

" If you pick up a starving dog and feed him, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man".....Mark Twain

Hi Everybody!

Have you thought about how much money you spend on your dog...or dogs? I try not to, LOL.

Pets quickly become members of our family. Each new pet adds another mouth to feed, expensive vet bills to pay and lots of products to buy to keep the four-legged family member happy and healthy.

Adding a pet can be a financial challenge, and that's why the website MoneyGeek.com has created a guide to help people determine whether they can afford a pet with their current finances, the typical one-time and yearly costs of owning an animal, how to save money on pet care, and a variety of other resources on finding the perfect pet for a household.

You can see the guide here:

<https://www.moneygeek.com/living/resources/pet-expenses/>

No Classes

We will have no classes on Monday, May 30, Memorial Day

From Pet Health News:

Fleas and ticks have been around for centuries, serving as a source of discomfort and disease. While experts have learned a lot about these pests and new ways to kill them some common myths and misconceptions about still exist in the minds of many pet owners, and they can make your parasite problem worse.

4 Things you thought you knew about fleas and ticks:

Myth: If you can't see 'em, they're gone

Over the past few decades, new generations of chemicals and drugs have become extremely effective at controlling fleas and ticks. Many vet-approved internally or topically administered products (as well as collars) that impair reproduction, inhibit maturation and/or repel and kill these parasites do work. They may work too well, because we've been lulled into a

place where we think, "That'll get 'em!" And indeed it does get many of them. But we tend to forget about the fleas and ticks we can't see or reach, and that's one reason why we sometimes seem to be losing the flea-and-tick wars.

While adult fleas do "live" on the host, their immature stages exist in the environment. In fact, adult fleas living on your pet account for just 5 percent of the total population of fleas in your environment.

Fleas have four stages of development — egg, larva, pupa and adult. Adult fleas feed on pet blood, then mate and the females produce eggs. Larvae emerge from these eggs, eventually developing into pupae. When pupae mature to adult fleas, they jump on the pet and begin to feed — and the cycle starts all over again. (If there is no host handy when fleas hatch, they can go for a good while without feeding. So even if pets and people aren't home for a few days — or longer — an infestation can quickly occur when they return.)

Ticks also have immature stages. After feeding and mating, adult female ticks drop from their host and lay hundreds to thousands of eggs. These eggs develop into tiny larvae, which molt into nymphs. Nymphs then molt into adult ticks.

Eradicating fleas and ticks at every stage isn't easy. Even in households where aggressive parasite control is practiced, fleas can re-establish their hold. Constant hygiene and vigilance is imperative.

Myth: Fleas and ticks are a warm-weather problem

There is a common belief that fleas and ticks are exclusively a seasonal concern: They come out in the warmer weather and die off in the colder seasons. We look forward to those first frosts that seem to send the little pests packing and give us a few months respite before the darn things reappear. Unfortunately, even in cold weather, fleas can survive in many places, including underground in burrows, in sheds and outbuildings, under decks and around foundations — where the temperatures, food supply and overall conditions are sufficient to maintain a population of reproducing fleas. Ticks are also capable of surviving surprisingly cold temperatures.

The reality is these critters possess an incredible ability to survive and when conditions in the environment become more ideal the populations can explode. Cold weather may reduce — but doesn't eliminate — flea and tick infestations.

Myth: Indoor pets don't need protection

While there is no doubt that outdoor pets face much greater exposure, it is important to recognize that fleas can and do infest indoor pets. Where do these fleas come from? For starters, they hitchhike their way into homes on people's clothes, or shoes. Outdoor animals that sleep around houses or find their way into crawl spaces and basements can potentially introduce fleas into your home.

While fleas and ticks certainly find it difficult to survive in extremely cold or hot and dry environments, remember that people don't live outdoors. We air condition, humidify and heat our homes so they are comfortable for us — and are perfect microclimates for fleas. And these indoor fleas are just as hungry as the ones in the yard.

Myth: Fleas and ticks are only a problem for pets

Fleas and ticks can make both us and our pet miserable — not to mention downright sick. Fleas can transmit bartonellosis (also called cat scratch disease) to people and can serve as an intermediate host for tapeworms. Ticks can also transmit a number of diseases, including Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. So flea and tick control isn't just important for your pet's health, it's important for yours.

What can we do?

There are some steps to can take to minimize the population of fleas and ticks:

- If you think there may be fleas in your home, or if you're concerned about fleas or ticks on your pet, talk to your veterinarian. He can recommend safe, effective products for your pets. In some cases, your vet may recommend a professional exterminator for your home.
- Practice year-round flea-and-tick-control by using a product recommended by your veterinarian on every pet. This means using the product in January as well as in June and treating all cats and dogs in your family, regardless of where they spend their days.
- Remove brush debris from around your home. These areas present opportunities for small flea- and tick-carrying animals to nest and provide a source of exposure for dogs and cats.
- Get rid of that old upholstered furniture on the porch or in the garage where your dog or cat loves to hang out. These are perfect flea nests and, unless you get rid of them, they'll contribute to ongoing infestations.

- Close off crawl spaces and screen over vents under the house and leading into attics that can serve as runways for small mammals that carry fleas and ticks in with them.

Controlling fleas and ticks is doable. By arming yourself with information, discussing appropriate products with your veterinarian and taking steps to control environmental and wild life factors, you can win the flea-and-tick fight!

Over the Rainbow Bridge

Another great agility dog has crossed the Bridge. Penny Rowley lost her Belgian Tervuren Delta this past month. Delta was an agility champion which was a delight to watch as she floated around the ring. All dogs are special and their loss leave a void in our lives, but the teamwork and camaraderie that we achieve with our performance dogs leave an even greater emptiness.

The passing

author unknown

"We have a secret, you and I
that no one else shall know,
for who but I, can see you lie
each night in fire glow?
And who but I, can reach my hand
before we go to bed
and feel the living warmth of you
and touch your silken head?
And only I walk woodland paths
and see ahead of me,
your beautiful form racing with the wind

so young again, and free.
And only I can see your face
In every place I pass
and when I call, no one but I
can see the bending grass."

Congratulations to Our Latest Graduates:

Super Star Puppy:

Penny Rowley & Star (Belgian Tervuren)
Richard & Pamela Weir with Dexter (Boxer Mix)
Riley Guy & Roxy (Bernese Mountain Dog)
Lana Runjaic & Dexter (Hound Mix)
Erica Cave & Ruger (Doberman)
Susan Cameron & Toby (Australian Shepherd)
Brenda Leshner & Nero (American Bulldog)
Joe & Sandra Doyle with Shadow (Schnoodle)
Pat & Greg Bencivenga with Patches (Catahoula)
Anita Shwarts & Dash (Belgian Malinois)

Basic Agility:

Dorothy Shettle & Bosch (Beagle)
Sandra Stevens & Mai Tai (Pomeranian)
Pamela Peurrung & Fergie (Aussie Doodle)
Virginia Keith & Daisy (Golden Doodle)
Lance Miley & Gjuno (German Shepherd)

Basic Obedience:

Heather Jacobus and Posey (Boxer)
Deborah Gage & Halsey (Labrador)

Dog Class Schedule

Monday:

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting July 18, 2016)
7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (Next class starting in July 25, 2016)
8:00 to 9:00 PM - Intermediate Agility

Tuesday:

9:00 to 10:00 AM - Advanced Agility
6:00 to 7:00 PM - Weaving Proficiency
10:00 to 11:00 AM - Intermediate Agility
7:00 to 8:00 PM - Distance Class

Wednesday:

10:30 AM - Advanced Rally
6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (New class starting June 1, 2016)
7:00 to 8:00 PM - Intermediate / Advanced Agility

Thursday:

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Obedience (Next class starting July 28, 2016)
8:00 to 9:00 PM - Rally Obedience

Friday:

9:00 to 10:00 AM - Advanced Agility
10:00 to 11:00 AM - Intermediate Agility

...and now, time for a paws...

Ileana