

## SPRING 2018

### PATTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL

425 East Broadway  
Red Lion, PA 17356  
717-246-3611  
www.pattonvethospital.com

#### Office hours:

Monday–Friday 8am – 8pm  
Saturday 8am – 2pm

Text us at: 717-246-3611



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT Kelsey Tyson

Kelsey Tyson, one of our newest employees, joined the Client Relations Team in January 2018. Although Kelsey may be new to PVH, she has been a fan of Patton for quite some time. As a little girl, she remembers passing by in the car and telling her family she wanted to work at PVH one day.

You may have seen Kelsey at the front desk; she is quick to greet our clients with a warm smile. In fact, her favorite part about her job is meeting all the new people and patients on a daily basis. Although Kelsey loves all the patients that come through the door, she has an especially soft spot for our extra fluffy patients—she loves

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## Hiking with Pets

Hiking with your pet—cat or dog, can be a great outdoor activity. There are a few things to consider before venturing into the unknown with your furry friend.

Before taking off on your adventure, make sure your companion is up to date on all vaccines: rabies, distemper with leptospirosis, and Lyme for dogs. For cats, rabies, distemper, and feline leukemia. These vaccines help to protect pets from many of the potential diseases they may come into contact with in the great outdoors.

You will also need to consider the terrain and length of the hike you plan on completing. Most dogs will fair quite well on many terrains but may not be used to walking long distances at a time. Cats can also tolerate many different terrain styles but are far less likely to tolerate long distances without some coaching and training.

It is also very important to keep your friend on a leash or in a backpack style carrier. If animals are not used to the noises, sights, and sounds of the outdoors, they may become spooked or overly excited, causing them to escape your control.

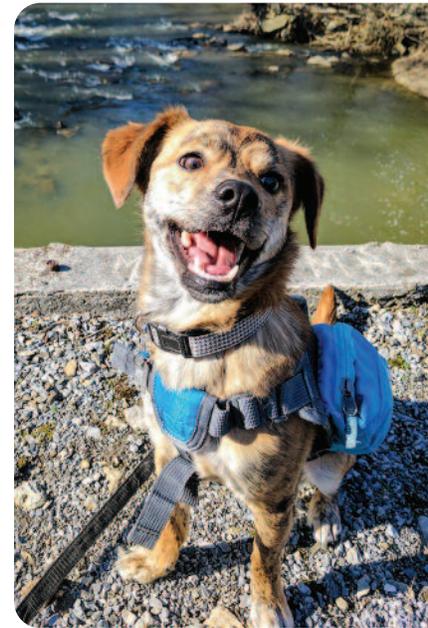
A good flea and tick preventative and heartworm prevention is also very important when pets are exposed to the outdoors—these parasites live on wild animals and can easily be transferred to your furry friend. Be sure to bring along water for your pet while on your hike, water from streams or puddles can contain harmful bacteria and should be avoided. Lastly, make sure to take time to enjoy your hike. Being outdoors in nature can be a magical experience. What better way to enjoy that than by sharing it with your best furry friend?

## Toxic Plants

It's springtime! With spring comes warm weather, sunny days, and many, many plants. Plants help to cozy up a living space, but pet owners need to be extra careful when choosing how to decorate the home and garden. You may or may not be aware that a lot of these plants could potentially be harmful to your pets.

No matter what type of plant is ingested, there is the possibility of vomiting and gastrointestinal upset for both dogs and cats. Only a small percentage of the thousands of plants and flowers are truly dangerous and poisonous to your pet. Some of the more common poisonous plants to your pets include azaleas, daffodils, lilies, sago palm, and tulips.

Azaleas are in the same family as rhododendrons. These plants contain grayanotoxins, which can disrupt the sodium channels in the skeletal and cardiac muscles. All parts of azaleas are poisonous, and it only takes a small amount of



Persie ready to trek!



By Carley Love, CVT

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## Recalls

There have been a number of pet food recalls in recent months. Pet food safety affects both pets and humans. In some cases, contaminated pet food poses more danger to people handling their pet's food than it does to the pet.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees the safety of human and pet food. According to their website, "The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) requires that all animal foods, like human foods, be safe to eat, produced under sanitary conditions, contain no harmful substances, and be truthfully labeled." Recalls occur when a sample of food has been found to be unsafe, or if there is some suspicion that it may be unsafe. There are three types of recalls: voluntary manufacturer initiated recalls, FDA requested recalls, and FDA mandated recalls.

Some recent pet food recalls were due to the presence of Salmonella or Listeria monocytogenes. These are bacteria that can cause food-borne illness in humans and pets. Young children and elderly people are at greater risk than healthy adults, and the same is true in pets. Infections usually cause gastrointestinal distress, but can lead to other complications, especially in compromised individuals. Other recalls were due to elevated beef thyroid hormone levels, chemical contamination, and/or the presence of pentobarbital, which is a euthanasia drug. Proper handling and storage of pet food is important. Be sure to keep the original container until all the food has been consumed. Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling pet food.

You can keep track of pet food recalls on the FDA's website, at [www.FDA.gov](http://www.FDA.gov).



## Ticks, Pets, and People

New tick-borne diseases are being discovered, ticks' geographic ranges are expanding, and the reported incidence of tick-borne diseases, or TBDs, is increasing each year.

For those of us who spend time outdoors, ticks can pose a serious health threat. Many people are aware of the threat of Lyme disease and a few other TBDs, but Heartland virus, Powassan virus, and Bourbon virus are far less well known. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) currently lists 16 different tick-borne diseases that ticks can transmit to humans. It's still not known whether some of the diseases can be transmitted to dogs or cats, and even in humans, it can be difficult to test for some of these diseases.

The pathogens that cause illness vary. Some TBDs are bacterial, such as Lyme disease, some are viral, such as Powassan virus, and others, like Babesiosis, are caused by microscopic parasites. Ticks can spread multiple pathogens in a single bite, potentially causing co-infections of several diseases, further complicating diagnosis and treatment. In addition, a condition known as "tick paralysis" can occur, which is not caused by transmission of an infectious agent; instead, it occurs when an engorged tick transmits a toxin (which is produced in its salivary glands) while biting the host (dog or human).

An insect or organism that transmits a disease is known as a "vector" for that disease. It's important to note that tick-borne diseases require the tick as a vector for transmission. Different tick species are vectors for different diseases; for example, the black-legged tick is a vector for Lyme disease and the Lone Star tick is a vector for Ehrlichiosis.

Some tick species, such as the brown dog tick, are found throughout the United States. Others are more common in specific regions, but the territories for those species have been expanding each year. Recently, an infestation of longhorned ticks (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*), native to East Asia, was found on a sheep in New Jersey.

While Lyme disease and other bacterial TBDs have been shown to need about 24 hours of tick attachment for the disease to be transmitted, others, such as Powassan virus, appear to be transmitted far more quickly. A study in mice showed an attachment time of only 15 minutes was required for transmission of Powassan virus.

Because dogs are at risk of contracting many of the same tick-borne diseases as humans, and because of the low cost and accessibility of testing dogs for some TBDs, dogs are now considered sentinels for humans regarding the risk of tick-borne diseases.

With the increasing threat of tick-borne diseases occurring across the country, it is now more important than ever for pet owners to be aware of the importance of tick prevention.





# Tick Prevention

Ticks pose a serious threat to pet and human health, but the benefits of spending time outdoors far outweigh the risks, as long as you're smart about tick prevention. Remember, dogs and cats that go outdoors can bring ticks inside, so your prevention strategy should consider multiple factors. Here are some tips:

**Dogs:** There are a number of highly effective tick preventive products on the market today. Products include chewables, topicals, and collars, and it's worth investigating the pros and cons of each. Talk to your veterinarian about recommendations for your dog's lifestyle.

**Cats:** Remember not to use products meant for dogs on your cats, as they can be highly toxic! If you have an indoor-only cat and you don't feel it needs preventives, you should still do a daily tick check in case you or your dog brought some ticks inside. Cats are good at self-grooming, but ticks often still find a safe spot on cats' necks and other places they can't reach with their mouth. If you have an indoor/outdoor cat, tick prevention is especially important. Mice play an important role in the lifecycle of some tick species, so if your cat is a mouser, it will likely be exposed to ticks.

**Buyer Beware:** Be aware that counterfeit tick products have been found on the market, both online and in some stores. These counterfeits may either not work at all, or worse, they may contain ingredients that cause serious side effects to your pets. Only buy products from a trusted source. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/pets/avoid-counterfeit-pesticide-products-dogs-and-cats](http://www.epa.gov/pets/avoid-counterfeit-pesticide-products-dogs-and-cats)

**For you:** Avoid tall grass, leaf litter and brush while out walking. Wear long, light-colored pants (which make it easier to see ticks), and pull your socks up over the pants. Use bug repellents, and consider buying clothing treated with permethrins (but remember permethrins are toxic to cats). Do a tick check in front of a full length mirror each night before bed. See the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website for more information.

**In your yard:** Create an area that is not friendly to ticks. Keep grass mowed. Remove all leaf litter and brush. Consider putting a three foot wide barrier of wood chips, pea stone or gravel between your lawn and wooded areas. Discourage deer from entering your property. Remember that mice are important for certain parts of some ticks' lifecycles, so reduce the areas that mice find appealing, such as wood piles, old furniture or trash. Consider looking into "tick tubes," which are available commercially or you can make your own.

# Ringworm

Ringworm is an infection caused by a fungus. Despite the name, it has nothing to do with worms. The medical term for ringworm is dermatophytosis. This fungal infection can affect humans, cats, dogs and other animals, and is often highly contagious. It's one of the most common skin disorders in cats world-wide.

There are about 40 types of dermatophytes (the type of fungi causing the infections), which infect the skin, hair, and nailbed (fingernails, toenails and claws). Ringworm sometimes appears as a round, itchy, scaly rash, but the lesions are not always round. Other signs include broken hairs, inflammation, dandruff and excessive grooming. Cats can be asymptomatic carriers, with no clinical signs of infection. Puppies and kittens, senior pets, and immunocompromised pets are at greatest risk. Long-haired cats are at greater risk than their short-haired peers.

Treatment consists of topical antifungal medications, and sometimes oral medications and shampoos or "dips" may be necessary as well. It can take weeks or months to successfully eliminate ringworm.

Environmental decontamination is important when treating ringworm, because the fungal spores can remain in your home and cause further infection. Consider replacing your pet's bedding, and decontaminate hard surfaces with a disinfectant. Vacuuming is the most important first step for carpets, but studies have shown that commercial carpet cleaning works best.

The skin is the largest organ of the body, and many things can cause itchy skin. Fleas, mites, allergies, bacterial infections and thyroid problems are some of the culprits that can cause signs similar to ringworm. Proper diagnosis is crucial for selecting the right treatment, so be sure to visit your veterinarian at the first sign of a problem with your pet's skin.



**“Authors like cats because they are such quiet, lovable, wise creatures, and cats like authors for the same reasons.”**

*– Robertson Davies*



## **TOXIC PLANTS** *continued from pg. 1*

ingestion for your pet to be poisoned. Clinical signs of azalea poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, and excessive drooling; however, without immediate veterinary care, your pet could fall into a coma and possibly die.

Daffodils contain lycorine, which is a trigger for vomiting. If any part of this flower is ingested, your pet may experience severe vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and possible cardiac or respiratory problems. If the outer layer of the bulb is ingested, the tissues contained within the outer layers can cause tissue irritation and drooling as well. There are some species of lilies that are only

moderately poisonous while there are others that are truly dangerous and highly toxic to cats.



The lily species that are moderately poisonous include Peace, Peruvian, and Calla. These lilies contain oxalate crystals which cause minor clinical signs such as tissue irritation of the mouth, tongue, pharynx, and esophagus, all resulting in drooling. The lily species that are highly toxic to cats include Tiger, Asiatic, Easter, Japanese Show, and Day. Ingestion of any part of these lilies can result in severe kidney failure. Immediate veterinary care is imperative to saving your pet from this ingestion. Decontamination, aggressive fluid therapy, kidney function monitoring tests, and supportive care can greatly improve your pet's prognosis.

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425 East Broadway, Red Lion, PA 17356  
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 **FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

### **Upcoming Events**

**Kids Club: Search & Rescue Dogs**  
June 3, 1 pm

## **EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT**

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Maine Coons and Newfoundlands.

Since starting at Patton, Kelsey has quickly developed an interest in Animal Behavior and hopes to continue her education in the animal field. When not at Patton, Kelsey enjoys her newly acquired hobby of hiking in addition to reading and

spending time with her family. Kelsey has two kitties at home, Darcy and Grey, who occupy her time as well.

Welcome to the PVH family, Kelsey!



*By Kelli Swanson*

## **TOXIC PLANTS** *continued from above*

Sago palms are very poisonous; every part of this plant is toxic, with the seeds being the most toxic. This plant contains cycasin, which is the primary active toxic agent resulting in severe liver failure in dogs. Clinical signs for sago palm ingestion include acute gastrointestinal signs within 15 minutes to several hours after ingestion. Two or three days after ingestion, central nervous system signs and severe liver failure can be noted.

Tulips contain allergenic lactones that are concentrated in the bulbs. When the bulb is ingested, it can result in tissue irritation to the mouth and esophagus.

Other typical clinical signs of tulip ingestion include drooling, vomiting, or diarrhea, depending on the amount of the plant that is ingested. If there is a large ingestion of the bulbs, your pet could also suffer from an increased heart rate and changes in their respiration.

Keep in mind, this list does not include every single plant that may be harmful to your pet. For more information and for a more comprehensive list of toxic plants, go to the ASPCA's or Pet Poison Helpline's websites. If your pet comes into contact with any toxic plants, please be sure to call our office.



*By Kelsey Collins*