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Welcome Waggin' Pet Sitting Summer 2008 News

Greetings!

Hello to all of our clients, both old and new! Warm summer days have found us busier than ever with summer vacation visits. We do still have some availability in August, so be sure to let us know if you are planning a trip out of town. We always answer e-mails within 24 hrs, so if you do not get a response back from us check your e-mail SPAM filter or please give us a call so we can get your visits booked.

Best regards,
John and Janelle

Alexandria Freecycle

Alexandria Virginia [Freecycle group](#) reduces waste in our city and nearby areas. Instead of just throwing away an unwanted or unused item consider Freecycle. You post your item as an OFFER and people who are in need of your item respond and arrange for pickup at your home or office. We've posted many items with great success. A dog crate that was too small, an unused cat bed, unopened raw hide bones our dogs can't eat. All items that some lucky pet and owner were thrilled to receive. Besides the good feeling you get from helping others, you also help the planet. On average, every American generates about 4.4 pounds of waste every day-that's nearly one ton every year! In case you're wondering what sort of impact your habits have on the environment check this out: [The Personal Environmental Impact Calculator](#).



What is Canine Leptospirosis?

We recently had our dogs Jake and Chance in for a routine vet visit. I was surprised and concerned to learn of the prevalence in this area of Leptospirosis, a deadly bacterial disease spread by wildlife and sometimes even other domestic animals. In fact, I learned that the number of canine leptospirosis cases has risen in recent years and is the #1 cause of renal failure in dogs. Leptospirosis is transmitted between animals through contact with infected urine and even contaminated water sources. Stagnant or slow moving water provides a suitable habitat for Leptospira. I'm told that if your dog drinks or swims in ponds or drinks from puddles he could be at risk. Other risk factors include coming into contact with fresh urine of infected animals like skunks, possums or raccoons which could possibly bring the disease into your own backyard.

Symptoms include shivering, and muscle tenderness, then vomiting and dehydration may occur. It's important to act quickly and get your pet medical attention before kidney or liver failure has a chance to develop. A positive diagnosis can be made by testing your animal's blood.

My vet recommended getting our dogs vaccinated with a new annual lepto vaccine. We didn't end up doing it at that visit, because I wanted to do a bit of further research, but plan to in the near future. I was told that in a small number of dogs, an allergic reaction can occur. We decided to wait and have the vaccination done when we can observe them all day afterwards. As always, you should evaluate your own dogs health and situation and discuss your options with your own vet. For more information visit www.peteducation.com.

Does Your Cat Drink Enough Water?

All cats' diets need to include fresh water, no matter what they eat.

Q: Our cat prefers drinking a few sips from the dog's water bowl. I never see her drink from her own and I'm concerned that she does not drink enough water. It seems like she gets plenty of water from her wet food diet. Do I need to worry about her water intake?



A. It's important to have fresh water for your cat available at all times. Increasing the amount of water cats drink on a daily basis helps avoid many types of kidney and bladder problems. Some cats prefer an added tablespoon of water to their wet food bowl. Others like to drink running water, and often people will purchase a fountain for cats that provides fresh running water. It's important to keep a close eye on the amount that your cat drinks. Any significant and sudden change in your cats water intake may signify that something is wrong.

What's Happening?

Here are some interesting summer events for pets and the people that love them!

· **4th Annual Doga in the Park** (Yoga with your four legged friend, hosted by *Tranquil Space* Yoga) Bring your yoga mat and your canine yogi (bring your own, borrow one, or come alone) for an afternoon of yoga in the park. The Washington Humane Society is teaming with the Tranquil Space studio to bring an afternoon of fun, focused around your four-legged friend. Treats will be provided to humans AND canines. \$5 donation requested for WHS. Saturday, July 19 at Rose Park (P Street NW between 26th Street and Rock Creek Parkway).

· **GRREAT Canine Cruise, July 17, Old Town Alexandria**
Did you have a hard day at work and just want to relax and enjoy a sunset with your four legged best friend? Join us in setting sail on the Potomac River for our first [GRREAT Canine Cruise](#). All dogs must be on a 6-foot (or shorter) flat leash (**NO** retractable leashes) Cost is \$15 per person. The boat is covered and will set sail rain or shine. Come out and have a GRREAT time! For more information e-mail events@great.org.



Our Sneaky Cat Savannah

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Tips and Advice on Your Pet's Behavior



Visit the section of our Web site dedicated to helping you solve your pet's behavior issues. We hope you find something useful you can use right away!

[Click here](#) to go there now.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

· Red Cross Pet First Aid, July 26, 9AM-1PM

Using a video, lecture, discussion, and practice, Red Cross Pet First Aid covers topics such as normal pet conditions (e.g. breathing, pulse rates, and temperature), CPR, rescue breathing, choking, controlling bleeding, capturing and restraining a sick or injured pet, and a variety of illnesses and injuries. Hosted by The Leesburg Canine Country Club, Leesburg, VA. The cost is \$60 and reservations are required. Visit their [web page](#) for more information. Click on "events" from the left side menu.

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