



The Rest of the Tail

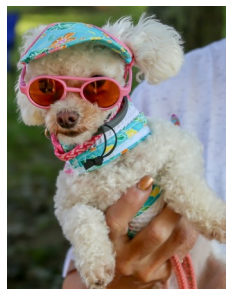
Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital
www.lakechatugeanimalhospital.com

IT'S HERE AT LAST → → → → PET CELEBRATION 2019

Ahh, Fall! Cooler weather, back-to-school sales, Punkin' Chunkin', and Pet Celebration! Come join in the fun at the 8th annual Pet Celebration on the Historic Hayesville Square Saturday, September 21st from 8:00 am—2:00 pm.

This year's Celebration is going to be bigger and better than ever. Have your picture taken with your best friends by a professional photographer. Better yet, dress both of you up for the costume contest THEN have your picture taken! Don't have a best friend yet? No problem!! Several adorable pets will be there looking for a forever home. There will be games, demonstrations, and a low-cost pet vaccination clinic from 8:00 am—12:00 pm. Bid on fabulous prizes like Metal sculptures by Jason Rickett and gift certificates for The Copper Door for the live and silent auctions. You don't want to miss the best part of the day—the wiener dog race will be at 1:45-2:00pm. Even if you don't have a pet (yet!) please join us and visit our vendor booths, have some lunch, and generally enjoy yourself at this celebration of the bond between pets and their people. As always, all proceeds from the auctions go to participating Humane Societies and rescue groups.

For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Mitzi Shepherd at mysilenceroze@gmail.com, the Clay County Chamber of Commerce (828-389-3704 or 877-389-3704), or Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital (706-896-1244). If you can't make the Celebration but would like to make a donation to help animals in need, please visit our GoFundMe page at: <https://www.gofundme.com/8th-annual-pet-celebration>



From PC 2018

Fall 2019

Our Staff:

Veterinarians: Drs. Burr, Marshall, Seanor,

Hospital Manager: Linda

Admin Asst: Judi

Vet Tech Team Leader: Justin

Veterinary Assistants: Trey, Nikki, Jennifer, Ella, Micaela, Amber, Dillon,

CSR Team Leader: Beth

Customer Service Rep: Emily, Betsy, Melinda

It's a Sign of the Times

Lake Chatuge now offers convenient online appointment scheduling right from your smart phone, tablet, or computer. Simply go to our website:

www.lakechatugeanimalhospital.com, click on the **Schedule an Appointment** button, and choose the most convenient date and time for you. You can select a specific doctor, order medication refills, leave us a message, and other handy time-saving features 24/7. Of course you can still call during regular business hours and speak to one of our friendly customer service representatives if you prefer to talk to a live person. Thank you for the trust you place in us to care for your four-legged family.

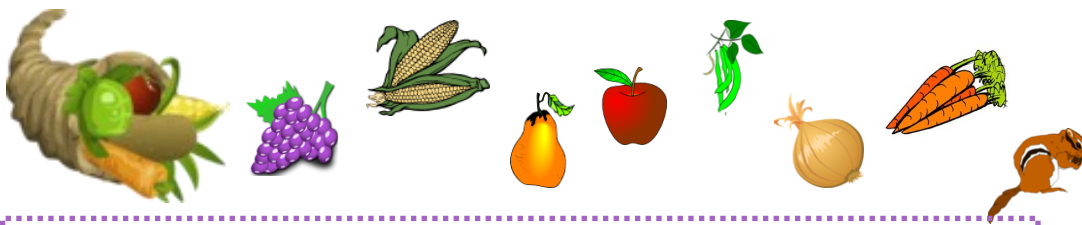


MATS ON CATS

While species- and breed-appropriate grooming is an important component of keeping your pet healthy, it should be done by people specifically trained to do it properly, just as your barber is trained to cut your hair. Back in July we sent a letter to our grooming clients letting them know we now only do basic shave cuts for patients who require sedation to safely groom them.

Long-haired cats with mats are the exception. Long-haired cats, especially if they are obese, often get mats in their fur. The temptation for owners is to use a pair of common house scissors to cut the mat off close to the body. It's very common for the hair to fold into the bend of the shears instead of cutting cleanly and/or the cat wiggles as the cut is being made. Cats have extremely thin skin so we end up having to do stitches.

If you choose to remove the mats yourself, please use electric clippers for your kitty's safety, or let a professional groomer do it for you.



What is Leptospirosis And why you should care

Leptospirosis is a contagious disease caused by bacteria spread by contact with infected urine, urine-contaminated soil, water, food or bedding; through a bite from an infected animal; by eating infected tissues or carcasses; and for dogs, rarely, through breeding. It can also be passed through the placenta from the mother dog to the puppies. It's a zoonotic disease, which means it can be spread from animals to people, and the state of Georgia now requires us to report all cases to the health department. Infection in people can cause flu-like symptoms and can cause liver or kidney disease.

Dogs are most commonly affected. Leptospirosis in cats is rare and appears to be mild although very little is known about the disease in this species. Common risk factors for leptospirosis in dogs include exposure to or drinking from rivers, lakes or streams; roaming on rural properties (because of exposure to potentially infected wildlife, farm animals, or water sources); exposure to wild animal or farm animal species, even if in the backyard; and contact with rodents or other dogs.

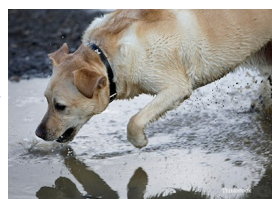
Signs of leptospirosis may include fever, shivering, muscle tenderness, reluctance to move, increased thirst, changes in the frequency or amount of urination, dehydration, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and mucous membranes), or painful inflammation within the eyes. The disease can cause kidney failure with or without liver failure. Dogs may occasionally develop severe lung disease and have difficulty breathing. Leptospirosis can cause bleeding disorders, which can lead to blood-tinged vomit, urine, stool or saliva; nosebleeds; and pinpoint red spots (which may be visible on the gums and other mucous membranes or on light-colored skin). Affected dogs can also develop swollen legs (from fluid accumulation) or accumulate excess fluid in their chest or abdomen.

Because the clinical signs vary dog to dog and can easily be confused with other diseases definitive diagnosis can be difficult. Your veterinarian may recommend blood and urine tests, x-rays, and/or an ultrasound. The two tests used to identify leptospirosis in the bloodstream are the DNA-PCR test which looks for genetic material from the bacteria and the MAT (microscopic agglutination test) looking for antibodies your pet is producing to fight the disease. Leptospirosis is generally treated with antibiotics and supportive care. When treated early and aggressively, the chances for recovery are good but there is still a risk of permanent residual kidney or liver damage.

Currently available vaccines effectively prevent leptospirosis and protect dogs for at least 12 months. Annual vaccination is recommended for at-risk dogs. Reducing your dog's exposure to possible sources of the *Leptospira* bacteria can reduce its chances of infection.

Although an infected pet dog presents a low risk of infection for you and your family, there is still some risk. If your dog has been diagnosed with leptospirosis, take the following precautions to protect yourself:

- Administer antibiotics as prescribed by your veterinarian;
- Avoid contact with your dog's urine;
- If your dog urinates in your home, quickly clean the area with a household disinfectant and wear gloves to avoid skin contact with the urine; leptospirosis is readily killed by household disinfectants or a dilute bleach solution
- Encourage your dog to urinate away from standing water or areas where people or other animals will have access;
- Wash your hands after handling your pet.



Pet Health Network—Idexx

ANIMAL HEALTH FORUM

program on FM 95.1
Young Harris, GA
Saturday 10:30 am
Sunday 10:30 am , 1:30 pm

pawplans
PET ANNUAL WELLNESS

Making pet health care affordable!

- Save money on exam fees, vaccinations, diagnostics, and more when you enroll.
- low monthly payments
- preventative health care services included

Sign up for an affordable
Preventive Care Plan!

Contact us at 706-896-1244
for more information

Have you heard of

Scratchpay?



Scratchpay provides pet parents with simple, friendly payment plans. You get care now, pay later. Here's how it works:

- Apply for payment plan from your phone or desktop
- Check your rate and pick your plan
- Get the care you need.

It's a simpler way to pay. Ask us for details or go to www.scratchpay.com

Other discount payments options available for assisting you in providing necessary medical care for your pet(s) include Affordable Pet Care payment program and Care Credit, a pay over time offering. Please call LCAH for more details.



CareCredit
Making care possible...today.



FAT or FLUFFY.....BE HONEST

One of the most common and awkward conversations veterinarians have to handle is trying to tactfully tell a client their fur baby is obese. Between 30-50% of American pets weigh more than 20% over their ideal body weight. Just as with people, this can be caused by a variety of issues and can be a lot more complex to treat than just cutting back on the calories and going for longer walks.

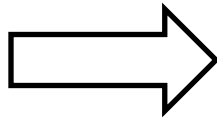
Also just like with people, there are many potential side effects that could come with the extra weight, including heart problems, high blood pressure, stress on ligaments and joints increasing the risk of serious knee, hip, and back problems, kidney failure, and of course diabetes. Obesity has also been associated with impaired immune response, some cancers, tracheal collapse, and feline cystitis. Obesity clearly impacts longevity but it can be treated.

Defining obesity is somewhat subjective and based on more than just the number on the scale. Taking age, breed, and other factors into consideration, the vet will compare your pet's body shape with this body condition scoring chart. If the doctor suspects obesity the first step should be to do a basic blood test panel to rule out metabolic disorders and establish a target weight. Underlying conditions may require specific diets or medications. Changing diets based on assumptions may cause your pet harm. For example, switching a cat in renal trouble to a high protein diet could cause the kidneys to fail completely.

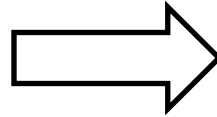
While we strongly urge you to work with your veterinarian on any dietary, nutrition, or exercise regimen for your pet, there are several good peer-reviewed websites you can go to for information. We recommend the website for the Tufts Cummings Veterinary Medical Center at Tufts University: <http://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/petfoodology>. Please don't rely on general Google searches to treat any medical condition, including obesity, without consulting your veterinarian.



Kayde-Boy at 6 wks.
What a cutie!!!



Kayde-Boy over 17 lbs. at 5 yrs.
Oink, Oink, too many treats.



Kayde-Boy slimmed down to under 15 lbs.
What a handsome boy. 8 yrs old

Body Condition Scores

IDEAL

OVERWEIGHT

OBESE



IDEAL

OVERWEIGHT

OBESE



Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital706-896-1244
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri -7:30am-6:00pm
Wed7:30am-12:00pm; (closed 12-2pm) ; 2pm-6:00pm
Sat8am -3pm
www.lakechatugeanimalhospital.com

For after hours emergencies, please call:
Mountain Emergency Animal Clinic 706-632-7879



The Birds and the Bees for Fleas



"My pet can't have fleas. He's indoor only." I wish I had a nickel for every time we hear that myth. Even if your pet really never crosses the threshold of your house to potty, visit the vet, or manages to escape for 60 seconds chances are very good YOU DO leave your house occasionally. Fleas (and ticks) are master hitchhikers and will come inside with you on your clothes. They also fit through screens and under doors.

These little varmints are more than just a minor annoyance; they can cause serious health problems. Fleas transmit diseases and tapeworms to people as well as pets, cause skin infections and hair loss, and have been known to even kill pets by causing anemia when there's a heavy infestation.

The bad news is even the best flea-killing products (or as we call them "parasiticides") in the world won't solve the problem by themselves once the flea load in the environment gets out of hand. The good news is you can prevent the problem from happening in the first place with just a few simple steps. Knowing the flea life cycle helps us understand the easiest and best way to stop or prevent flea infestations.

Many people think fleas only breed during the summer. It's true the cycle is faster when it's warm, so outside fleas breed faster in the summer; however, the ones already in the house are in perfect conditions to breed all the time. They can go from just one flea to thousands in 60 days.

There are four steps in the flea breeding cycle: 1) Eggs are deposited on the pet and fall into the environment within hours. 2) Larvae develop. They feed on blood in flea feces, organic debris (think: dust, which is mostly shed skin cells), flea eggshells, and other flea larvae. They flourish in places like carpet, under sofa cushions, in bedding (the pet's and yours), in the cracks of hardwood floors, and along baseboards. 3) Larvae form nearly-indestructible pupa that look like whitish cocoons, and transform into adults. This generally takes 8-13 days, depending on the temperature, but fleas can live in this stage for months. Once the adult flea hatches out of the cocoon they begin feeding within minutes and the female begins laying 40-50 eggs per day 20-24 hours after the first blood meal.

To break this cycle you have to do several things. The very easiest is to kill the female flea before she can lay eggs. This is where that parasiticide comes in. Keep in mind that parasiticide only works on fleas biting treated pets. If you have pets you don't treat, or don't treat on time, the cycle continues. Please don't blame the parasiticide for not killing fleas already in the environment in the egg, larva, or pupa stage. It's doing its job of killing the adults. Fleas biting you also continue the cycle; fortunately, they prefer the warmer-blooded dog or cat.

If you already have fleas in the environment you need to kill or otherwise get rid of them. Vacuum and steam clean the carpet, floor, and bedding. Throw away the bag and clean up any dust! Wash bedding. If you have rodents, they have fleas so get rid of them. Keep the grass cut and eliminate weeds and brush piles. You can treat your yard with outdoor products or call a pest control company to do that for you.

There are lots of parasiticide available. We will be happy to help you select the best one for your family. Remember, it's much easier, safer, and cheaper to prevent an infestation than get rid of one. Please contact us if you want more information.

Help to Keep Your Pet Calm

Research shows 93% of people with dogs consider them part of the family and want their furry family members to be happy. Unfortunately, anxiety and the resulting chronic behavior issues like excessive barking, jumping, spinning, and pacing are among the top reasons pet dogs end up in shelters. Researchers at Purina discovered a link between gut microbiota and these anxious behaviors. Their study found by feeding dogs (sorry, cat people, just dogs so far) a particular probiotic, 90% of the dogs in the study exhibited fewer and less severe stress symptoms. This non-prescription liver-flavored dietary supplement, **Calming Care**, is available now. Just sprinkle one small packet a day on your dog's food for a calmer, happier dog.

