

# 50 Things that your Veterinarian wants you to know

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In May of 2012 Reader's Digest published an article entitled "50 secrets your vet won't tell you" and in response to the article we decided to compile a list of 50 things that your veterinarian wants you to know.

- 1.** Spaying or neutering your pet can reduce future health problems such as various forms of cancers, urine spraying, marking their territory, infections of the uterus, or roaming.
- 2.** When transitioning between foods do it gradually over a 7 to 10 day time frame. Doing this will allow for your pet's digestive system to become acquainted with the new food. Without transitioning you may notice that your pet starts vomiting, having diarrhea, or not eating the new food as well.
- 3.** Meal feeding your pet can help you maintain a healthy weight which will keep them healthier overall and keep them healthy longer. Meal feeding two meals per day versus free feeding can also cut down on what you are spending on food for your pet. Ask your veterinarian how much you should be feeding your pet if you have any questions.
- 4.** Using monthly preventative products for Heartworm disease and fleas and ticks will be cheaper in the long run versus treating your pet for these problems.
- 5.** Use of a monthly flea and tick preventative such as Frontline, Certifect, or Vectra can help prevent your pet from getting fleas and ticks as well as help prevent tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis.
- 6.** Using the cheaper over-the-counter topical flea and tick treatments can be very dangerous to your pet. They can have severe reactions such as seizures or even death and they may not be as effective against fleas and ticks.
- 7.** Testing your dog for Heartworm disease every year is highly recommended even if you give your pet a monthly heartworm preventative. Testing for tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis is also highly recommended.
- 8.** If your pet would test positive for heartworm disease and you are using Heartgard or Sentinel purchased through a licensed veterinary clinic on a monthly basis, the manufacturer of the product will help with the cost of treating your pet. Manufacturers of generic over-the-counter heartworm preventatives may not cover the cost of treatment.
- 9.** Microchipping your pet will allow for a permanent form of identification that can be checked at any time. Having your pet microchipped can mean that they get back to you faster if they ever would run away or get lost.



- 10.** If your pet would ever run away or gets lost contact the local humane society, rescue groups, veterinary clinics and police departments and make them aware that your pet is missing. Give them a description of your pet and your contact information.
- 11.** If your pet would ever run away or get lost stay positive .
- 12.** Dog parks can be a great way for your dog to socialize and get some exercise however it is best to have your dog up to date on their vaccines including Bordatella (Kennel cough). Also injuries can occur while at the dog park so keep an eye on your dog while there.
- 13.** If your dog seems painful and you cannot get in to see your veterinarian you can give them aspirin. You should give it with food to prevent upset stomach. You should not give Tylenol or Aleve. Only give aspirin. Contact your veterinarian to determine an appropriate dose for your dog.
- 14.** You should not give Tylenol to a cat.
- 15.** If your dog is on a prescribed pain medication you should not give aspirin. If you need to transition from one pain medication to a different one you must have a 48 hours period where your dog is not on either pain medication.
- 16.** Whether it is pain medications for post surgical pain or for chronic pain, pain management is very important. All of our surgery patients receive the highest standards of care when it comes to pain management before, during and after surgery. This will allow your pet to heal faster and remain more comfortable. Managing chronic pain is very easy but we do recommend blood work to monitor organ function while on chronic pain management drugs.
- 17.** We take many precautions when doing surgery, all surgery animals get fluids and antibiotics at the time of surgery and client pets have blood work done prior to any surgery procedure. Older pets or pets undergoing longer surgical procedures have IV catheters placed in a leg vein prior to surgery. We also use anesthetic drugs that are easier for older animals to handle. All of this is done to make your pets anesthesia and surgery as safe as possible.
- 18.** If your veterinarian recommends giving your dog Benadryl or the generic equivalent make sure that the product you are giving them has only diphenhydramine in it. 
- 19.** If you think that your pet consumed any medication that they should not have contact your veterinarian right away so that they can determine the best course of action.
- 20.** If you know that your dog has consumed mouse or rat poison make your dog vomit right away by giving it hydrogen peroxide. Also schedule an appointment with a doctor as soon as possible. It is best to know exactly what product your dog ate. Your doctor may recommend blood work be done.
- 21.** Retractable leashes can be very dangerous; the locking mechanism can break allowing your pet to run to the end of the leash. This can cause neck injuries to your pet as well as injuring you. Also you do not have good control of your pet when they are on a retractable leash. 

- 22.** Your dog or cat cannot have a bath or go in water 24 to 48 hours before or after having their flea and tick preventative product applied because the product uses the oils in the skin to disperse and become effective.
- 23.** 48 hours after applying your pets' flea and tick preventative it is ok for them to go in water.
- 24.** Most animals that are dealing with allergies to food are allergic to the protein source such as the chicken rather than the carbohydrate source such as the corn.
- 25.** When dealing with food allergies feeding a novel protein food such as venison is where we recommend starting.
- 26.** Food trials may take 3 to 4 months to see results.
- 27.** When doing a food trial, your pet cannot have any food other than the novel protein diet. You may give carrots, apples, green beans and potatoes as treats if they will eat them.
- 28.** Another treat option for food allergy dogs and cats is to bake treats out of the canned version of the food trial food. You can also use the dry kibble version of the food as treats as well.
- 29.** As your pet gets older we recommend having base line bloodwork performed. We can refer to these values if your pet ever gets sick or you are noticing any considerable changes in your dog or cat.
- 30.** In the state of Wisconsin rabies vaccines are required for dogs and highly recommended for cats.
- 31.** We try to make the vaccine schedule match up with your pets' lifestyle.
- 32.** Dogs and cats can have allergic reactions to vaccines just as we can. The doctor will adjust the vaccine schedule to reduce the allergic reaction.
- 33.** It is highly recommended to test all new cats and kittens entering your household for Feline Leukemia.
- 34.** If your cat or kitten is Feline Leukemia positive they can still live a fairly normal life; they are just at a higher risk of getting sick and it is very important to have a doctor look at them if they do become sick.
- 35.** Feline Leukemia is transmitted through several different ways. The virus can be transmitted by the saliva of an infected cat coming into contact with the mucous membranes of a non-infected cat. This can occur through grooming or sharing a common food and water dish. Feline Leukemia can also be transmitted through the blood of an infected cat coming into contact with the blood of a non-infected cat. The virus can also be transmitted from mother to the developing kittens during pregnancy.
- 36.** Microchipping your pet with a Homeagain® microchip has added advantages such as being able to contact the ASPCA Poison Control Center without having to pay the consultation fee.
- 37.** If your cat ate mouse or rat poison, contact your veterinarian right away. It is very hard to make a cat vomit at home so your veterinarian will more than likely have you bring your cat into the veterinary clinic as soon as possible.



- 38.** If your dog or cat ingests corrosive items such as batteries, do not make them vomit. Contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.
- 39.** If you suspect that your dog or cat has ingested antifreeze contact your veterinarian immediately.
- 40.** Dairy calves are housed in individual hutches to allow more customized care for each animal.
- 41.** Declawing a cat involves not only removing the nail but the tip of the “finger” as well.
- 42.** At our clinic we preform feline declaw surgeries if it is in the best interest of the owner and pet.
- 43.** Applying a topical flea and tick medication such as Frontline® or Vectra® from last frost to first frost may not be enough since ticks can be active well into November or even December and fleas can be active on wild animals such rabbits year round.
- 44.** Dental disease is the most common health problem in dogs and cats. Oral care are products are available.
- 45.** Oral care products such as Science Diet T/D food helps remove minor accumulations of plaque and tartar on a daily basis.
- 46.** Dental chews such as VeggiDents help reduce plaque and tartar as well as helping to reduce disease causing bacteria in the mouth.
- 47.** Brushing the teeth of your pet is a great idea and to see the best results we highly recommend brushing your pets’ teeth daily.
- 48.** Pets suffering from environmental allergies such as mold, pollens, dust mites and other environmental allergens benefit from frequent bathing. This removes the buildup of allergens from their skin.
- 49.** Chronic pain due to arthritis can be managed by feeding a diet high in certain antioxidants, omega fatty acids and glucosamine such as Science Diet J/D food.
- 50.** Injectable products such as Adequan® or the generic form Ichnon™ are available and are very effective for controlling arthritis pain.



The 50 things listed above are just a few of the things that we feel are important for you to know here at Cedar Grove Veterinary Clinic. If you have any questions about any of the items listed above or any that are not please contact us at (920) 668-6212 or at [info@cgvet.com](mailto:info@cgvet.com). Also if you would like more information on any of the topics discussed above please contact us.