



Hello everybody! Here we are into the last month of summer break. Hope everyone had a great summer. They sure go fast! This month we are going to talk about common animal myths. This is the great idea of Bess, one of our veterinary assistants. She not only came up with the idea but she is going to write the main part for me. Thanks Bess!

Common Myths

Spaying or Neutering will make my dog/ cat fat and to have a change their personality



Some owners believe that spaying and neutering can make their dog fat or change their personality. These are both FALSE! One fourth (1/4) of an animal's calorie intake can go towards its reproductive organs, so after a spay or neuter, altering your dog's calorie intake should resolve any extra weight increase. Spaying and neutering will not alter your pet's personality! Males and females will show less of a tendency for bad behavior (running away from home, urinating on things, aggression) the earlier you have them neutered.

Food = love



Over feeding your pet doesn't make them love you more! Your dog doesn't know the difference between a healthy snack (carrots or green beans) versus bacon strips. Extra weight in our furry friends can result in diabetes, hip / joint problems, and heart disease.

We have the power and ability to keep our animals at a healthy weight. If you want to show more love towards your dog or cat consider an interactive toy (cats-laser pointer) or take it for a walk. You will also save money rather than buying food!

Flea/Hw meds



Many owners deny flea or heartworm medicines or tests because they consider their animal indoor and not at risk. This is FALSE! Every time your "indoor" animal goes to the bathroom outside they are at risk. Heartworm is contracted by mosquitoes and the adults grow in chambers in the heart. If the adult heartworms fill the chambers the result is a very expensive treatment or can be death. Fleas can be carried in by HUMANS!

Fleas can be a general irritant, but can also give your animal tapeworms. Also it's cheaper to treat monthly for fleas and heartworm than to treat your home and animal once infected.

Wet nose



A cold, wet nose means the dog is healthy. – This is not entirely true. Yes, a dog's nose is often cool and moist, but this does not necessarily indicate health. It is possible for an ill dog's nose to feel this way, and it is possible for a healthy dog to have a dry, warm nose. More appropriate meters of your pet's health are his appetite, energy level, and overall comfort level. If you are concerned about your dog's temperature, rather than feel his nose, it is best to use a thermometer and take the temperature rectally.

Dog saliva is an antiseptic



A dog's mouth is not cleaner than a human's mouth. Owners tend to believe that a dog licking a wound will cause it to heal on its own, but in fact the wound can become infected. Also, the dog can create an obsessive licking habit that will not allow a wound to heal.

Holding grudges



Some owner's may think that Fluffy or Sparkie can hold grudges. They don't recall last Wednesday when you forgot to walk them, or get angry for leaving them all weekend at home. *The fact is that our animals live in the here and now.* Some animals can have destructive behaviors due to stress or separation anxiety. If you are experiencing any of these behaviors, call or ask us about them at your next appointment.

Adoptions:

I am happy to report that Murray, our little kitten, got adopted before he had the chance to be in the newsletter. Thank you Justin Bates for adopting the little man!

I am also happy to report that our employee, Scott took Sid to live at his farm, yeah! Thanks Scott!



This month we have a beautiful mommy kitty and her 4 babies. Mommy is a beautiful longhaired black kitty who is just begging for attention. We have 3 black medium haired babies (2 female, 1 male) and 1 gray female. They have all been felv/fiv tested, vaccinated and de wormed and ready to go!

Canine Adoption Center:

This month we are going to start something different and have a Canine Adoption Center section that features some of the wonderful pets available at the shelter. They always have great inside/outside cats too, if you are interested in some good mousers for outside or good lap cats for inside. ☺

This month we are featuring one very special dog:

My name is Peek-a-Boo and I'm very happy today! A Dog Warden named Tiny picked me up after a nice lady found me wandering around near her daughter's home. I went to a place that was a bit scary because there were a lot of dogs

and cats in the building and they were nervous just like me. Tiny was very gentle with me and helped me to a kennel where there was a nice dry blanket for me to lay on, even though I couldn't feel it. After a little while a lady came back to visit me. Her name was Dana. She sat down on the concrete floor, stroked my face sweetly and cried. I wasn't sure why she was sad but I think it was because of the way I looked. I could see her mouth moving but I couldn't hear what she was saying because I'm partially deaf. I imagine she was telling me that everything would be all right and that I would be taken care of. She left my kennel and shortly after that a Dog Warden named Dave came and put a leash on me to take me somewhere else. What a day I was having! Our destination was a vet clinic called Hillcrest Veterinary Clinic. Dave slowly and gently unloaded me and took me inside. Upon my entrance every person in the room seemed shocked at my appearance. Immediately those nice folks that worked there took me in a room, and gave me something to go to sleep.

I was happy to get the rest because its been a very long time since I could get comfortable enough to have a good nap. When I woke I felt so different. At first I was cold but not long after I realized my coat had been taken off and I was free!!! It was so easy to walk! I had forgotten how much fun it was to run and play! I don't understand how any human could allow me to get in such a horrible shape. I think I'm a pretty good boy and would be loyal to anyone who was willing to feed me, keep me warm and love me. Other than a few sores on my feet I feel great!

I would like to lick the faces of every human at Hillcrest Veterinary Clinic, they were so nice to me and are always willing to help the Canine Adoption Center whenever they can.

They made me beautiful!

A special, tail wagging thanks to Tiny and Dave for being so gentle and kind during my transports.

I will hug Dana as soon as I remember how to jump. She orchestrated the events that made me feel like a loved dog.

I am residing at the Monongalia County Canine Adoption Center for now until I find my forever home.



Before



After

Upcoming Events:

- It is time for one of the best animal events ever! The annual Animal Friends Splash Bash is scheduled for Sunday August 29th at the Marilla pool. The doors open at 10:00 and the event will go until 4:00. Please no flexi leads or prong collars. Admission is by donation. Bring your pet and enjoy a day of fun in the sun while supporting a good cause.
- Dog agility classes will be starting the week of August 23rd at Mountaineer Kennel Club's training building on Point Marion Rd. MKC offers classes for every skill level and for dogs of all ages. More information can be found online at www.mkclub.org and click on "agility" on the left hand column. Class applications will be available at that site and will need to be in the first week of August. For more class information, contact Dolores Paroda at pparoda@atlanticbb.net or 724-437-0182.
- Dock dogs:

Gotta a water dog...?

Some people own traditional "water dogs", labs and goldens and flat coats and spaniels, to name a few. Some of us own the non-traditional water dogs, terriers, great danes, poodles, border collies. If you happen to be owned by a one of these endearing dogs, then we have the sport for you....Dock Dogs!! You possibly have seen this on TV flipping through the channels one lazy Saturday morning. Hyped up dogs on a long dock with their handler, as they wait anxiously for the toss of the toy out into a pool of water. Then there's the release, the sprint, the jump..... the *splash!*

Dock Dogs is a sport open to purebreds and mixed breeds, young or old, small or big. Love of water is the only thing you need to get started. The 'Big Air' competition is the most participated event that DD offers. The goal of this game is to get your dog to jump as far as it possibly can off the dock. Distance is measured from the end of the dock to where the base of the dog's tail breaks the water. No matter how small or how big your dog jumps, everyone walks away with a smile on his or her face. While dogs do compete against other dogs within their class, most handlers just try to beat their best past jump, even if only by an inch.

Recently, a few of Hillcrest's own staff and friends participated in their first Dock Dog event at Cabelas in Wheeling, WV. Click on the links below to watch some of the girls compete with their dogs:

Shannon & Scamp

This was their first time at an event and they are hooked!! Scamp, age 5, fit right in with all his fellow retrievers and didn't disappoint. With his first jump starting around 10 feet to their personal best of 14'11", Scamp claimed first place within the Junior Division!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uh1VXxeSppk>

Michelle & Otto

For first timers on the dock, Michelle and Otto did wonderful! Otto, still a baby at one year old, had a rock solid sit stay on the dock and made a huge 10'4" jump on his first try!! Otto later went on to add a couple more feet to his distance and ended his day with a 12'6" jump.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_GIBKSW70U

Crystal & Havoc

This little dog is all business out on the dock. Havoc, 3, lives for the water and holds his own with the biggest of dogs out there with a 15'4" personal best that day.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxT5V1bTsss>

Check out our local Dock Dogs club, Three Rivers Dock Dog Club

www.threeriversdockdog.com

Also, there are pond practices in Wexford, PA at Misty Pines Dog Park. Visit

www.mistypinesdogpark.com for a practice schedule

For more information about getting involved in Dock Dogs or any other questions, contact Crystal Mackie at tisal1998@yahoo.com

Employee spotlight:



I have been working at Hillcrest now for 2 years! I worked with only large animals before at the University Farm. I have a bachelors in animal science and a masters in Agriculture Education. I have a few more classes until vet school.

I have a three-year-old chocolate lab. His name is Bear. He's a goofy dog, but loves to do therapy work with the elderly and some agility. If he gets into water...good luck getting him out!

I love our clients! The vets and staff are the best in Morgantown and really care about you and your animals. I think the most important thing for us to communicate is why and how we do what we do in practicing veterinary medicine. We want you to be educated on the best way to take care of your animals!

That is all we have for this month. If you have any questions about any of the pet myths or any of the pet adoptions, please feel free to call us!