

Welcome

Hope this finds you all doing well during these strange times. It's hard to believe summer is almost over and Covid 19 is still here! This month's newsletter we will discuss "fall safety tips for your pets". If you have any questions or have a topic you would like to hear about please contact our staff at 630-365-9599 or you can contact us via email at 3lburn@sbcglobal.net

Autumn safety tips

There is nothing like the crisp cool air and the beautiful changing colors of autumn! Bonfires, hot chocolate and apple cider, hoodies and sweatshirts! I'm sure our pet's welcome a break from summers hot and sticky weather. But fall is also a time of some lurking dangers for our furry friends. Following are some tips to keep your pet happy and healthy throughout the autumn months.



Be cautious of rodenticides and cold weather poisons

The use of rodent poisons increase in the fall as rodents seek shelter from the cold by attempting to move indoors. Rodenticides are highly toxic to pets and, if ingested, can be fatal. They really

should not be used around pets as when rodents eat the poison, they don't die immediately, but go elsewhere. If your pet eats the rodent, it can have toxicity issues then also.

Fall is also a time many people change their cars engine coolant. Ethylene glycol based coolants are highly toxic, so spills should be cleaned up immediately. Propylene glycol based coolants, though not completely nontoxic, are much less toxic than other engine coolants.



Keep school supplies out of your pet's reach

Back to school time means stocking up on glue sticks, pencils and magic markers. These are considered low toxicity to pet's, but gastrointestinal upset and blockages can occur if ingested.

Steer clear of mushrooms

Fall and spring are mushroom seasons. While 99% of mushrooms have little or no toxicity, the 1% that are highly toxic can cause life threatening problems in pets. Since toxic mushrooms are difficult to detect from nontoxic ones, the best way to prevent pets from ingesting these poisonous plants is to keep them away from areas where mushrooms are

growing. Contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA poison control center at 888-426-4435 if your pet has eaten a wild mushroom.

Compost bins or Piles

Piles of decomposing and decaying organic matter and molding food products in your backyard compost pile have the potential to contain “tremorgenic mycotoxins”, meaning molds which cause tremors. Even small amounts ingested can result in tremors or seizures within 30 minutes to several hours. Please keep all compost bins closed and piles out of reach of pets this season.

Watch out for wildlife

Autumn is the season when snakes are preparing for hibernation, increasing the possibility of bites to those unlucky pets who find themselves in the wrong place at the right time. As far as the kind of venomous snakes lurking in our environment and where they are most likely to be found, there are really only two in our neck of the woods, the timber rattler and the massasauga, though they are extremely rare. The massasauga resides along rivers, marshes and swamps, but is actually endangered in Illinois, and the timber rattler is threatened.



Massasauga

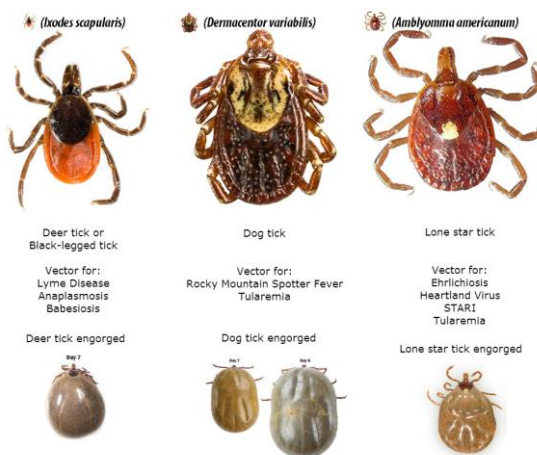


Timber Rattler

Watch out for ticks in the fall

Many species of ticks are more active this time of year even into the winter and can survive a first frost. Some tips to keep your pet tick-free this fall:

- *Eliminate ticks favorite environments, such as leaf and garden litter, where they can sometimes survive into the winter
- *Check your pet for ticks frequently
- *Continue using tick control and repellent products, especially if you spend a lot of time outdoors with your pet
- *Ask your vet about regular screenings for tick borne infections



Football parties and human food

It's officially football season, and people love their parties! Veterinary clinics see a lot of upset stomachs during the fall because of table scraps and foods that guests give to pets. Dogs and cats are used to eating the same thing every day. Their gastrointestinal tracts develop a natural flora or bacteria that specifically digest their regular food. When they get something they are not accustomed to eating, such as nachos or chicken wings, they can develop severe inflammation with vomiting and diarrhea. It can also lead to more serious conditions such as pancreatitis.

In addition to foreign foods, many foods in large quantities are toxic to our pets, such as grapes, onions, garlic, and raisins. Some foods can present a risk for choking or obstructions such as corn on the cob, fruits with pits, foods with bones, toothpicks or skewers. Make sure to talk to your guests, especially kids, before parties and remind them to not feed your pets any food.



If you have any questions or comments, please email us at 3lburn@sbcglobal.net or call 630-365-9599! If you have a subject you would like covered in our newsletter please let us know!

**HAPPY FALL AND
DON'T FORGET TO
WEAR YOUR MASK!!!**

(Halloween or otherwise!)