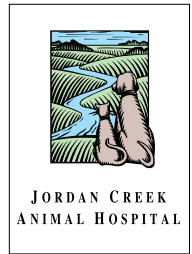




# WINTER 2010 Gazette

☞ newsletter for people and their pets



3401 E.P. True Parkway  
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

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## Brrr... it's cold outside!

It's that time of year again — winter is in full swing and now's the time to snuggle up in front of a warm fireplace with a kitty on your lap or a puppy at your feet. Before you settle down to your long winter's nap, take some time to learn how to keep those pets as safe and cozy as you are.

### Ethylene glycol and your pet

If you're thinking about getting your car prepared for the winter months, you may want to take a few minutes to make sure the products being used are stored and disposed of properly. One of the most common causes of fatal poisoning in dogs and cats is from antifreeze. Ethylene glycol is the main ingredient in antifreeze, but it is also found in hydraulic brake

fluid, motor oil, paints, wood stains, ink, and some windshield washer fluid with de-icer.

It doesn't take much of this toxic chemical to cause severe harm to animals. Due to its sweet taste and smell, pets may voluntarily lick or taste it when the container is left open or spilled. Even licking antifreeze from feet or fur can cause toxicity. As little as one teaspoon can be fatal, and permanent damage is possible with even lower exposure.

Ethylene glycol is absorbed rapidly into the body and severely damages the kidneys. If ingested, animals initially show no signs, but within hours may begin to vomit, stumble, or

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Contact us by calling 515-224-9500 or visit our website at [www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com](http://www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com)



## H1N1 UPDATE IN PETS:

# Protecting Your Pets from Illness

**T**he Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship remind Iowans that in addition to protecting your families, friends and neighbors from the spread of the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, it is important to remember to protect your family pets from the illness as well. People who are sick with the H1N1 virus can spread the illness not only to humans, but in rare cases to their pets as well.

The USDA has confirmed the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus in an Iowa cat. The 13 year old cat was presented to ISU College of Veterinary Medicine on November 4, 2009 where it tested positive for the virus after exhibiting flu-like symptoms. Three members of the family had previously suffered flu-like symptoms before the cat became ill. Both the family and the confirmed cat exhibited respiratory illness and recovered with supportive care. A second cat was diagnosed with H1N1 in Oregon.



On November 28, the Chinese Press reported that 2 dogs in Beijing tested positive for the H1N1 virus. On December 21, 2009, a dog in New York was also confirmed with H1N1 influenza. The 13 year old dog became ill after its owner was sick with a confirmed case of 2009 H1N1 influenza. The dog was lethargic, coughing, not eating and had a fever. X-rays showed evidence of pneumonia and the dog was treated with supportive care and antibiotics. The dog is currently recovering after being hospitalized for 48 hours.

People can keep their pets healthy by washing their hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and minimizing contact with their pets while ill with influenza-like symptoms. Minimize contact with your pets for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. If your pet exhibits signs of a respiratory illness, contact your veterinarian. To date, animals infected with the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus have shown the following clinical signs: lethargy, lack of appetite, coughing, and difficult breathing.

According to Dr. David Schmitt, State Veterinarian for Iowa, "Indoor pets that live in close proximity of someone who

has been sick are at risk, and it is wise to monitor their health to ensure they aren't showing signs of illness."

In addition to humans, live swine, turkeys and domestic dogs and cats, we know that ferrets (which are highly susceptible to influenza A viruses) can also be affected by the H1N1 virus. Pet ferrets with naturally occurring 2009 H1N1 infection have exhibited illness similar in severity to those ferrets with the seasonal influenza virus, such as sneezing, inactivity, and weight loss. As of December 1, 2009, the USDA has also confirmed a case of H1N1 in a cheetah in California and a turkey flock in Virginia.

At this time, the same precautions as you would take to keep your friends and family healthy should be taken with your pets. Available evidence suggests that the transmission has only been from ill humans to their companion animals. No evidence at this time is available to suggest that companion animals are infecting humans with the 2009

H1N1 virus. CDC is working closely with domestic and international public and animal health partners to continually monitor this situation and will provide additional information to the public as it becomes available.

Currently, there is not a licensed and approved 2009 H1N1 vaccine for companion animals. There is a canine influenza vaccine, which protects dogs from the H3N8 canine flu virus, but it will not protect pets against the 2009 H1N1 virus and should not be used for any species other than dogs.

### For more information about H1N1, visit

[www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/)  
or call the Iowa Influenza Hotline at  
1-800-447-1985.

### Other contact information:

American Veterinary Medical Association [http://www.avma.org/public\\_health/influenza/new\\_virus/](http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/new_virus/)

United States Department of Agriculture  
[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=USDA\\_H1N1](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=USDA_H1N1)

# Brrr... it's cold outside!

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appear depressed or disoriented. All potential exposures should be treated as an emergency. Unless treatment is begun promptly, preferably even before symptoms appear, the damage can be permanent and potentially life threatening. Testing and treatment for antifreeze toxicity are available through your veterinarian or veterinary emergency center.

Antifreeze poisoning has a high fatality rate, so preventing exposure is the top priority. A safer alternative to ethylene glycol-based antifreeze is antifreeze made with propylene glycol, a corn derivative. It is less appealing to animals, and if they do ingest it, there is a lessened toxic effect. No matter the product, antifreeze poisoning can be prevented by storing it out of a pet's reach in a child-proof container.

Disposing of used product properly and quickly cleaning up spills are also important steps in prevention. It is NOT OKAY to rinse spilled antifreeze into the sewer drains. Instead, sprinkle cat litter or sand onto spilled antifreeze and allow it to soak up. Using paper towels, pick up the contaminated absorbent material. Scrub spilled areas using soapy water and paper towels. Place all contaminated materials in a trash bag, and store it in a place children and animals cannot reach until it can go with the regular trash.

## Protecting skin and paws

Winter weather takes a toll on everyone, including our furry friends. Although some have a double thick fur coat that keeps them warm and wind-resistant, some need a little more help and protection during the cold months. Thin skinned dogs may need to have a sweater or coat to keep their body temperature up when they go outside

for prolonged times. Geriatric dogs may need assistance walking through the snow or slush.

No matter the size or age of the animal, it is important to pay attention to their paws. After being outside, be sure to check between the pads of all paws for ice balls or injuries. Rubbing small amounts of baby oil on their paw pads prior to walks on slushy sidewalks can help prevent the slush from building up between their toes. Wiping or rinsing their paws in warm water after being outside will help avoid irritation from snow, ice, and salt. Rock salt is great for melting ice but can be irritating to our pets' feet. If ice melt is needed, consider using a pet friendly product such as Safe Paw.

## The outdoor animal

Some pets do not have the luxury of living indoors in a cozy, warm environment. If your pet lives outdoors or if strays are finding their way to your home, there are a few things that can be done to ensure their safety. Provide shelter from wind, rain, and snow. Offering a box or kennel with deeply bedded clean hay inside will allow them to be shielded and help prevent hypothermia. The size of shelter is important. If it is too big their body heat will dissipate. The shelter should be just big enough for the pet to stand and turn around comfortably so their body heat will help provide warmth, along with the clean deep bedding.

Most outdoor pets do not hunt, so fresh food should be available to help them stay nourished if they are not able to find food on their own. Fresh water should also be available at all times. It is very important to make sure the water bowl does not freeze. Heated water bowls should be used and are available at most pet supply vendors.

**Remember: If it's too cold for you to be safely outside, it's too cold for your pet!**

## Canine Rabies Vaccination Law Elucidated

The Iowa Department of Agriculture recently clarified its rules on rabies immunization requirements. These rules require that adult dogs who are not re-vaccinated on or before the three year due date will need to receive a one year booster prior to returning to a three year schedule. In order to continue on a three year rabies booster schedule, please set your appointment for the rabies booster prior to the due date. To help avoid any issues, please call our office to schedule an appointment as soon as you receive your reminder card. We apologize for any inconvenience and we look forward to seeing you soon!



# MICROCHIPPING

**D**id you know that 10 million pets get lost every year? What would you do if your pet got lost? Hopefully your pet was microchipped and will be taken to a local shelter or veterinary clinic for identification. The information you have stored in the microchip database will help ensure immediate contact so you can be reunited with your pet.

At Jordan Creek Animal Hospital, we use a brand of microchip called HomeAgain®. There is a

detailed Pet Recovery Network (helps your pet be recovered more quickly by alerting local vets, shelters, and PetRescuers). Some of the perks included in the fee are a nationwide on-call medical support staff, lost pet medical insurance, and online tools to help you find your pet.

Remember that in order to keep these complimentary services after the first year, an annual fee of \$14.99 must be paid. The choice to renew is yours. If you choose



one-time microchipping fee of \$45.00, which includes microchip placement and the first year of a



not to renew, your pet's information will still be stored in the HomeAgain® database. If your



## Monthly Meetings

The doctors and staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital feel that monthly employee meetings are essential to promoting communication and educational opportunities. Because of this, we will be closed from **1:30-2:30 PM** on the following **Wednesdays: January 13, February 17 and March 10.**

*Happy New Year!*

pet is lost, he will be identified once he is scanned and you will be contacted. It is extremely important, though, for you to keep all of your contact information up-to-date so you can be notified. For more information or to update your information, please visit their website at [HomeAgain.com](http://HomeAgain.com) or call 1-888-HOMEAGAIN.

## MEET THE STAFF/our editors for this issue of Pet Gazette



**Dr. Anne Kueter**, originally from Illinois, graduated from Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine and joined the Jordan Creek Animal Hospital staff in 1997. Dr. Kueter has been married to her high school sweetheart, Troy, for almost 13 years. They have 2 children, Abigayle and Lucas. Their family also includes 2 dogs and 3 cats.

In her free time, Dr. Kueter enjoys spending time with her family. She especially likes being outdoors, whether camping, hiking, or biking.



**Claudia Larson, RVT**, is originally from Lehigh, Iowa. She received her Associates degree in Veterinary Technology from Des Moines Area Community College in May 2008 and immediately joined the staff of Jordan Creek Animal Hospital. She currently has 2 cats, Penelope and Comet. In her free time, she enjoys painting, reading, cooking, and being with family and friends.

listening to music,