



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2004

CHECK YOUR PETS FOR TICKS

We recently took our schnauzer for a walk on a fairly new trail that is being developed in our area (Perch Creek). We didn't get too far into our walk and had to turn back because the bugs were so bad – no mosquitoes, but flying “things” that looked like small moths that bit. Later that night, we noticed that Ilsa had little burr-like pieces stuck in her coat. She rolled on her back to let us pick these things off and I found what I thought was a scab on her chin. As I was touching the “scab”, it moved!!! It was a tick! This is the first one she has ever had. When I mentioned it to our groomer, she said that the ticks are extremely bad this year, even in people's backyards. She has had another tick in the last week and she hasn't been outside the city this time.

We would advise you to regularly check your animals for fleas and ticks. Ticks come in several varieties – the first one we saw on our dog was black, shiny and about the size of the head of a match. The second one was larger; about the size of a watermelon seed. Other people have found larger brown ticks on their dogs. As these ticks drink your pet's blood, they become engorged and get larger.

We would recommend spraying your pets with an herbal repellent like Sadie's Choice before walking your pet in any wooded or grassy areas to protect against fleas, mosquitoes, ticks, etc.

If you find a tick, it is important to remove it properly. It is advisable to use a tick removal device like the “Tick Twister” (see “Monthly Special”) otherwise the pincers/mouthparts can stay under the skin and allow infectious substances to be released into your pet.

GENTLE TOUCH CAT LITTER

Last month we wrote about the dangers of clumping litter and about a wheat alternative called Swheat Scoop. Many of our customers are switching off of clay clumping litter after reading this article.

We have just brought in another biodegradable natural litter. “Gentle Touch” is made from aspen wood and has a light wood aroma, but not strong like some wood litters. It is dust free, controls odours and can be used for cats, birds, reptiles, rabbits, rats, mice and other small animals. It comes in 8 pound and 23 pound bags.

DIABETES IN ANIMALS

We are hearing about diabetes more frequently in cats and dogs. Why the increase? Just like in humans, feeding processed carbohydrates (white flour, white sugar, white pasta, white rice instead of whole grains) leads to fluctuations in the blood sugar. It may be that the increase in diabetes in animals is occurring due to pet foods that contain grain parts or fractionated grains,

instead of using the whole grain. Some of the poorer quality foods on the market contain sugar in various forms which only add to the issue of blood sugar fluctuation

Innova, Wysong, California Natural, Healthwise and Dr. Harvey's are using high amounts of meat along with whole oats, brown rice, barley, etc.. Other food labels list corn gluten meal, wheat flour, wheat middlings, rice bran, rice gluten, rice flour – all parts of, but not the whole grain. Using the whole grain provides the whole range of phytochemicals (botanical nutrients) that only the entire grain can. Taking a bunch of grain parts and putting them together in a bag does not provide the same nutrients.

Protein (chicken, turkey, fish, lamb, tofu, eggs, etc.), complex carbohydrates (found in whole grains and vegetables) and good quality fats help to keep the blood sugar on an even keel.

PETROTECH ODOUR ELIMINATOR

We are always on the lookout for a good odour killer that does what it promises to do. This product won awards in 2003 from Pet Product News, Dog Fancy and Cat Fancy. This unscented odour eliminator has a patented encapsulation technology that claims to eliminate odours instantly. It comes in a direct spray for odours on carpets, furniture, etc. and a mist spray for use as an air spray. It is safe for pets, people and the environment. It does not use harmful propellants that are harmful to the ozone layer and is made from organic ingredients.

CANADIAN REHAB ANIMAL SERVICES

This company makes various devices for animals including braces, slings for walking, wheel chairs, carts for paralyzed animals, etc. For more information:

Web-site: www.animalrehab.on.ca

E-mail: info@animalrehab.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-678-9291

AUGUST SPECIAL

"Tick Twister"®

The safest and easiest way to remove ticks - large or small

\$5.99 each (regular price \$8.99)

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