

SHAMROCK DIGEST

November/December 2009

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

We are rapidly approaching that time of year. You know. Christmas.

For many people, it is a struggle to find the perfect gift for friends or family that have everything that they need. Can we make a few suggestions?

A donation in a persons name to a favorite organization is always appreciated. Try to match the organization to the individuals interests or hobbies. If it is important to you that donated money remains in our community, or that it is used for a specific purpose, remember to specify at the time of your donation.

Some locally active animal related charities include:

SPCA

Kitty Kat PALS

Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society

Canadian Animal Assistant Team

CV Therapeutic Riding Association

VI Marmot Recovery Foundation

North Island Reptile Rescue

Hornby Island Cat Society

Pacific Assistant Dog Society

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

This is just a short list - there are of course many other (non-animal?) organizations that might appeal to you.

Another option is to donate through a charity to help others globally. Donations can be made to purchase bicycles, cooking stoves or wells, you can help to fund schools or medical clinics. There are many groups and initiatives, but we caution against 'giving' animals – they often require more food, water and care than an impoverished area can sustain.

CHANGES

Changes are happening again at Shamrock – nothing in life is constant! After almost three years, we are saying goodbye to Barb, our office manager. Although we are sad to see her go, we are also very happy that she has decided to move into full retirement. Barb has made several of our behind the scenes jobs easier and has taken on numerous clerical duties that previously took Dr.'s Joan and Saskia away from veterinary medicine. Good Luck Barb! We will miss you.



The office manager position has been filled internally. In January, Pam will move from our front desk to the office desk. In addition to her work as a receptionist for Shamrock, Pam has previous experience with managing a small business.

This of course has left a position open at our reception desk. But wait! Brenda has returned from her Australian adventure and has agreed to rejoin us in a part time position. This is great news – Brenda will be a familiar face to many, and already has a basic knowledge of our client's expectations.

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SASKIA'S LEAVE

Dr. Saskia will be taking a 6 month leave of absence from the veterinary clinic starting in January. Don't worry, she will be back mid June. The great news is that we have been able to cover Dr. Saskia's hours with the help of our own Dr. Zita Doeschner. Dr. Zita has been with us for over three years and is looking forward to more time with our patients.

SEASONAL REMINDERS

- Ensure outdoor pets have access to fresh, unfrozen water.
- Continue flea control treatments. Our West coast weather is not cold or dry enough to kill fleas in the winter. The few fleas that you don't see now can turn into an infestation later in the year.
- Pets do not make good Christmas gifts. Give the 'gear' such as collars, cages or bowls under the tree and wait until after the excitement of Christmas and New Years to bring home the new family member.
- Make sure that the gifts under the tree don't contain chocolate. Dogs especially will sniff it out and can eat enough to make themselves very sick.
- Keep poinsettias out of reach of both pets and toddlers. If chewed, this plant can cause stomach upset.
- Tinsel should also be avoided if there are pets in the house. Tinsel, like dental floss and string, can cause intestinal blockage or damage.
- High fat treats such as gravy or trimmings contain enough fat to cause pancreatitis - a painful and serious condition that often leads to hospitalization.

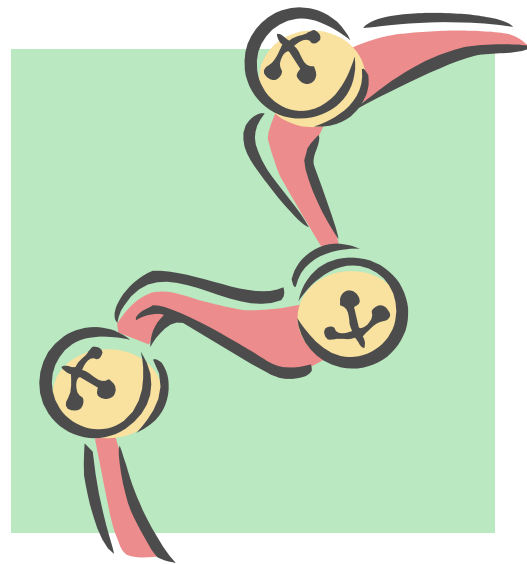
Keep your companions safe. Christmas is a bad time to have a medical emergency - both emotionally and financially!

CHRISTMAS HOURS

We will be closing at noon on both Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) and New Year's Eve (Dec. 31). We will be closed on December 25, 26 or 27. We will also be closed on January 1, 2 or 3.

In case of emergency, help is available by calling 250-339-2026. A veterinarian on call will be paged and will call you.

Please also be aware that we will be closing at 2pm on Saturday, Dec. 12.



TREATS

Keep treats to a minimum this time of year. This is good advice for us and our companions!

We want to treat our companions to tasty tidbits and extra snackies, especially as we indulge ourselves with baking, chocolate and finger foods.

Many animals experience stress from the excitement, visitors and other changes within the household during the Christmas season. Those extra goodies might just result in an upset tummy and a nasty mess for you to clean up later!

If you must indulge your pet, give small amounts of low fat treats.