

Medical Notes

InTown Veterinary Group is dedicated to providing clients with an unparalleled range of veterinary care options.

The doctors and staff at Muddy Creek Animal Care Center are always available no matter how seemingly small the question. We care about you and your pets. No question is too small. If you're worried, call us.

Muddy Creek Animal Care Center
993 Haverhill Street,
Rowley, MA 01969

Phone:
(978) 948-2345

**24-Hr Emergency at
Essex County Veterinary
Referral Hospital:**
(978) 725-5544

www.InTownMuddyCreek.com

Seasonal Toxicity

The winter months bring seasonal holidays and activities that we all cherish here in New England. During these joyous times pet owners must be aware of the potential hazards to which our companion animals may be exposed. Seasonal plants, decorations, and cold weather and winter products may all be hazardous to both dogs and cats. Below are several items and environmental hazards that pet owners must consider during the holidays and winter months. If you have any questions regarding the products or hazards listed below, please contact Muddy Creek. If you suspect your pet has ingested any of these items, consider seeking veterinary care.

Chocolate: Contains a caffeine-like substance, theobromine, that is toxic and can be fatal if ingested in large amounts. Levels of theobromine vary with types of chocolate (dark chocolates are higher in theobromine, white chocolates, lower), but any type of chocolate, even at small doses, may be hazardous. Clinical signs of theobromine toxicity include vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, seizures, coma and possibly death.



Plants: Seasonal plants such as Holly, Mistletoe, Poinsettias and Lilies can cause various clinical symptoms ranging from nausea and vomiting, to cardiovascular abnormalities. Lilies are specifically toxic to cats and may cause life-threatening kidney disease. All questionable plants should be kept out of reach of your pets.

People Food, Bones & Leftovers: Pets should be fed appropriate meals. Commercial or home cooked meals are acceptable, but foods prepared for your personal consumption may be too fatty, spicy or contain products harmful to pets. Bones may splinter or chip and cause additional gastrointestinal problems. Some ingredients that may be harmful include onions and onion powder, grapes, raisins, macadamia nuts, cookie or bread dough, and alcohol.

Candy & Gum: Many of these products contain a new artificial sweetener called Xylitol. This sweetener is particularly harmful to pets. Xylitol toxicity is a relative newcomer to veterinary medicine, symptoms include rapid changes in blood sugar levels and acute liver disease. Early signs of ingestion include lethargy, depression, weakness, lack of coordination and seizures.

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*For more information, feel free to use the medical index on our website.
www.InTownMuddyCreek.com, then click "Medical Index".*

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Antifreeze: Most antifreeze products contain up to 95% ethylene glycol, an extremely toxic chemical to dogs, cats, and people. The smell and taste of this product is enticing to pets and children and even a few licks (or a teaspoon sized amount) can cause life threatening kidney damage. Please be aware that even the smallest antifreeze spills from your car or storage site should be cleaned immediately. Seasonal snow globes also contain small amounts of ethylene glycol in the liquid. If one of these displays should break, please clean the liquid immediately and keep away from pets and children.

Ice Melts: Pets may be exposed to ice melt products that have been applied outdoors. These products contain ingredients that may be irritating to the skin, and if ingested can cause severe gastrointestinal and electrolyte abnormalities. Ice melt products containing active ingredients such as Sodium Chloride, Potassium Chloride, Magnesium Chloride, Calcium Carbonate and Urea should be used cautiously in households with pets. When pets come in from outdoors, wipe their feet with a warm damp towel. Removing the ice, snow and melting material will keep the pads from getting irritated and reduce the likelihood of ingestion of any toxin. Consider using a pet safe ice melt like "Safe Paw" around your own house.



Freezing temperature: Limiting your pet's outdoor activity is recommended when the temperatures drop well below freezing. Short haired pets have less protection than longer haired animals. Smaller animals also have greater cold exposure in deep snow than taller breeds. Any geriatric animal or animal with a chronic disease will be less tolerant of cold temperatures. If your pet must be outdoors for extended periods of time ensure that they have access to a 3-sided shelter (to keep them safe from the elements), bedding and a fresh non-frozen water supply.



Outdoor Cats: Cats will seek warm shelter during the cold winter months. Car engine compartments offer protection from the elements and engine warmth. Cats caught in moving engine parts can be seriously injured or killed. Banging on the hood or honking the horn prior to starting your car on a cold day may save an outdoor cat's life.

These are just some of the potential hazards your pet faces during the winter months. If you have any questions regarding anything discussed here, or other seasonal concerns please contact Muddy Creek.



Go Sox, Pats, Bruins & Celtics!! Little Paws Loft Sports Photo Shoot

We love our sports teams in Boston, no question there! In honor of all the successes our awesome teams have had, we asked owners of some of our regular small dog day care boarders (under 35 lbs.), in Little Paws Loft, to help us celebrate by having their pictures taken in their favorite team, colors, t-shirts, jerseys and bandannas. There was so much interest that we ended up doing another photo shoot in December. This time the theme was snowflakes.



From Left to Right: Dazy Lamport, Blakely Ferguson, Bella Ward, Zoe Swopa-Hill, Happy Khalife, Dooney Townsend and Molly Callahan.

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Medical Boarding

Muddy Creek has a long history of providing full service boarding for dogs, cats and small mammals. Under the care of our dedicated boarding staff your pet has all of their individual daily needs attended to. Should they require additional medical services during their stay, our veterinary staff is on site 6 days per week.

With advances in veterinary medicine, more solutions to once terminal illnesses are allowing our companion animals to live longer, healthier lives. However, with this comes an increase in the number of pets with chronic geriatric diseases needing involved daily medical treatments.

Complex medical and surgical procedures that closely mirror those available for humans are also calling for new levels of post surgical care in younger pets. Knee and hip surgeries, and treatments for neurologic diseases call for a medical boarding alternative to provide peace of mind while you are not around, whether on vacation or simply at work for the day.

Muddy Creek's onsite veterinary staff enables us to offer a broader range of care to boarding clients with specific medical needs in a way that other boarding facilities may not.

Animals with chronic diseases calling for more involved daily treatments or regular medical attention may safely board with our hospital staff while you are on vacation. Animals that have recently undergone medical or surgical procedures and are ready for discharge, but not quite ready for home may use our medical boarding as a transition from hospital to home, and a full recovery.

At Muddy Creek, your less-than-healthy pet will receive the full medical attention and treatment they require, and the boarding services you have come to expect from Muddy Creek.




Medical Boarding at the Cat Tail Inn

In response to your requests, we have made some changes to our services at Cat Tail Inn. We have added three "Meow Manor," multi-level townhouses capable of boarding up to four cats from the same family; we have also provided additional training to the staff at Cat Tail Inn, to enable them to provide additional care for cats with medical needs.

As a result, we are happy to announce that we can now accommodate cats that may require on-going or special medical care. Our animal attendants have received training


in each of the following areas to ensure optimal care for our medical boarders:

- Bladder expression
- Early stage and advanced renal care
- Tube feeding & care
- Subcutaneous fluids
- Diabetic care

If your pet has other needs, please don't hesitate to come in to discuss them. Your peace of mind and your pet's wellbeing are always our highest priority. 



Exotic Boarding: Calling all Exotic, Pocket Pet Owners!

Muddy Creek can provide peaceful overnight care for your small exotic friends while you are away. Rabbits, Ferrets, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs and other small four-legged furry pocket pets are always welcome to stay with us. We provide top notch care and attention to your pet in a quiet, stress-free boarding area. To make your pet's visit with us a more comfortable experience, we ask that you provide their everyday habitat (cage), bedding and food. Muddy Creek offers exotic pocket pet boarding 7 days a week. We encourage you to speak with a Client Care Coordinator for more information or to make reservations. 



Grooming

The Weather Outside is Frightful, but our Spa is so Delightful

Just because the warm weather is behind us it doesn't mean your pet's grooming needs are reduced.

The harsh winter cold and indoor heat are just as drying to your pet's skin and coat as they are to your skin. Regular brushing can stimulate your pet's natural oils, and the moisturizing baths that your groomer offers can help keep dry, irritated skin under control.

Keeping your pet on his or her regular haircut schedule is also important. Long, matted hair acts like a sponge in wet winter conditions, holding moisture next to your pet's skin

causing hot spots and unpleasant odors from infections. The better alternative is to keep the hair shorter and provide your pet with a coat or a sweater.

Dogs' feet also need to be kept free from burning salt and mats. Matted toes collect snow and ice causing discomfort. A day at the spa could be just the ticket to soothe your pet's winter woes.

Don't forget that Muddy Creek gift certificates make great gifts for any animal lover!



Third Annual Dogtoberfest a Roaring Success!

We are very pleased to announce that Muddy Creek Animal Care Center's third annual Dogtoberfest exceeded our own expectations for its success! On Sunday October 19, 2008, 480 people and their dogs took advantage of the wonderful weather and the day's festivities. Judging by the smiles, the laughter and the tail wagging, it was a tremendous success.

Events for owners & their dogs to participate in included several raffles, best pet costume, tennis ball/Frisbee toss, bobbing for hot dogs & face painting (for people).

Also on hand, were certified canine physical therapists from Mass Vet in Woburn who gave 30 dogs 10 minute massages over the course of the day. The US Customs & Border Protection Agency carried out a working dog demonstration and explained how the beagles – you may know them as the Beagle Brigade at Logan International Airport- are trained. Fit-N-Trim dog sport training gave demonstrations and walked owners and their dogs through the agility course.

Between vendor donations, ticket sales, agility, face painting and cotton candy sales we raised \$6,000!

Proceeds from the day's activities will be donated to Zoo New England. Zoo New England is a private, non-profit corporation that operates the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston and the Stone Zoo in Stoneham, MA. Their mission is to be a pre-eminent conservator of endangered animal species, and to provide the world-class resources for conservation education.

For those of you who came to dogtoberfest this year, pictures are available online, you can print & order them through Shutterfly. Go to our website & follow the links through the dogtoberfest page:

www.InTownVet.com/Dogtoberfest.html

See you next year!



Dogtoberfest 2008



A small sampling of participants at Dogtoberfest 2008