

MCLEOD



VETERINARY HOSPITAL



Winter 2009

### Hospital Hours

Mon – Thurs	8 am – 6:30 pm
Friday	8 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday	9 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday	Closed

### Announcements

McLeod Veterinary Hospital will be closed for the holidays on December 24th at 1 pm and will reopen on December 28th. We will also be closed on December 31st at 1 pm and reopen on January 2nd, 2010.

The staff at McLeod Veterinary Hospital wish you all the best during this holiday season.

Congratulations to Shannon and Lee on the birth of their daughter Rylee McCarthy. Shannon is one of our Animal Health Technologists.

### Questions?

Our clients have access to [www.veterinarypartner.com](http://www.veterinarypartner.com), a web site which offers information on many pet related issues such as behaviour, nutrition, and emergency care.

McLeod Veterinary Hospital  
880 McLeod Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R2G 2T7  
Ph: (204)661-3334  
Email: [mcleodvh@mts.net](mailto:mcleodvh@mts.net)

## Keeping Critters Safe

The holiday season offers fun and festivities for all, however, it is important to remember that many of the things that make the holidays so special can be harmful to our pets.

Decorating for the holidays often includes the purchase of special plants including holly, poinsettia, and mistletoe. These plants are poisonous to cats and dogs, therefore if you plan to bring them into your home, be sure to keep them in an area where they can still be enjoyed but remain out of your pet's reach.

Many cats enjoy climbing the Christmas tree while nobody is watching. This act can pose all sorts of dangers and result in serious injuries to your pet. If the tree topples over, serious trauma and even death can result. Glass ornaments can fall off the tree and break leading to potential cuts or shards of glass stuck in your pet's paws. Be sure to

purchase a Christmas tree stand that is appropriate for the size of tree that you plan to decorate and choose light-weight, plastic ornaments which are less likely to break when dropped.

When bringing items into your home for the holiday season be sure to take a moment to consider the potential dangers they may pose to your pet.

## A Fuzzy Gift?

Some people stumble upon the idea of a cute, cuddly little puppy or kitten when pondering over a holiday gift for a loved one. The reality is that people do not often consider the hard work and all the costs associated with such a gift. If your heart is set on purchasing a puppy or kitten as a gift, here are a few things to consider.

Puppies and kittens have special needs that require a dedicated, capable owner, and the initial cost of check-ups, vaccinations, deworming, and eventual spay or neuter can begin to add up. Pet owners must be willing and able to provide veterinary care for their new friend.

Along with cost comes the issue of lifestyle. Will the owner have time to train a puppy or kitten? If the gift is a puppy, research the breed you plan to purchase. How big will the dog be when it's full grown and how much grooming and exercise will it require? Long-haired cats require a significant amount of grooming; will the owner have the time to keep up with these needs?

Now that you've answered all of these questions, is a puppy or kitten really the ideal gift for your loved one? Be sure to consider all of the responsibilities associated with your gift, do plenty of research, and ask plenty of questions before making a decision.





## Pet of the Month

### Meet Xena

A three month old mastiff cross, lovingly owned by Steve.

## McLeod Veterinary Hospital Staff Members

### Veterinarians

Dr. Robert Newfield  
Dr. Alison Bowles  
Dr. Jason Kellsey

### Animal Health Technologists

Barbe Parke  
Cindy Sontag  
Kim Nakamura  
Amy Weir  
Randi Boyd  
Shannon Toback

### Receptionists

Martina Korne  
Brittini Jensen  
Kelly Zelinsky  
Carissa Shaw

### Veterinary Assistants

Rees Buck  
Jennifer Loewen  
Laura Tschetter

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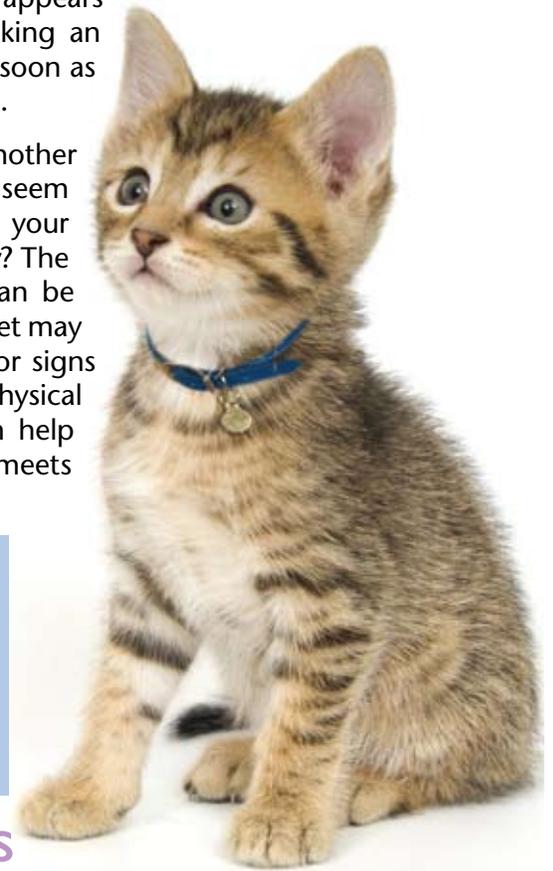
# Is this an Emergency?

Pet owners often hesitate before calling their veterinarian or put off making an appointment when they are unsure of the seriousness of the situation. Here are a few examples of situations which are considered emergencies and should be seen right away.

Difficulty passing urine or inability to urinate is a potentially life threatening problem and getting your animal to a veterinarian is of extreme importance. Urinary obstruction tends to occur most frequently in male cats as they have a naturally long and narrow urethra which obstructs easily. Animals with urinary obstructions may pass small amounts of bloody urine or no urine at all.

Any type of injury to the eye, no matter how small, can quickly become a serious problem. If your animal is blinking more than normal or squinting excessively, rubbing or pawing at its eye, the eye appears red or has an abnormal discharge, making an appointment to see your veterinarian as soon as possible could be a sight-saving decision.

Physical trauma, like a fight with another animal or being hit by a vehicle may seem like obvious emergencies but what if your animal appears to be free of visible injury? The immediate effects of internal injuries can be masked by adrenalin, so although your pet may seem fine, it can take up to 48 hours for signs of injury to appear. In the event of physical trauma, a visit to your veterinarian can help determine if there is more injury than meets the eye.



## For after hours Emergency Care contact:

**Pembina Veterinary Hospital**  
400 Pembina Hwy  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Phone 452-9427

# Household Dangers

Birds are very sensitive creatures and some owners do not realize that many common household products can be extremely toxic to their feathered friends. The following are a few items which may pose a health risk to your bird and should be avoided.

- Antifreeze
- Alcoholic beverages
- Carpet cleaners and fresheners
- Cigarette smoke
- Deodorants
- Felt tip markers
- Flea products
- Hair dyes and sprays
- Nail polish and polish remover
- Perfume
- Paint and paint thinner
- Matches
- Mothballs
- Scented candles

