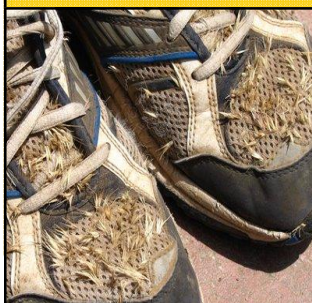


Summertime Foxtails are Dangerous to Pets

- Foxtails are named after foxtail brome, a grass whose seed head is bushy like a fox's tail. The term is used for any of the sharp stickers you might find poking into your socks after walking in a dry summer field.
- Some foxtail problems can be prevented

If your dog has thick woolly hair, foxtails embedded in the coat will burrow through the skin and into the body. By the time you discover the problem, there may be dozens of foxtails that have become difficult or impossible to locate and remove. This can be prevented by careful daily combing or a close whole-body trim. The best time for trimming is just before the fields begin to turn brown and again six or eight weeks later. Even for dogs with short hair, foxtails get started between the toes and burrow into the feet. This is a worse problem for Spaniels or other dogs with webbed toes, but happens with all breeds. Check your dog's feet every day and remove foxtails before they burrow in. If your dog has long hair between his toes, have a groomer trim it out.
- Other foxtail problems cannot be prevented:
 - Nose foxtails
 - Sudden extremely severe sneezing, pawing at the nose, possibly bleeding from the nostril. Symptoms diminish after several hours, becoming intermittent
 - Ear foxtails
 - Tilting and shaking of the head, pawing at the ear, crying, moving stiffly.
 - Eye foxtails
 - Squinting eye suddenly-swelling accompanied by tears and mucous discharge.
 - Throat foxtails
 - Gagging, retching cough, compulsive grass eating, stretching neck and swallowing
- Foxtails in any of these locations must be removed by a veterinarian, and depending on their location, often require anesthesia. Unfortunately, the common foxtail problems listed above aren't the only ones. Foxtails can be inhaled or enter any body opening and travel long distances. They don't show on x-rays and are sometimes impossible to surgically locate and remove. It doesn't seem fair, but your dog will be a lot better off if kept in a kennel or on a leash.
- Take steps to prevent foxtails from harming your dog
 - Get rid of any Foxtails in the yard
 - Watch out for Foxtails in areas that your dog is walked and if found, leave the area and find a more dog friendly place
 - Keep the hair on your dog's feet and between the toes clipped and examine them often
 - Foxtail stickers are carried by the wind, so even if your yard is free of the grass, your dog is still vulnerable
 - Brush your dog and check for Foxtails at the end of each day



Fireworks Phobia in Cats & Dogs

Fireworks can turn holidays such as the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve into miserable nights for dogs and cats. To some extent this fear is genetic, but it's also learned. Some dogs aren't capable of a comfort level with fireworks, but a lot can be done to make this fear less of a problem for any dog or cat. In order to desensitize your pet to fireworks, we need to make them predictable. Ideally would be to buy fireworks and have an assistant detonate them in a legal location while you train your dog. Other options include using recordings of fireworks, simulating loud noises like popping a paper bag or marbles in a tin can, dropping pots and pans on the ground or running a vacuum.

TRAINING

As in dealing with other things that frighten some dogs, your best approach is to work with your dog before you see any signs of fear. Ideally, set up your pet at a distance from the fireworks or other noise maker so the noise will not be loud, (or set the recording on a low level) but so the dog can see that a person is causing the noise. This connection helps many dogs by taking the mystery out of it. Food treats work with greedy dogs, and games that your dog loves may be even more powerful in helping the dog mentally tune out the noise. Games like retrieving or tug-of-war work as powerful antidotes to fear. The more you and your pet train together to make your interactions satisfying and strongly focused, the more powerful these interactions will be in conditioning your pet not to worry about distant noises. Move the interaction between you and your dog a little closer to the fireworks' action a bit at a time. Be careful not to progress quickly enough that the dog will be fearful. Judging the pet's state of mind is a delicate process. If you misjudge and advance too rapidly, go back to a distance where the dog shows no fear. Work at that distance a long time before advancing again. Slower is faster in this type of training. Triggering fear is a major setback, so try very hard not to do so. This training can take months.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO TRAIN

If you don't have the time to train your pet, there are things you can do to try to avoid anxiety and fear of loud noises and fireworks.

- Take the pet for a check-up at least a week before the big day, and then return to the vet for sedatives if the pet is given a clean bill of health
- Do not leave the pet outdoors alone and don't take your pet with you to watch the fireworks
- Do not leave your pet alone in the car
- Keep your pet indoors (in a crate if he/she is already accustomed to spending time in a crate). Leave your pet indoors somewhere where he/she is likely to do the least amount of harm to himself and your house
- Leave the radio or TV on. The noise will help drown out the noise of the fireworks
- Close any curtains or blinds and turn on the lights. The curtains and blinds and indoor lights will make the bright flashes from fireworks less noticeable and help muffle the sounds.
- Make sure all windows and doors are locked or closed tightly
- Make sure your pet has his/her collar and ID tags on.
- Exercise your dog for a longer time than normal to tire him/her out. A tired dog will act just like a sedated dog.
- Use pheromones or aromatherapy scents to help reduce stress. Dog Appeasing Pheromone (DAP) for dogs and Feliway for cats are pheromones that help reduce stress. Some essential oils like lavender or Rescue Remedy can also help.
- Take your dog outside for elimination prior to the fireworks

HOW TO CALM A NERVOUS DOG ON THE SPOT

- Distract your dog with some of his/her favorite things-either a toy or treat that is rarely given
- Interact with your dog in a low-key game of indoor catch
- Give your dog a Kong toy stuffed with goodies
- Try introducing a brand new toy or treat
- Do not sooth your dog too much or "baby" him in times of stress. This will probably only make the problem worse. Instead, be cheerful and in control. Also, don't punish your dog, as this will only make him more anxious and nervous.

With a little forethought, you have a good chance of preventing severe fireworks phobia in your pet. Your pet can learn to look forward to more dog-friendly aspects of the Fourth of July, such as cookouts and family games.

Ask the Vet.....

How to check the safety of Supplements

Question: I buy my dog's glucosamine chewables from a well-known online pet store. But a friend who works in a veterinarian's office warned me that some of these online businesses purchase their supplies from other countries that might not always adhere to our standards. This possibility frightens me, given the China pet food crisis a few years ago. Could she be right and would it be safer to purchase my dog's meds directly from his veterinarian?

Answer: This is an excellent question. First, if an online retailer doesn't get its products directly from the manufacturers, you do not know how it was handled or where it originated. For this reason, you should be sure that you are purchasing from your veterinarian or a veterinarian-recommended pharmacy that sources products directly from the manufacturer. If they don't have a direct relationship with the manufacturer, the product might have been obtained from out of the country.

Examine each label closely to make sure that it states the country of origin and that it is labeled to be sold in the United States. Your veterinarian is the best judge of what products will work best for your pet and which brands are most reliable.

Additionally, you are right to be concerned about the source of your dog's supplement. Because supplements are not controlled by the FDA, there can be significant variability in formulation because there is no federally mandated regulation and testing.

There is a seal that you can look for to help you ensure that the product you are selecting is of the highest quality. The NASC seal means the product has been evaluated by the National Animal Supplement Council and found to contain the active ingredients described on the label in the quantity specified.

Because supplements are not strictly regulated, having an independent accreditation is an easy way to make sure you are giving your pet a reliable supplement. And again, your veterinarian is well versed in what to look for and how to choose which is the best product for your pet.

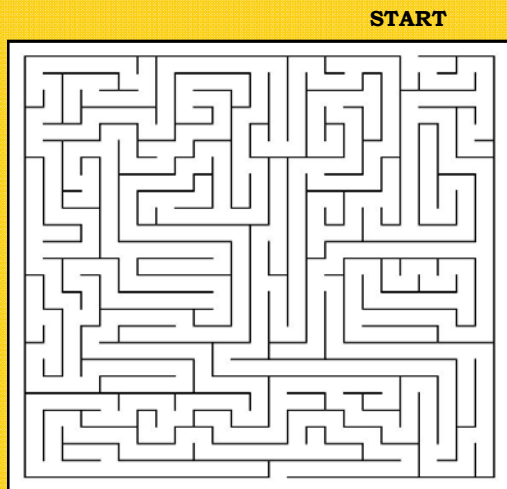
At Campus Veterinary Clinic, we maintain a close relationship with local retail pharmacies and "VetCentric" an online pharmacy. Manufacturers that make products like Frontline and Heartgard will guarantee their products when purchased from VetCentric, but not necessarily other pharmacies. For your convenience, we have an online veterinary pharmacy linked to our practice's website where you can safely order any of your pet's supplements or prescriptions and have them delivered directly to your home. Visit our website at www.campusveterinary.com and click on the "VetStoreRx" button under "Resources" to safely shop for any of your pet's needs.

Kid's Corner:

E	C	A	F	S	Q	Y	U	S	O	E	D	I	V	Y
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Enter unused letters from puzzle, in order:

Copy boxed letters to form your hidden message:



"Cooper" and "Sophie's" owners are having a family picnic in the park for 4th of July. After playing with some other pets, Cooper and Sophie realized they had gotten lost at the park. Can you help them find their way back to their family?



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Office Hours:

Monday Thru Friday

7:20 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday

7:20 am to 3:00 pm

Sunday

Closed