kaleb Rush, were both sent home from college and lost their summer internships due to Covid-19.

After many days of virtual school, they began to wonder how they could use their skills and knowledge to have an impact on the world.

They had a lifelong love for dogs, a passion for entrepreneurship, and the knowledge of dog treat craftsmanship thanks to their dad and grandpa.

They knew dogs would taste the difference if they made treats that were baked fresh and handmade daily. Alongside their dad, they spent months perfecting the recipes available today.

Simple ingredients

Every Saint Rocco's treat, sprinkle and



Saint Rocco's founders, Kaleb and Kolby Rush, were both sent home from college and lost their summer internships due to Covid-19. After many days of virtual school, they began to wonder how they could use their skills and knowledge to have an impact on the world. They had a lifelong love for dogs, a passion for entrepreneurship, and the knowledge of dog treat craftsmanship thanks to their dad and grandpa.

SAINT ROCCO'S PHOTO *Pet Connection*

entree is handcrafted and baked fresh daily to ensure the ultimate freshness and quality for our furry friends.

Human grade beef

This ground beef is good enough to make hamburgers with, but instead they use it to fuel our all-natural dog treats.

Human grade chicken

The company only uses chicken breasts in its chicken treats, to ensure it is the best meat possible for your dog.

Wild-caught, human grade Alaskan salmon

The salmon is wild-caught, Alaskan salmon. Your dog will obsess over it and enjoy quality protein & Omega-3s.

Vegetable Oil

Just a touch is used, to create an easy-to-break, "rippable" jerky that is nutritious, delicious and perfect for training.

Sweet potato

Full of vitamin A, to help with healthy skin and coat.

Human grade cheese

Helpful to dogs' tastebuds and full of

protein, calcium and Vitamin A, they only use cheese good enough for owners to eat.

Potato flour

The perfect binding agent for the company's all-natural and artisan crafted dog treats.

Saint Rocco's seasoning

A mix of paprika, turmeric and salt to help keep the treats fresh and tasty.

Pumpkin

Full of vitamins A, C and E, pumpkin also has iron and potassium, to help promote a healthy lifestyle for your dog.

Human grade bacon

They only use a little bacon to add to the flavor, but your dog will thank you for the delicious treats it creates.

Honey and oats

Saint Rocco's only uses Helt's Honey, which is made locally. Honey helps prevent allergies and promote healthy skin for your dog.

For further information, facts and tips, visit www.saintroccotreats.shop and Saint Rocco's Treats on social media platforms.

(NAPS)

A veterinarian's guide to a safe, fun summer

By Dr. Whitney Miller
PETCO VETERINARIAN

Longer, warmer days often mean pets and pet parents are spending more time together outside.

Whether you're hosting a pool party, traveling or exploring the great outdoors together this summer, there are a few important things to keep in mind to ensure your pet is happy and healthy all season long:

Keep up with routine care and protect against pests

No matter their age, pets should see their veterinarian for routine wellness exams for preventative care, early detection and intervention. More time outside means a higher chance of bug bites and exposure to tick-borne illnesses.

Maintaining a consistent flea-and-tick prevention routine is essential all year long but particularly during warmer months. Your veterinarian can help you choose the best preventative medications, shampoos and tools for your pet.

For diseases such as heartworm, a single bite from an infected mosquito can transmit the disease to your pet.

Be aware of surroundings

Warmer weather also means animals such as snakes are more active. Consult your veterinarian to determine if your pet should receive the rattlesnake vaccine. Particularly in high-risk areas, keep dogs on a non-retractable leash so they remain close by and stay aware of your surroundings.

Positive reinforcement-based training can help teach your pet to be alert and stay by your side. In the event of a bite or other emergency, be sure to know where the closest emergency veterinary hospital is located and how to get there as fast as possible.

Treatment plans vary based on the severity and location of the snake bite, so call ahead to ensure the hospital has the availability and proper tools to care for your pet.

Beat the heat

It's always important to look out for and prevent overheating and dehydration in pets, especially during the summer. Keep pets protected from the sun with a hat or tent and ensure they always have access to fresh, clean water.

When out on walks, remember that hot asphalt can burn your pet's paws – if it's too hot to hold your hand on the ground for



Whether you're hosting a pool party, traveling or exploring the great outdoors together this summer, there are a few important things to keep in mind to ensure your pet is happy and healthy all season long.

PEXELS.COM PHOTO Pet Connection

seven seconds, it's too hot for your pet. On hot days, I recommend changing your route to include cooler surfaces such as dirt or grass or invest in a pair of booties for extra protection.

To prevent your pets from getting a sunburn, avoid excessive sun exposure and apply a pet-safe sunscreen to their ears, nose and anywhere else they have bare skin or thin fur.

In addition, pets with thick coats should have a regular grooming schedule to remove excess fur. Petco offers grooming add-ons to a full-service bath or groom including a spritz, shampoo, seasonal bandana and more.

Include pets in summer fun

For many, a summer pool party or barbecue is not complete without furry friends. Supplies such as a pet pool, cooling vest, splash pad, ice tray, slushy treats and cooling toys help keep pets cool all summer long.

For pets that enjoy splashing around, suit up in a stylish swimsuit or flotation vest. Always supervise pets around the pool, especially if they cannot swim or are older and tire easily.

Travel safely

Pet parents planning to bring their pets along on travel and adventures should make sure they have everything they need for the journey.

An airline-approved carrier or seat belt extender will keep your pets safe and secure, while a travel bowl and calming chews and toys will help make sure they are happy and comfortable while in transit.

Petco's fashion and lifestyle brand, Reddy, brings a new "On-the-Go" collection with a trendy lilac crossbody bag, complete with a waste bag dispenser and carabiner that can be easily attached to a matching lead, collar and treat bag.

Plan for the unthinkable

One in three pets becomes lost at some point in their lifetime. Pet parents should keep pet ID tags and microchips up to date and register their pets on Petco Love Lost, a free national lost-and-found database that uses patented image-recognition technology to help reunite lost pets with their families.

For more information on summer tips, products, services and savings, visit a Petco pet care center or petco.com.

Products to help keep your dog cool on hot days

By Jan Reisen

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

As we enjoy any summer fun, it's important to keep our dog's comfort in mind, especially when the weather gets hot and steamy. Don't sweat it – we've got the product recommendations you need to help your dog stay cool and happy.

Frisco Silicone Collapsible Travel Bowl with Carabiner – This travel bowl holds up to 12 ounces of your dog's favorite food or water. Plus, it's dishwasher safe for convenient and easy cleanup.

SwimWays Paddle Paws Spring Float Dog Raft – What better way to keep cool than by floating lazily in the pool? Made of paw and claw-resistant fabric, the spring float dog raft comes in two sizes, so every dog can enjoy a day on the water.

Chew King Chill Fill Premium Treat Dog Toy – This toy is made for summer fun. Fill the Chew King Chill Fill Premium Treat Dog Toy with water and freeze for your dog to play a cool game of fetch or tug-of-war.

Frisco Watercolor UPF 45 Cooling Dog Vest – This is the perfect accessory for outdoor activities. No freezing required: just wet with cold water, wring it out, and it's ready for your dog to wear.

PetSafe Drinkwell Platinum Plastic Dog & Cat Fountain – With this fountain, your dog (or cat) can have fresh water whenever they want it.

The Green Pet Shop Cool Pet Pad – No one likes a hot, sweaty bed, including your dog. This cool pet pad has a cooling gel layer to make nap time more enjoyable. You can even use it as a home or travel bed.

Frisco Outdoor Dog Swimming Pool – This pool is large enough for big dogs and doesn't require inflation. Plus, it's foldable, so it sets up and collapses easily. There might just be enough room for a human, too.

About the American Kennel Club

According to the American Kennel Club website, akc.org, for 140 years, the American



With summer fast approaching, families will be partaking in warm weather fun. For those with pets, it's important to keep our dog's comfort in mind and the American Kennel Club has a list of products to consider that will help your dog stay happy and cool.

NAPS PHOTO *Pet Connection*

Kennel Club has been the country's leading authority on all things dogs, acting as the premier resource for dog lovers, from the fancier to the everyday owner.

"Along with our affiliated organizations, we encourage dogs as family companions; advance canine health and well-being; advocate for dog owner rights; and educate the public about responsible dog ownership," it states.

"We are passionate about everything related to dogs, and we celebrate the joy they bring to our lives every single day. Being a dog lover is not a pastime; it's a way of life – and we make every moment count."

Additionally, the AKC:

- The AKC is the world's largest and oldest not-for-profit all-breed registry, with 201 recognized breeds and counting.
- It has more than 5,000 licensed and member clubs and affiliated organizations.
- The club receives more than 3 million entries to 22,000+ sports and events each year.
- Has the number one content site for

dogs, as reported by SimilarWeb, with over 8.3 million visitors to AKC.org every month.

- The AKC Canine Health Foundation allocates millions of dollars in health research funds to study nearly all of the top diseases in dogs, including cancer, epilepsy, thyroid disease, hip dysplasia, allergies, heart disease, progressive retinal atrophy, and cataracts, among others.

- The AKC Rescue Network is the largest network of dog rescue groups in the country, with more than 450 groups participating.

- The club has over 5 million micro-chipped or tattooed pets are enrolled in the AKC Reunite program, and over 470,000 pets have been returned home to date.

- AKC Museum of the Dog is home to the largest collection of canine art in the country.

- The AKC Library is America's most comprehensive collection on the subject of domestic dogs with more than 18,000 volumes.

For more information, visit akc.org.

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