

FREEMAN FRITTS



July 2015 Newsletter

515 Spur 100, Kerrville TX 78028
830 - 257- 4144

www.freemanfritts.com

Clinic Hours: Monday thru Friday
7:30 - 12 and 1 - 5:30

Shelter Hours: Monday thru Friday
10 - 11:30 & 1 - 4:30

Notes from our clinic:

When bringing your pets into our office, dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in a carrier.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please call the office to cancel. That will enable us to give that appointment time to someone on our waiting list.

Pet Portrait Raffle Winner



Thanks to all that participated in the Pet Portrait Raffle. We raised nearly \$1,000. Our winner was Sue Hilton, (on right, with Doreen Shann on left), owner of two cats, Jack and Jill. She decided to choose “Jill” to sit for the portrait. “I couldn’t be happier with the portrait,” Hilton said. “Doreen captured Jill exactly as she is.”

The idea for the raffle came from Hunt artist, Doreen Shann. Doreen is a big animal advocate and said, “I can’t always give the money I’d like to donate, but I can certainly offer my services and talent.”

All of us at Freeman-Fritts are thankful that Doreen volunteered her wonderful talents for this fundraiser.

The Animal Welfare Society of Kerr County, Texas is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Organization and relies heavily on donations and support from the local community.

FREE Spay/Neuter Surgeries

Due to the generosity of a kind donor, Freeman-Fritts Vet Clinic has a feline spay/neuter fund available. This fund allows us to offer FREE spay/neuter surgeries (including Rabies Vaccination) for your cat. Call for an appointment 830-257-4144

5 Health Risks Lurking at the Dog Park

Editor's Note: The opening of the new dog park at Louise Hays Park provides an off leash park. It is divided into 2 areas by size of dog. Hours are 7:30 am to 11:00 pm.

Your local dog park can offer a barking, tail-wagging good time and great socialization for your dog. But before you and your pet head out for some off-leash fun, consider some of the health concerns that can crop up in dog parks.

To get a sense of what dog owners should be aware of, we talked to Dr. Kristi Flynn of the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine. Below are some of the top health concerns you should pay attention to.

1. Spread of Infectious Disease

Because so many dogs congregate at dog parks, it's easy to spread illnesses like kennel cough and canine influenza. The vaccine for kennel cough can offer some protection, but "there are multiple organisms and multiple strains of the organisms, so the vaccines are helpful, but they don't cover everything," Dr. Flynn explains.

It's a good idea to bring your own collapsible water bowl because illnesses can be transmitted through shared bowls. Though it's not realistic to think your dog's not going to run off and lap up water from the shared bowl or play with shared toys, it's still an important precaution.

It's also crucial to clean up after your dog. "Intestinal parasites can be transmitted if people aren't really, really diligent about picking up after their dogs," she says. "If a dog inadvertently steps in another dog's poop and then licks his paws later," the dog could catch a parasite that way. But if owners are using heartworm preventive medication most of the time, that will help prevent the spread of some intestinal parasites, like roundworms and hookworms.

2. Threat of Heatstroke

On hot, humid days, watch your dog to make sure she doesn't overdo it. Always have cool water available and try to find a shaded spot where your dog can rest if she needs to.

3. Catching Fleas and Ticks

Dogs playing together can also pass fleas and ticks. Luckily, there are many good products available to help protect your pet from these parasites. Your options include topical oils, an oral

tablet that's given monthly or newer collars that are generally safe and effective, she says. When you're done at the park, do a tick check so your dog doesn't bring any of the disease-spreading bugs home.

4. Special Concerns for Puppies

They have lots of energy to burn and social skills to learn, but you definitely don't want to bring your puppy to the dog park until he's been well vaccinated — and even then, you might decide to hold off.

On the other end of the spectrum, you'll want to think twice about bringing a senior dog or a dog with a health issue to the park, too. For an older dog who's always loved the park, Dr. Flynn suggests going at a quieter, off-peak time. You should also consult your vet to see if your dog is healthy enough to go.



5. Bad Behavior

“It’s really the responsibility of all owners to monitor their dog’s behavior and see if their dog is uncomfortable,” she says. “People, while well-intentioned, don’t recognize that their dog is maybe too exuberant, too pushy. All too often I’ve heard of situations where somebody says that their dog is rough with puppies at the dog park or their dog doesn’t like small dogs, but they

still take them to the dog park. I think if you are an owner of one of those dogs, it’s better to find other places to get the exercise for your dog that she needs, rather than putting other dogs at risk.”

She explains that bad experiences can have lasting effects, making your dog hard to walk on a leash because she’s become scared of or aggressive with other dogs

If you own a small dog, it’s safest to stay in the small dog area, if your park has one. Overall, dog parks can be a wonderful social experience for your dog (and you), as long as you take precautions and stay alert.

“Any time that you’re there, if you feel uncomfortable for any reason, whether it’s that your dog is being a little rough or you feel that another dog is being a little rough with your dog, just head out,” Dr. Flynn says. “Just go ahead and leave, maybe try it another day... rather than risking a bad situation or them learning bad skills.”

This article was excerpted from 5 Health Risks Lurking at the Dog Park at www.vetstreet.com



Cat of the Month

Hello....my name is **Michael**. I'm a social little guy, that loves to play, play, play. I was found as an orphan along with my brother Gabriel. Fortunately, sweet Joan took us under her paw and raised us as one of her own. I can sometimes be a bit clingy, but not in a bad way. I just love people and have been known to follow my human friends around like a puppy dog. If I sound like someone you could spend your life with then by all means, stop by and say Hi.

Photo by SJ Derby

Dog of the Month

Hey all! I'm **Dudley**! I am on the lookout for a calm and quiet home with an experienced family. The perfect home for me would include someone who is calm and patient with me as I overcome my fears. I have scars that speak louder than words and my life hasn't been easy. I like leash walks with the hoomans here and also like to gallivant around in our large play yard. Maybe you'd like to do that too? How about having any other Rovers in your house? I get along well with every furrfriend I meet! I am most timid about new people. I am not sure who I should trust. And I just need someone to show me how to be a dog. My life before here was harsh so I have a hard time showing my feelings and letting just anyone love me. But if someone would give me a chance and let me get to know them I know you and I could be real best friends!



Photo by SJ Derby

Adopted since last newsletter

Cats: Cinder, Sydney, Willie, and Zero

Dogs: Austin, Dolly, and Sheldon

**Spay
and
neuter
saves
lives.**

