

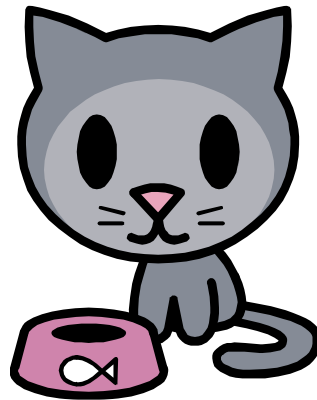
Fircrest Veterinary Hospital

253-564-5661

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Kitten Packet

Welcome to Fircrest Veterinary Hospital

Thank you for choosing our hospital to care for your pet! Whether you are new to us, new to our beautiful area, or new to pet ownership, our goal is to provide outstanding veterinary care for your pet. We hope the following information in this packet provides useful information about preventative care and help answer any questions you may have regarding your pet. We'd be happy to answer any additional questions during our regular business hours.

Office Hours:

Monday: 8:00am-6:00pm, closed for lunch 12:30-2:00pm.

Tuesday: 8:00am-6:00pm, closed for lunch 12:30-2:00pm.

Wednesday: 8:00am-6:00pm, closed for lunch 12:30-2:00pm.

Thursday: 8:00am-6:00pm, closed for lunch 12:30-2:30pm.

Friday: 8:00am-6:00pm, closed for lunch 12:30-2:00pm.

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

Closed most major holidays. If the holiday falls on a Saturday, we will be closed Friday. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, we will be closed Monday.

Important note regarding appointments:

Clients more than 5 minutes late will be required to reschedule. One or two late patients can cause the entire daily schedule to fall behind. This is an inconvenience for everyone. We strive to see every patient as close to their appointment time while maintaining the best possible care

Urgent Care & Emergency Clinics in our area as of 07/01/2026

Affordable Animal Emergency Clinic	602 Auburn Way N, Auburn, WA 98002 (253)939-6272 (253)939-2238	<i>Mon-Fri 6pm-8am</i> <i>Sat 12pm-Mon 8am</i> <i>Open 24 hours on holidays</i>
Animal Emergency Hospital of Redmond	16421 Cleveland St #H Redmond, WA 98502 (425)250-7090	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
Animal Medical Center of Seattle	17518 15 th Ave NE Shoreline, WA 98155 (206)204-3366	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
Blue Pearl Veterinary Hospital-Tacoma	2510 - 84 th St S #30D Tacoma, WA 98409 (253)474-0791	<i>Open 24 hours</i> **EXOTIC SERVICES-LIMITED ** <i>Call-Limited DVM availability</i>
Button Veterinary Hospital **URGENT CARE**	5608 So Durango, Tacoma, WA 98409 (253)383-5531	<i>Monday-Friday 8am-6pm</i> <i>Sat & Sun CLOSED</i>
Center for Bird & Exotic Animal Medicine	11401 NE 195th St, Bothell, WA 98011 (425)486-9000	**EXOTICS ONLY ** <i>Open 24 hours</i>
Emerald City Emergency	4102 Stone Way N Seattle, WA 98103 (206)634-9000	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
Old Growth Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care	1706 So Meridian Puyallup, WA 98374 (253)434-5010	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
Olympia Pet Emergency	4441 Pacific Ave SE Olympia, WA 98503 (360)455-5155	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
PawDoc Urgent Care **URGENT CARE**	1730 Pottery Ave #120 Port Orchard, WA 98366 (360)227-1950	<i>Friday-Monday 11am-8 pm</i>
Puget Sound Veterinary Specialty & Emergency	6565 Kimball Dr Gig Harbor, WA 98335 (253)400-5052	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
Summit Veterinary Referral Center	2505 S 80th St Tacoma, WA 98409 (253)983-1114	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
Sumner Veterinary Hosp	16024 60 th St E Sumner, WA 98390 (253)863-2258	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
Tacoma Animal Hospital **URGENT CARE**	4806 Center St #B Tacoma, WA 98409 (253)564-4255	<i>Monday-Friday 9am-5pm</i> <i>Sat & Sun: CLOSED</i>
Union Ave Vet Hospital **URGENT CARE**	3322 So Union Ave Tacoma, WA 98409 (253)383-2616	<i>Monday-Friday 9am-5pm</i> <i>Closed 12-1</i>
Value Pet Clinic-Puyallup **URGENT CARE**	12314 Meridian Ave E Puyallup, WA 98373 (253)445-0808	<i>Monday-Friday 8am-6pm</i> <i>Sat 8am-4pm</i> <i>Sunday & Holidays: CLOSED</i>
VCA Pacific Avenue **URGENT CARE**	10234 Pacific Ave S Tacoma, WA 98444 (253)537-0241	<i>Mon-Wed 7am-7pm</i> <i>Thurs - Sat 7am-9pm Sun 8am-6pm</i>
Well Care Animal Hosp **URGENT CARE**	5006 Center St # A Tacoma, WA 98409 (253)296-2047	<i>Tuesday-Friday 8am-6pm</i> <i>Sat 9am-4pm</i> NO URGENT CARE on Wednesdays

Vaccination Schedule

Please be aware that depending upon your pet's situation, the ages in which the vaccine is given could be different than the schedule indicated below. Reminders are sent as a courtesy to our clients, so it is always a good idea to keep a record of what and when your pet was vaccinated.

Vaccines:

FVRCP

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis-Herpes Virus-Calicivirus-Feline Distemper-Panleukopenia

Rabies

Rabies is a deadly virus that is commonly transmitted by bites from an infected animal.

Bats are the most common carriers in Washington State

Recommended:

FelV

Feline Leukemia Virus

A retrovirus transmitted between infected cats via saliva, nasal secretions, or bite wounds.
This is highly recommended for cats that are outdoors.

Note: We recommend that strictly indoor cats get the initial FelV vaccine series to provide some protection in the event they get out of the house. Otherwise, after the initial series, no other boosters are needed.

Schedule:

8 weeks: FVRCP (1st)

11 weeks: FVRCP (2nd)

14 weeks: FVRCP (3rd), FelV (1st)

17 weeks: FelV (2nd), Rabies (1yr)

The FVRCP, Rabies, and FelV need to be boosted at one year of age, then yearly for FelV and every 3 years for the FVRCP or Rabies.



Important reasons to spay or neuter your pet:

More than 4 million pets are euthanized in the U.S. animal shelters each year simply because they have no home. Many puppies and kittens are less than 6 months old. Help stop this needless loss of life. SPAY or NEUTER your pet.

Spaying your female pet
(Ovariohysterectomy):

Removal of the ovaries and the uterus.

Ideal age is 4-6 months.

*Eliminates the risk of ovarian & uterine cancer.

*Eliminates unwanted pregnancies.

*Eliminates the chance of a Pyometra. Pyometra is an infection in the uterus and are much more difficult to manage than a routine infection and in some cases can be fatal.

*If spayed before the first heat cycle, your pet has a less than 1 percent chance of developing breast cancer. If spayed after one heat cycle, your pet has an 8 percent chance and if spayed after two heat cycles, the risk increases to 26 percent. After two years, no protective benefit exists

Neutering your male pet
(Castration):

Ideal age is 4- 6 months.

*Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer, the second most common tumor in dogs.

*Greatly reduces the risk of prostate cancer and prostatitis.

*Reduces the risk of perianal tumors.

*Reduces roaming and fighting.

*Eliminates or reduces spraying or urine marking in neutered males before 6 months of age or before the onset of these behaviors.

*Eliminated the risk and spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

*Eliminates unwanted litters.

Common myths

Spaying or neutering your pet does not:

*Cause laziness or hyperactivity

*Reduce its instinct to protect your family and home

*Cause immature behaviors

*Postpone or delay normal behavioral maturity

*Alter its personality in any manner.

Our staff members can answer your questions about spaying or neutering your pet or any other procedure your pet may undergo at our hospital. Please don't hesitate to ask.

Source: firstline



Dental Care



The importance of routine dental care cannot be stressed enough. Proper dental care actually helps prevent many health problems as your pet ages. Our wellness exams include an examination of the mouth.

Preventative Care:

When early tartar buildup is diagnosed, we can offer some preventive care. This might include one or more of the following:

1. Toothbrush and toothpaste kits.
2. Oral rinse to slow tartar buildup.
3. A liquid added to drinking water and has an enzymatic action to slow tartar buildup.
4. A dental diet designed to prevent tartar buildup.
5. Other products that help keep the teeth clean.

Dental Cleanings:

Once tartar has noticeably accumulated on the surface of the teeth, the next step is a professional dental cleaning. Even the most obedient pets won't lie back and keep their mouths open, so this procedure needs to be done under general anesthesia. This means your pet will get to spend the day with us and go home late that afternoon with sweet-smelling breath and clean, healthy teeth and gums.

Delaying or abstaining from dental cleanings can have drastic implications on your pet's overall health. As tartar builds up, abscesses may form along the gum line causing infections. Left unattended, the infection can enter the blood stream, leading to health problems (heart & kidney disease) and potentially prove fatal.

Please purchase a toothbrush kit and our technician will gladly show you how to properly brush your pet's teeth.

Q&A: All about Microchipping



Q: What is a microchip? A: The microchip is a tiny computer chip, about the size of a grain of rice, programmed with an identification number. The chip is enclosed in a biocompatible glass and is small enough to fit into a hypodermic needle. Once an animal is injected with a chip; it can be identified throughout its life with this one-of-a-kind number.	Q: Does my pet have to be sedated? A: No. Injecting a microchip is just like any other injection or vaccination. Anesthesia is not required or recommended just to implant a microchip.
Q: What is the benefit of microchipping? A: Microchips are permanent and can't be lost, altered, or destroyed. Pet owners have been reunited with chipped pets that have been missing for years or that have traveled thousands of miles.	Q: Could my pet be allergic to the microchip? A: The microchip is inert, smooth, nontoxic, and non-allergenic. Microchip companies say there is virtually no chance of the body developing an allergy or trying to reject the microchip.
Q: How does it work? A: A special scanner is used to send a radio signal to the chip to read the identification number. The pet feels nothing when the scanner is placed over it. The number is displayed on the scanner, and the person reading the scanner can contact a national registry to find out who the pet belongs to.	Q: If a veterinary clinic or animal shelter finds a microchip, how will they know who to call? A: Animal shelters and veterinarians are finding microchips in more and more pets. They are aware of the national registry and routinely contact them to obtain owner information regarding the pet. They then contact owners to advise them their pet has been found.
Q: How is the microchip implanted? A: Microchips are implanted with a needle behind the skin between the shoulder blades. They can't be felt or seen.	Q: I have tiny toy breeds—can I still have them implanted? A: Absolutely. The same size microchip and needle is used in pets even smaller than puppies and toy breeds, including mice, baby birds and even fish.
Q: At what age can I microchip my pet? A: Young pets can be microchipped as early as 6 to 8 weeks of age. Some clients prefer to wait until their pet is spayed or neutered.	Q: How do I update my information if it changes? A: After your pet is microchipped, you will be given information about how to contact the national registry to update your information. Remember to do this whenever you change your address or telephone number.
Q: How long does the microchip last? A: The microchip has no power supply, battery, or moving parts, and is designed to last the life of the pet. Once injected, the microchip is anchored in place as a thin layer of connective tissue forms around it. It requires no care and will not pass through or out of the body.	Q: Do shelters scan animals for microchips? A: Yes, scanning pets for microchips has become standard practice in animal shelters. Some municipalities, such as Los Angeles County in California, are even requiring pets to be microchipped, so local governments can cooperate with shelters and reunite pets and owners.
Q: Does implanting the chip hurt my pet? A: Most pets react the same way to this shot as they do to any other. The microchip contains nothing that will burn or irritate the tissue; it's completely biocompatible.	Source: Los Angeles County Dept of Animal Care and Control



Poison Proof Your Home



Protect your pet by taking the following room-by-room precautions.

Living Room

- Check out all plants-both inside and outside your home. Lilies (*Lilium and Hemerocallis sp.*) can be especially poisonous to cats, so eliminate them from bouquets.
- Keep home fragrance products out of reach. This includes open dishes of liquid potpourri and simmer pots.
- Don't spray aerosols or any heavily fragranced products around caged birds or other cages or crated pets.
- Keep ashtrays and nicotine replacement products out of reach.

Kitchen

- Know what foods are poisonous to pets. Watch out for sugar-free chewing gum with xylitol, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, onions, garlic, unbaked yeast bread dough, fatty foods and chocolate.
- Keep garbage cans behind closed doors. Trash and compost bins can contain many pet toxins, such as cigarette butts, coffee grounds, moldy dairy products, and chicken bones.
- Keep alcoholic beverages out of reach.

Bathroom

- Keep medications safely locked up in secure cupboards-don't leave them on countertops or tables or stored in plastic zipper baggies, which are easily chewed through. This includes inhalers, dietary aides and nutraceuticals.
- Never medicate your pets with human products without first contacting your veterinarian.
- Always check the container before giving medication to your pet to make sure it's the correct medication, and store your own medications separate from your pets.
- Keep cats away from cleaning products. Shut them out of the room/area while spraying cleansers or other products.
- Close toilet lids to keep pets from drinking the water, especially if you use automatic chemical tank or bowl treatments.

Utility Room

- Keep rodenticides FAR AWAY FROM PETS. Keep in mind that rodents can transfer the toxins to accessible locations. Certain rodenticide products DO NOT have treatment antidotes. Always check warning labels and possible toxicity to pets.
- Never use dog flea and tick products on cats.
- Don't leave batteries lying around. Dogs enjoy chewing them, and they can cause serious harm if ingested.
- Keep glues out of reach-they can be tasty but some may cause serious harm. In fact, some glues expand greatly in the stomach leading to bowel obstructions.

Garage

- Ethylene glycol (antifreeze) products are extremely toxic to pets. Choose propylene glycol products as a safer alternative or keep pets FAR AWAY.
- Keep all automotive products-like windshield cleaner fluid-away from pets and clean any spills immediately.

Outside

- Dogs like certain fertilizers such as bone meal or blood meal. Keep bags tightly sealed.
- Grub or snail killers-especially those that include metaldehyde-can be harmful to pets.
- Yard insecticides that contain organophosphates or carbonates can be very dangerous.
- Keep pets off lawns until commercially sprayed herbicides are dry.

Pet Poison Helpline 1-800-213-6680 (\$35 per call)



What to do if your pet gets poisoned



Your pet has ingested something toxic. *What do you do?* First, take a deep breath. The more calm, cool, and collected you are, the sooner you can seek the correct medical attention. Then get a handle on the situation by taking the following steps:

1. Remove your pet from the area. Make sure no other pets or children are exposed to the area, and safely remove any poisonous material.
2. Check to make sure your pet is breathing normally and acting fine otherwise.
3. Collect a sample of the material, along with the packaging, vial, or container. You'll need that information to help your veterinarian or a pet poison expert assess situation.
4. Don't give your dog any milk, food, salt, oil, or any other home remedies. Doing so will likely complicate the poisoning.
5. Never induce vomiting without talking to your veterinarian or a pet poison expert-doing so may be detrimental or contraindicated. Sometimes, to induce vomiting in dogs, it may be recommended to give hydrogen peroxide. However, hydrogen peroxide won't help induce vomiting in cats, and stronger veterinary prescription medications are necessary to get your cat to vomit up any toxins.
6. Get Help. Program your veterinarian's phone number into your phone, as well as the emergency veterinarian's number and a pet poison helpline number.

Remember that a pet's prognosis is always better when a toxicity is reported immediately, so don't wait to see if your pet becomes symptomatic before calling for help. Calling right away is safer for your pet and could help you save on treatment costs in the long run. Remember that there's a narrow window of time to decontaminate in cases of poisoning.

Important to numbers to have:

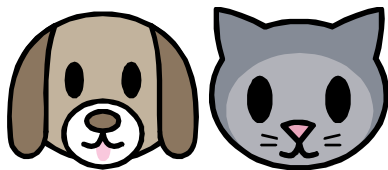
Fircrest Veterinary Hospital	253-564-5661
Pet Poison Helpline	800-213-6680 (\$35 per call)
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal's Animal Poison Control Center	888-426-4435 (\$65 per call)

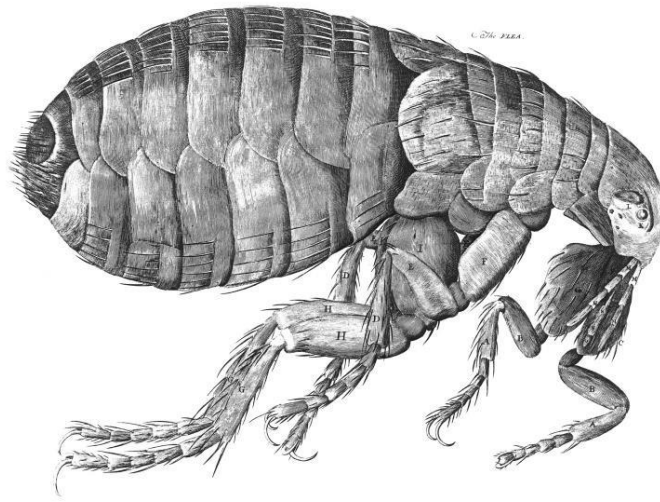


Summer/Winter Safety Tips

Review these tips to keep pets safe and healthy all year long.

1. **Cover the basics.** Secure an up-to-date tag on your pet's collar and make sure to use a leash when headed outdoors. It is important to have your pet microchipped. Be sure that your information is current with the National Registry.
2. **Be wary around water.** Not all dogs are natural swimmers, so watch your pet when you're near a pool, beach, or lake. Never let your pet walk on what appears to be a frozen lake or pond.
3. **Keep Cool.** Schedule walks in the early morning or evening; dog paws hate hot pavement. Stop periodically for fresh water breaks and find shady places for necessary panting breaks.
4. **Watch for warning signs.** Heat stroke is an issue for pets, too. Be on the lookout for early symptoms; excessive panting and drooling, bright red gums, weakness, and balance problems. If the condition worsens, pets may experience labored breathing, lethargy, and even seizures. You can cool down an overheated pet with cold water on towels and by offering ice chips or small bowls of water. In the winter, to prevent dehydration, be sure your pet's water supply doesn't freeze. And use a non-metal water dish to keep your pet's tongue from sticking.
5. **Safely see the sights.** Taking your pets for a ride? Never leave them inside-windows up or down-on hot days. Keep your dogs' head in the car while driving; inner ear damage, lung infections, foreign bodies in the eye and injury can happen when man's best friend sticks his head out of the window.
6. **Party with prudence.** Be wary of what your cats and dogs can get into when you celebrate. Chocolate, raisins, and onions can be bad for dogs and cats, and alcohol is a big no-no. If your dog feels anxious or fearful around fireworks or large crowds, keep them away.
7. **Protect against parasites.** Fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, ear mites (outdoor cats) and more seem to be everywhere in the summer, so consult with your veterinarian on the best preventatives.
8. **When the temperature falls.** Keep cats indoors and shorten walks for dogs. Safe outdoor temps vary for pets by size and breed. Provide adequate shelter if your pet must be outside.





Flea Management:

1. Clean your environment. Sprinkle Borax on carpet and leave for 15 min. Then vacuum the area well. Put an over-the-counter flea collar in vacuum canister/ bag. Borax can also be used in the washing machine with bedding or blankets.
2. We recommend topical or oral flea prevention medication once monthly, year-round.
3. If fleas persist, we recommend Capstar (oral flea medication), used once in conjunction with the above treatments. This product can be purchased at PetSmart. It will kill all fleas on pet but will only last 24 hours.