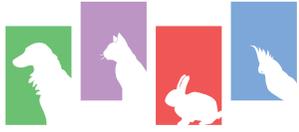


# MCLEOD



## VETERINARY HOSPITAL

### Hours:

**Monday – Thursday:**

8:00 am – 8:00 pm

**Friday:**

8:00 am – 6:00 pm

**Saturday & Sunday:**

8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Just a friendly reminder that we will be **closed** on the following days:

**December 25-26, 2020**

**January 1, 2021**

**February 15, 2021**

## Holiday Hazards

With the holiday season upon us, we would like to take a moment to inform you about the possible hazards that your pets may be exposed to. Prevention is the key! However, if you suspect that your pet has been exposed to a toxin or is showing any symptoms please call the clinic promptly.

### **Poinsettias, Holly, Mistletoe**

Please keep these plants out of reach of your pets.

### **Chocolate, Grapes, Raisins, Nuts, Onions**

If your pet has consumed any of these toxins, please call your clinic.

### **Foreign Bodies**

Toys, tinsel & ribbons can be dangerous if consumed.

### **Electrical Burns**

Puppies, kittens & bunnies love to chew electrical cords. Please keep them out of reach.

### **Antifreeze**

This is a very hazardous toxin & will permanently damage your pet's kidneys in as quick as an hour. If you suspect your pet has consumed antifreeze, bring them to the clinic immediately.



December 2020

## Vaccines 101

There are many viruses and bacterial diseases that are prevalent in Manitoba. Some of these viruses can survive in the environment and do not require direct contact with an infected animal to be transmitted. Puppies and kittens obtain antibodies from their mother, and vaccinating too early may not elicit the immune response required, therefore we recommend beginning the vaccination series at 8 weeks of age.

Both puppies and kittens can be vaccinated against rabies. This is a virus that enters the body through a wound and affects the nervous system. Rabies virus is also transmittable to humans.

Puppies also get vaccinated against the following diseases:

- Distemper: A viral infection that affects the respiratory, digestive and nervous systems.
- Parvovirus: A viral infection that causes severe diarrhea and vomiting.
- Adenovirus 1: A viral infection also known as Hepatitis that affects the liver, kidneys and eyes.
- Adenovirus 2: A viral infection that can lead to respiratory disease.
- Parainfluenza: A viral infection that can lead to respiratory disease.

Protection from these viruses is provided in one vaccine (at 8 weeks of age) and requires two additional boosters in puppies at 12 and 16 weeks of age.

Speak with your veterinarian to decide if additional vaccines are recommended for your furry friend. Bordetella (kennel cough) and Lyme vaccines are available.

Kittens are vaccinated against the following diseases:

- Rhinotracheitis: A common herpes virus that affects respiratory and ophthalmic systems. Vaccinating reduces the severity of this highly contagious virus.
  - Calicivirus: A virus that affects the respiratory system. Additionally this virus also affects the oral cavity and the musculoskeletal and gastrointestinal systems.
  - Panleukopenia: A very severe virus that affects the immune system as well as gastrointestinal and nervous systems. This virus is extremely contagious and often fatal.
- Protection from these viruses is provided in one vaccine (at 8 weeks of age) and requires two additional boosters in kittens at 12 and 16 weeks of age.

Feline leukemia is a common virus that affects the immune system. Some cats have the potential to develop antibodies on their own post exposure, while others may succumb to leukemia related illness. There is a vaccine available as a preventive.

## Helping a Biting Fur Baby

Biting and mouthing is something that every new pet owner notices. This behaviour is normal for your new young pet. Baby animals have many reasons for biting:

- Communication
- Playful action
- Part of teething
- Gathering information
- Hunting behaviour
- Show of aggression



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### McLeod Veterinary Hospital Staff Members

#### Veterinarians

Dr. Alison Bowles  
Dr. Jason Kellsey  
Dr. Christie-Leigh Capper  
Dr. Emily Martens  
Dr. April Crump

#### Veterinary Technologists

Barbe Parke  
Cindy Sontag  
Amy Weir  
Rhianne Hallows  
Jennifer Peters  
Carolyn Tschernow  
Jackie Elias  
Angelu Borjal  
Zoe Surgeoner

#### Receptionists

Martina Korne  
Ashley Chwartacki  
Carissa Shaw  
Angie Dwornick  
August Sontag  
Sherree Estrada  
Sarah Groves  
Shanicia Ruddock

#### Veterinary Assistants

Romi Scott  
Elijah Casey  
Spenser Pilon  
Lindsay Trautwein  
Tien Nguyen  
Tate Starkell

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## Helping a Biting Fur Baby

Continued from front page

In nature, biting behaviour is corrected by their mother and siblings as they grow up. Since mom isn't around anymore, it is up to the human parents to correct the behaviour. When puppies and kittens learn that biting will get them what they want, the behaviour will continue and they will feel that it is acceptable going into adulthood.

Some pets use biting and mouthing to get your attention. In this case giving them any sort of attention even to correct the behaviour can cause it to continue. In this instance it can be best to remove yourself from the puppy or kitten until they calm down.

There are different ways to manage biting behaviours. Not every technique will work for every pet so try a few to find what will work best for your family. If your new pet is biting because of teething, find an appropriate toy or game for them to direct the behaviour towards. Use commands such as "sit" to distract and redirect their attention. Redirect the attention to a toy that they are allowed to chew and bite at. Mothers and sibling animals would use verbal cues when play gets too rough. Making a high pitched noise will relay that play has gone too far. Some puppies and kittens respond to a strong alpha personality. Commands in a strong, firm voice can be effective to distract your pet from their behaviour.

Always ensure that your new puppy or kitten get lots of structured exercise and play. This will help prevent any unwanted behaviours that arise from boredom.

Any ongoing concerns can be discussed with your veterinarian.

## How to Socialize your New Puppy!

During your puppy's first few months of life, you want them to be exposed to many new things in a safe and stress-free way.

At home let your puppy explore as many new sounds and objects as possible. Leave a variety of things around your house for your puppy to investigate such as:

- Baby stroller/bouncer
- Various sizes of balls
- Children's tent
- An umbrella
- Toys with different squeakers
- Various types of dog toys

To get your puppy familiar with household sounds run the vacuum and hairdryer. Start off with your puppy in a different room and slowly move close so as not to startle them at first. If available you can pop bubble wrap for something different.

Getting your new dog comfortable with other dogs is also important. When your puppy is fully vaccinated, puppy classes or doggy daycare are great ways to socialize them. Prior to this, invite family and friends with vaccinated dogs to your house with their pet. This allows you to expose your pup to other dogs you know are healthy.

With your friends' and family's permission, bring your new puppy when you go to visit. This will give your pup a chance to explore a home with new smells and surroundings.

Having a dog's nails trimmed can be one of the most stressful times for them. Starting to get your new puppy prepared for this is important. Handling your puppy's feet is a great way to start. This will get the pup used to someone touching their toes. The sound of nail trimmers can be a source of fear for them as well. If you have a pair of nail trimmers at home, walk around the house clicking them. Also using them on dry pasta (linguini works nicely) can get them acclimated to the noise. You can also leave the nail trimmers lying around the house.

Playing with your new family member is exciting, but be sure they are given the time and space they need to rest. Ensure your puppy has a place they know they can go to relax and have some down time.