

Fall 2008

scottsdale *Pets*

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY ANIMAL MEDICAL & SURGICAL CENTER, NORTH SCOTTSDALE

beware!

**Many Common
Household Items
are a Danger to Pets**

**innovative
pet care**

New Technique for Ruptured ACLs

meet valley dogs

A Rescue Organization's Labor of Love

household hazards



Keeping Your Pets Safe

Pets, like children, get into things. So when it comes to safeguarding them from poisonous substances, prevention is the key. Pet proofing your home is similar to child proofing, however, due to animals' agility, there are some differences. Pet owners are advised to make sure all medications are in childproof containers. Keep them in a closed medicine cabinet or the refrigerator – not on a table or counter. Medications that can be lethal for pets include muscle relaxants, painkillers, cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, antidepressants, vitamins and diet pills. Also, anything that's coated with sugar, such as headache medication, can entice a pet because it makes the drug taste good.

Certain foods and all alcoholic beverages are also dangerous.

Avoid feeding or accidental ingestion of chocolate, coffee, raisins, grapes, garlic, yeast dough, avocado, onions, macadamia nuts and salt. Be careful that any moldy or spoiled foods you may have discarded in the trash are not accessible to any pets that like to "dumpster dive."

Ordinary household items can be culprits as well, such as household cleaners, citronella candles, fabric softener sheets, mothballs and fertilizers. Car products, especially antifreeze, can be lethal when ingested. Many household plants and plant bulbs are poisonous and should be kept out of your pet's reach. See a list of poisonous plants to the right.

With the upcoming holiday season, take extra care that your pets aren't able to ingest

dangerous holiday items such as ribbons, tinsel, batteries, glass ornaments, electrical cords and the water sitting in Christmas tree stands. Besides the poisoning hazard, some of those items can become lodged in the intestines and cause serious and painful repercussions.

If a pet ingests a potentially harmful substance, rapidly respond but don't panic. Safely collect all the material involved – medicine or product containers and even any material your pet may have vomited or chewed (to be placed in a sealed plastic bag). Try to determine when the substance was ingested and note the pet's symptoms. Even if poisoned, animals may appear normal for hours, sometimes days, after the incident.

If poisoning is suspected, call AMSC immediately. In preparation for transport to the hospital, be sure to have a muzzle, if necessary, and a pet carrier for transport.

Poisonous Plants

Take care to keep pets away from the following plant varieties which are downright dangerous to pets. Depending on the plant itself, these poisonous plants can cause kidney damage, seizures, coma, cardiovascular collapse, liver failure and even death.

- Amaryllis
- Autumn Crocus
- Azalea/Rhododendron
- Castor Bean
- Chrysanthemum
- Cyclamen
- English Ivy
- Kalanchoe
- Lilies
- Oleander
- Peace Lily
- Pothos
- Sago Palm
- Schefflera
- Tulip/Narcissus bulbs
- Yew



Valley Dogs

Love, as the infamous saying goes, is blind. For Valley Dogs, an Arizona rescue group, this is demonstrated by its commitment to be non-discriminatory. "We are one of the few groups," says Michael West, one of Valley Dogs' managers, "that do not refuse certain breeds." The organization, which is in the process of becoming a certified non-profit, even accepts dogs considered "selective" in dealing with humans and other dogs. "We've had several success stories in placing dogs that would otherwise be turned away," says West. Recently, a whole family of dogs was dumped and abandoned in the desert, and West wound up fostering the male he named Duke.

Although Duke was very aggressive toward most people, he bonded with a man in a wheelchair and soon became his new service dog. Another success story is of a female dog that after being hit by a car and becoming paralyzed, was placed in an older couple's home. "The dog received special rehab, her own wheelchair, and we found her a loving home," says West.

Although Valley Dogs does not have the funds for a kennel, several vets, including AMSC, provide health care at a fraction of the cost. Valley Dogs also relies on food donations. "We basically live hand-to-mouth," says West. "No one is on a payroll." Valley Dogs holds adoptions at PetSmart every Saturday in Chandler and Queen Creek. All dogs are fostered until a permanent home – "the right home" – is found. Applicants are required to foster the dog before a permanent adoption is

allowed. "We do this to make sure the animal fits well in its new environment," says West. Valley Dogs makes at-home visits to meet all those who live in the home, including other pets, and will not place a dog if a home visit cannot be made. "We are very thorough when it comes to placement," West explains, "and offer assessment, training, even swapping out dogs if the situation calls for it."

In Maricopa County, the number of abandoned and unwanted dogs is growing exponentially. However, Valley Dogs "continues its due diligence" – pulling them off the streets and euthanasia lists, and even looking for lost dogs to take in.

The process to adopt begins with an application and fostering. If all goes well, the dog is then spayed or neutered and receives shots and an identifying microchip. The cost for most dogs is \$200, \$400 for pure breeds, and \$250 for puppies. If a puppy receives training, \$50 is refunded to the adopter.

Perhaps the biggest challenge for Valley Dogs is the number of people wanting to turn in a dog. "They don't want to take them to the pound," says West, "but since we don't have a kennel or enough fosters for all these animals, we are unable to take many." Fortunately, the organization does offer a website posting program that helps to facilitate re-homing a dog.

For more information or to help with fostering, visit www.valleydogs.org or e-mail Michael West at mwest@valleydogs.org.

INNOVATIVE PET CARE

New "TightRope" Procedure For Ruptured Cruciate



The newest procedure for repairing a ruptured CCL by ligament replacement is the TightRope Ligament technique. This procedure has been developed by James L. Cook, DVM, PhD, and Diplomat of the College of Veterinary Surgeons. This procedure has been proven in over 200 knees and has been shown to be highly effective.

The TightRope CCL technique is minimally invasive, and more cost effective in comparison to the TPLO or TTA. The data suggests that

the TightRope procedure can be successfully performed in medium, large and giant breed dogs resulting in outcomes which are comparable or better than TPLO or TTA. A MiniTightRope is also available for toy and small breeds.

The TightRope CCL counteracts the forward tibial thrust and inward rotation resulting from CCL damage, while providing optimal joint range of motion.

This procedure mimics the natural cruciate ligament functions; perhaps better than any other procedure developed to date.

Dr. Pullen is one of the few surgeons in Arizona that has been certified to perform the TightRope Ligament replacement procedure.

This procedure provides our clients another option when a less invasive, less radical and somewhat more cost effective procedure that does not cut bone is desired by the pet owner.

Varying conditions in each patient and the activity and size of the patient will determine whether Dr. Pullen will recommend a TTA or the TightRope procedure for your pet. Both procedures are highly effective and both have their advantages.

Above left is an illustration showing the TightRope Ligament replacement procedure for ruptured or partially torn cranial cruciate ligaments.



To compare the TightRope Surgery to the Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA) visit our website at www.animalmedicalandsurgical.com and click on the ACL link on the right.



Client Spotlight

Sylvia Wright

Sylvia Wright knew from the time she was four years old that she was crazy about cats. Raised on a farm with all varieties of animals, she remembers clearly being captivated by the barn cats. Sylvia says, "Cats are so easy, independent, and have a sense of being. But they are also affectionate." During her life she has had the pleasure of owning about 50 felines, and a special retired racing greyhound named Deacon.

For eight years Sylvia has been a devoted fan of AMSC and the care her pets have received. "Over the years the entire veterinary staff has been extremely attentive and sensitive to both my needs and those of my pets, and for this I am eternally grateful."

AMSC sincerely appreciates Sylvia and her special family: Getty, Merrie, Rocky, Saks, Soda, Tiffany and, of course, Deacon!

Meet Our Team

Sheila Martin, DVM

Originally from New York, Dr. Sheila Martin graduated from the Manhattan School of Music in 1975 and the University of Chicago in 1979. For the next ten years she traveled in South America, volunteered in the Galapagos Islands, and then Dr. Martin pursued her dream of becoming a veterinarian. She graduated from Ross University of Veterinary Medicine in 1989.

San Francisco became Dr. Martin's home for the next 15 years while she practiced medicine and was commissioner of Animal Control and Welfare. When her husband retired they made the decision to move to the Valley of the Sun. Dr. Martin joined Animal Medical & Surgical Center in 2006. Always projecting enthusiasm and energy, she feels it is an "honor to be a team member of the Hospital of the Year." A colleague of Dr. Martin's from San Francisco has chosen AMSC to do the first human-to-animal clinical study to determine the effect of adult bone marrow stem cells for osteoarthritis in dogs. Dr. Martin will coordinate the study which will begin in November 2008. Please contact her if you would like to participate with your dog in this study.

Dr. Martin enjoys practicing internal and preventative medicine, and endocrinology. She works each Saturday and Sunday and loves the fast pace of caring for patients on the weekends. She also enjoys hiking and showing her Rottweiler, Jaden, in agility and her Australian Shepherd puppy, Russell Crow, in both obedience and the agility ring.

Please come into AMSC and meet Dr. Martin!



Dr. Sheila Martin

events & gatherings:

Frank Kush Family and Dog Fun Run/Walk

Tempe Town Lake, Oct. 18th. 480.921.9341 or www.frankkush.org

Not only is exercise important for you, but for your pets as well. In addition to the 5K run and walk, let your pooch join you in the 1-mile dog walk or take in the many other events held throughout the day such as Jazzercise and martial arts demos. All proceeds go to the Frank Kush Youth Foundation.

Portrait with Your Pet Charity Event

Animal Medical & Surgical Center, Nov. 8th - 9th. 602.885.3028 or twosaba@spiritualwhimsy.com. Pre-registration necessary.

AMSC is hosting this photography event with a portion of all proceeds going to Phoenix Children's Hospital Animal-Assisted Therapy program. Purchase custom holiday cards, photo portraits, Spiritual Whimsy tees and enter to win a free two-night stay at AMSC's luxury boarding facility.

Hero Awards

JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa, Nov. 18th. 602.840.2843 or www.azfaccs.org

This fundraising gala features dinner, silent and live auctions and a presentation honoring local animal heroes. The winners are judged for their heroic efforts in acting to save or protect the life of a person or for performing services within the community. This event benefits Friends of Animal Care & Control.

Phoenix Feline Fancier's All Breed Cat Show

Phoenix Convention Center, Dec. 27th - 28th. www.phxfeline.com

With over 200 pedigreed cats and kittens traveling to Phoenix to compete, this is the perfect event for all cat lovers. There are eight separate judging rings and even special classes for Household Pet cats. Vendors will also be at the event with unique products for you and your furry felines.



About Us

scottsdale's premier pet care facility

For more than four decades, Charles M. Pullen, DVM, MS has built his veterinary practice on enduring client relationships, gentle patient care and a commitment to excellence.

In December 2006, a life-long dream became reality when he opened his visionary state-of-the-art facility, Animal Medical & Surgical Center (AMSC) in North Scottsdale. The Center includes a surgical suite and intensive care unit equipped with the latest technology, as well as a self-contained isolation ward. Here, your pet can receive the most advanced surgeries, including orthopedic, thoracic, cardiovascular, spinal, reconstructive and general soft tissue.

AMSC is a member of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). Approximately 14% of the veterinary hospitals in the United States and Canada are members of this elite association. AAHA accredited hospitals adhere to the highest-quality standards available.

The Center is open seven days a week. A veterinary nurse is on duty each night with a doctor always on call. A variety of services are available, including:

- combined 99 years of veterinary service
- primary, preventive and critical care
- spays, neuters and dentistry
- in-depth internal medicine
- digital radiology
- advanced surgeries
- referral surgeries
- luxury canine and feline boarding
- professional grooming

Canine boarding guests even have access to a deluxe indoor exercise park, complete with artificial turf!

You are welcome to tour the facility, meet our staff and enjoy AMSC hospitality for all two- and four-legged members of your family.

NEWS FLASH!

AMSC is excited to introduce two new pet insurance plans that are endorsed by the American Animal Hospital Association. These plans offer great options, more coverage, higher payouts and premiums that do not increase as your pet ages.

Watch for additional information under news/events on our website:

www.animalmedicalandsurgical.com.



**Animal Medical
& Surgical Center**
NORTH SCOTTSDALE

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