
LINDA MAR VETERINARY HOSPITAL/ COASTAL CAT CLINIC



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New Kittens and New Puppies

Choosing Your New Pet

With kitten and puppy season just around the corner, there are a few things to consider if you are thinking of adding a new member to your family: how to choose the best companion for you, “baby proofing” the home, nutrition, house training, socialization, health care/vaccines, spay-neuter, etc. As time grows closer to answering these questions, let Linda Mar Veterinary Hospital assist you with the decision process.

How do you choose a puppy/dog?

Several steps are important in choosing the right dog. Unless you have previous knowledge and familiarity with a certain breed, it is important to do your research. Before you actually choose a specific dog, you should investigate the temperaments and characteristics of different breeds. Even if you are going for a mixed breed from a shelter, you want to be able to recognize the breeds that influence your potential pet.

It's best to combine online research about breeds with interviews of other dog owners. The American Kennel Club website is a good source of information about over 150 different breeds of dogs. When looking for outside information, one of the easiest ways to do this is to visit dog parks or any

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Flea Control and Flea Allergies

As the weather grows warmer, it is time to think of flea control. There are a lot of products on the market, and selecting the appropriate one may seem more complicated than it actually is.

What you choose depends on your needs. A few flea products are taken orally. They often do not kill the flea, rather they sterilize the eggs inside the flea that bites your pet. (Yes, the fleas have to bite your pet to be effective.) This may not be a practical solution to immediate flea control, but it does work on population control.

Most are familiar with spot applications (vials that you open and squeeze on the back of your pet's neck). Many veterinary hospitals, including ours, recommend these products for a number of reasons. They are safe, effective and guaranteed by the manufacturer. These include:

- FRONTLINE PLUS: kills adult fleas and ticks for at least 30 days; tends to be more water resistant than Advantage
- ADVANTAGE: also as effective as Frontline for controlling fleas, but does not work on ticks
- PREVENTIC COLLAR: detaches & kills ticks for 3 months; good complement to Advantage when tick protection is needed; DOGS ONLY!!
- REVOLUTION: kills fleas, ear mites, mange and heartworm preventative for at least 30 days; canine prevents ticks, feline prevents round and tapeworms

An equally important, but often overlooked component in flea control is the environment. To insure that you are not unknowingly continuing the flea cycle, wash all pet bedding, vacuum carpets thoroughly (including floor boards), and consider a flea control powder (i.e. Flea Busters). If you need further assistance in choosing the product that is best for you, we would be happy to help.

Flea Bite Allergies

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other place where people let their dogs run free. Discussions with other owners can help you:

- Resist the urge to pick the first cute dog that looks at you endearingly.
- Choose a dog that fits your lifestyle.
- See breed-specific behaviors in action and answer your questions.

Once you've settled on a breed (or mixed breed), it's time to "interview" likely candidates. Remember, it's so easy to get swayed by emotion that it may be a good idea to decide not to choose the first or even third dog you love – unless they still stand out after meeting other dogs from several breeders or shelters. Instead, when you see a dog that interests you, take time to play. Check his realities against your own. Notice how he interacts with you, other humans, and other dogs. Imagine him or her as part of your family. Then make a choice and welcome your new pet into your home.

How do you choose a kitten/cat?

Unlike dogs, the various members of the cat family are remarkably similar in physiology and behavior...with a few exceptions. They have the ability to move quickly from an exquisitely beautiful pose to an absolutely goofy one. They can be fully relaxed one moment, able to leap into action the next.

If you are thinking of becoming a cat person, explore the various cat breeds. Research:

- how to get started with a new cat
- the latest on feline health care
- an alphabetical listing of cat breeds on the Cat Fanciers website features helpful information

When meeting a cat, proceed gently. Common cat etiquette is to place your hand within a few inches of the cat's face and allow him or her to smell you. Then, when you sense an invitation, try scratching the cat gently under the ears.

When "interviewing" a cat, make sure you have time to be alone with him or her in a room without other cats or dogs close by. After you've spent some time with a cat, pick him up and see how the cat reacts. Bring some toys for play. As with dogs, check the cat's realities against your needs. Also, let intuition be your guide. 🐾

Signs of flea bite allergy (aka, flea allergy dermatitis, FAD) result from your pet's hypersensitivity (allergy) to flea saliva. In an allergic animal, the bite of only one flea may cause a serious problem. Extensive skin damage may result from your pet's biting, licking, and scratching. Though FAD can be treated, it often recurs because 1) flea eggs may hatch up to 1 year after being deposited in the environment; 2) most of the flea's life cycle occurs off the animal; 3) your pet's environment may be contaminated with fleas; and 4) even an occasional flea bite can trigger the allergic reaction.

Flea allergies are most troublesome in the summer and fall in areas with cold winters and warm summers. In warm climates or in heated, flea occupied houses, flea allergies may occur throughout the year. In animals, the main signs of FAD are excessive hair loss and severe scratching and biting. Sores develop primarily around the base of the tail, middle of the back, and on the abdomen. Secondary skin infections are common.

Flea allergies usually worsen as your pet ages. Signs may begin earlier in the flea season and last longer. Also, skin reactions generally become more severe. Treatment includes flea control on your pet and in the environment. If a secondary infection occurs, you should bring your pet in to see a veterinarian. 🐾

If you are interested in receiving the Linda Mar Veterinary Hospital newsletter PAW PRINTS via email, please fill out a card at the front desk.

SPECIAL EVENTS, SERVICES AND PROMOTIONS

☀️ WEEKLY LOW-COST DOG VACCINE CLINIC:

Every Tuesday evening from 7:00-8:00pm; NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

We offer DHPP, DHLPP, Rabies, Lymes, and Bordatella (Kennel Cough) vaccines; Heartworm Testing also available.

☀️ WE NOW HAVE A TONOPEN!!

A tonopen is an instrument used to detect the intra-ocular (eye) pressure of your pet. It is a diagnostic tool used to detect glaucoma (high pressure) and uveitis (low pressure). As your pet ages, these changes may be more prominent. Just like a senior blood panel, the tonopen should be an integral part of any geriatric examination. It should also be used in routine exams to screen predisposed breeds.

☀️ PET FOOD RECALL:

The pet food manufacturer hasn't found out exactly what is in the food that is causing the problems, but it does appear to be making some pets ill. For a list of recalled pet food brands visit <http://www.menufoods.com/recall/>