Caledonia Veterinary Clinic



503 Old Hwy Drive Caledonia, MN 55921 (507) 725-3380

Congratulations on your new pet and a warm welcome to Caledonia Veterinary Clinic! We look forward to creating a professional and compassionate bond with both you and your pet. Listed below are some of the services offered at our clinic. Please do not hesitate to call with any additional questions you may have!

Medical Services: Comprehensive Exams, Vaccinations, Internal and External Parasite Control and Prevention, Diagnostic Testing, Microchipping, Pain Management, Senior Wellness, Spinal Manipulative Therapy, Etc.

Surgery: Routine, Soft Tissue, and Orthopedic.



Imaging and Laboratory: Digital radiology, Digital Complete In-house Lab.

Dentistry: We perform complete dental scaling/polishing, full-mouth radiographs, a complete intra-oral examination and extractions if needed.

Emergency Services: You can rest easy knowing we have a Veterinarian on-call during non-business hours. Simply call our main number at 507-725-3380 if you have an emergency that cannot wait until the next business day.





New Puppy Appointment Cheat Sheet

Vaccines

*DHPP Combo – Booster every 3-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age

Distemper Hepatitis/Adenovirus Parainfluenza

Parvovirus

*<u>Leptospirosis</u> – Included in the DHPP Combo at

appropriate age. One booster given 3-4 weeks later.

*Bordetella (Kennel Cough) – Given at 6 weeks or older.

- *Lyme Disease Given at 9 weeks or older. One booster given 3-4 weeks later.
- *<u>Rabies</u> Given at 16 weeks.

Heartworm Preventative Plus – Choose one that fits best with your dog's lifestyle.

INTERCEPTOR PLUS (milbemycin oxime/praziguantel)

*Protects against: Heartworms Hookworms Roundworms Whipworms Adult Tapeworms *Given once monthly



Heartgard ??

vaccine

WHAT DOES

MY DOG NEED?

*Protects Against: Heartworms Hookworms Roundworms *Given once monthly

Flea and Tick Preventative – Choose one that fits best with your dog's lifestyle.

(afoxolaner) Chewables

*Protects Against: Fleas Ticks *Oral Chewable *Given once monthly



*Protects Against: Fleas Ticks *Oral Chewable *Given once monthly with food



- *Protects Against: Fleas
 - Ticks
 - *Collar
 - *Effective up to 8 Months



(afoxolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel chewable tablets)

Flea/Tick/Heartworm Combo

*Protects Against: Fleas Ticks Heartworms Roundworms Hookworms *Oral Chewable





What's Next?

After 6 months of age

• spay or neuter at age appropriate for breed

1 year and up

- Rabies Vaccine every 3 years(required by law)
- DHPP "Distemper" Vaccine every 3 years
- Annual Lepto Vaccine
- Annual Lyme Vaccine
- Annual Intestinal Parasite Check (Kit sent home)
- Annual 4dx Test (Tick & Heartworm Screen)
- Nexgard or Credelio & Heartgard Plus or Interceptor Plus, as directed
- Dental Cleanings as needed

**Dogs should be dewormed quarterly with products such as Drontal or Pyrantel if monthly heartworm prevention is not administered. **

After 8 years and up (Senior)

• Annual Baseline / Senior Bloodwork

Dental Disease

Seventy-five percent of pets over the age of three have dental disease. Dogs are not supposed to have bad breath. Dental plaque, oral diseases and other health conditions can cause bad breath. Brushing your pet's teeth and having regular dental cleanings are beneficial for your pet and your pocket book. Advanced dental disease can be costly and painful for your dog.

Deworming Protocol

Parasites can cause a variety of health problems for your pet. One of the biggest concerns is the potential for them to be spread to people. The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recommends that puppies be dewormed at 2, 4, 6, and 8 weeks of age, then put on a monthly preventative until the pet is 6 months old. Fecal exams should be conducted two to four times yearly on adult pets depending on lifestyle factors and patient health. Keeping your dog on monthly Heartgard Plus or Interceptor Plus is a simple and great way to routinely deworm and prevent heartworm disease.





Intestinal parasites are parasites that live in the gastrointestinal tract of your pet. They are transmitted when your pet eats the parasite eggs or spores in contaminated soil, water, feces or food. In puppies, intestinal parasites are usually transmitted in utero. Intestinal parasites can cause malnutrition, weight loss, diarrhea, vomiting, anemia and even death. In addition to causing harm to your pet, some intestinal parasites are Zoonotic, meaning they can be transmitted to humans. Listed below are the most

common intestinal parasites your pet could become infected with.

Roundworms: This is the most common parasite of cats and dogs. Roundworms are transmitted through contaminated soil or water, eating an infected animal/rodent, and most commonly, from mother to puppy. Roundworm infections can cause vomiting, diarrhea, slow growth, poor hair coat, and a distended belly. Roundworms are zoonotic and can cause eye, lung, heart and neurologic signs in people.

Hookworms: This parasite is a blood-sucking parasite that attaches to your pet's small intestines, causing tissue damage, anemia, blood loss, and diarrhea. Hookworms are transmitted by either ingesting eggs, or by penetrating your pet's feet after walking through a contaminated area. Hookworms are also zoonotic and can be transmitted to humans.

<u>Whipworms</u>: This parasite is again, transmitted through contaminated soil. A pet infected with whipworms can be asymptomatic. More severe infestations can cause bloody diarrhea, and if left untreated, can cause serious disease and even death. Whipworm eggs can survive <u>years</u> in the soil!

Tapeworms: This parasite is transmitted by your pet ingesting fleas (usually while grooming themselves), or by eating an animal/rodent that in infected with tapeworm larvae. Tapeworm infections generally do not produce any obvious symptoms in your pet, but you may notice tapeworms "segments" on your pet's rear end, or where your pet sleeps. Tapeworm segments resemble a grain of rice.

<u>Giardia</u>: This parasite is a microscopic, single-celled organism that lives in your pet's small intestine. Giardia is transmitted by drinking from contaminated water sources or ingesting substances that has been soiled with feces. If left untreated it can lead to Giardiasis, which in turn can cause weight loss, poor condition and even death.

<u>Coccidia</u>: This in another single-celled parasite that lives in the wall of your pet's intestines. It is transmitted through contaminated soil or other substances that contain infected feces. Coccidia can lead to Coccidiosis, which severe infections, especially in puppies, can cause death.

Be sure to have a fecal sample checked on your new pet as soon as possible. Also, be sure to do yearly fecal sample checks to ensure your pet is safe and parasite free!

What to feed Fido or Fluffy !?!

There are many good foods out there and you don't have to break the bank when buying your pets food. However not all pet food manufactures have the same level of expertise or strict standards of quality control. This has led to some scares with foods and health concerns over the years. Here are some pointers to keep in mind when choosing a food.

- Feed food from a well-established pet food company. The FDA has recommended sticking with the 3 major food companies: <u>Purina, Hill's and Royal Canin.</u> These companies have YEARS of research behind their diets.
- 2. Do not use "house-brands" or generic brands. These brands are produced by companies such as Walmart, Farm & Fleet or sold in food elevators. They often lack quality ingredients and many times pets are unable to properly digest these ingredients.
- 3. Avoid foods with dyes. Pet food should be all one color. Multiple colors do NOT mean it contains vegetables. It contains dyes. End of story. Green does not equal spinach.
- 4. Stay away from "BEG" diets <u>B</u>outique companies, <u>E</u>xotic ingredients, or <u>G</u>rain-free diets. These diets have been linked to DCM (Dilated Cardio Myopathy). "The apparent link between 'BEG' diets and DCM may be due to ingredients used to replace grains in grain-free diets, such as lentils or chickpeas, but also may be due to other common ingredients commonly found in BEG diets, such as exotic meats, vegetables, and fruits."
- Pets should be fed an appropriate food for their species, (cat or dog), age (puppy, kitten, adult or senior), breed (large or small canine) and activity level (in-door, weight management, sport).
 Cats should eat CAT food and dogs should eat DOG food. Each has different

nutritional requirements and feeding the wrong food can have detrimental effects on them.

**Lisa M. Freeman, DVM, PhD, DACVN "It's not just Grain-Free: An Update on Diet-Associated Dilated Cardiomyopathy



WHY SPAY & NEUTER?



What is the surgery?

- "Spaying" is the term used for female animals and is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus.
- "Neutering" is the term used for male animals and is the surgical removal of the testicles.
- Fixing, sterilizing, or altering your pet are other terms for spaying or neutering.
- Spaying or neutering your pet is a very safe procedure. Call us for an appointment today!

Good for your pet!

- Spaying or neutering your pet can decrease the risk of diseases that are expensive to treat.
- Pets that are spayed or neutered have up to an 85% lower risk of certain types of cancers (ex. mammary or testicular), and other serious health complications (uterine infections).
- Animals that are fixed generally make better companions because they are not motivated to wander in search of a mate.

Good for you! Eliminates annoying behavioral problems.

- Altered animals are significantly less likely to mark or spray urine.
- Female animals in heat can cry incessantly, make messes, act nervous and attract males from all around. Having your pet spayed eliminates the heat cycle.
- Animals that have been spayed or neutered are less likely to bite, roam or get into fights.

Good for our community!

- A compassionate society knows there is a better way to solve overpopulation than needlessly euthanizing unwanted animals.
- Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted companion animals. Spaying and neutering helps reduce the number of strays and unwanted animals in our community.
- Spaying or neutering reduces an animal's desire to roam, resulting in fewer traffic accidents and neighborhood complaints of nuisance animals.



<u>What is the Best Age to Spay or Neuter</u> <u>Your Large Breed Dog?</u>

In recent years it was recommended to spay and neuter dogs around 6 months of age, prior to their sexual maturation. But, as we advance in veterinary medicine, we are realizing that this approach is not always the best for every pet. Here are some factors to consider:



Large and giant breed dogs can be more prone to developing bone disease. It makes sense to wait until their bones are more mature (*around 18 months of age*), before considering surgery. There are fewer orthopedic problems down the line if these big dogs are allowed to grow and their bones mature, before they are spayed or neutered

Consider how you want your male dog to appear when he's fully grown. If you have a male and you want him to have a typical blocky head with thick musculature, you will want to delay his neuter a bit. Without a dose of testosterone, he will not mature into this appearance.

Another reason to wait: urinary incontinence. Although it is a small percentage, a female who is

spayed prior to her first heat is more likely to develop urinary incontinence due to a lack of hormones. This is often not an issue for females whom were spayed after their first heat.

However, waiting is not ideal for everyone. There are downfalls to waiting to spay or neuter your large or giant breed dog such as the following:

- If a female is spayed after her first heat cycle (which varies by breed but can happen approximately 6 months of age), this can increase her chances for mammary cancer. In females spayed prior to their first heat, the chance of developing mammary tumors is 0.5%. However, that number increases to 8% after their first heat cycle, and to 26% after their second heat cycle.
- Cost can certainly be a major factor as well. Surgery on a larger, older dog is going to cost more due to size. Recovery can also be slower on an older dog than on a 6 month old puppy.

Due to hormones, older dogs can develop unwanted behaviors. Urine marking, sexual behaviors, and aggression are a few of these behaviors.

Unwanted pregnancy is also a very real possibility. Spaying a female prior to a heat completely eliminates the potential for a litter. If you are unable to seclude your female or keep a close eye on her, you may not want to wait to spay her.

We encourage you to carefully consider your options and schedule surgery accordingly. Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions you may have to help you make your decision.

Microchips

Permanent Identification for Your Pet

Having a pet run away or become lost can be an extremely difficult time. Is your pet hurt, scared in a shelter somewhere, or did someone else take them in thinking they were homeless?

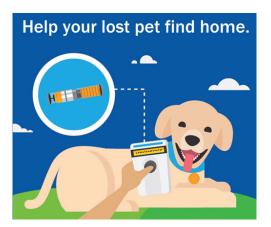
Having ID tags on your pet's collar is the easiest way for someone to identify your pet if he goes missing. But what happens if your pet's collar comes off? Or if the tag catches on something and rips off? Or, if you simply don't keep a collar on your pet?

Microchips are a permanent way to identify your dog or cat for life, and can be placed any time after 6 weeks of age. They are easy to place and inexpensive to maintain. If your pet goes missing and is taken to a shelter or Vet Clinic, their microchip is scanned, enabling staff to contact you and return your pet home safely.

The procedure for placing a microchip is actually very easy and only takes a few seconds. The chip is very small and placed at the base of the neck in between your pet's shoulder blades. A needle is used to place the chip under the skin where it will remain permanently. When scanned, your pet's identification number is revealed. By contacting the microchip database, your pet's information, including name, age, neuter status, and your contact information will be made available. Be sure to register your pet when a microchip is placed, and always keep your contact information up to date.

Please note; a Microchip is not a GPS tracking device. It simply has its own unique number that corresponds to your contact information.

Contact us today to schedule an appointment to have your pet microchipped! You'll have peace of mind knowing if your pet ever goes missing, their chances of being returned to you are greatly increased!



Dental Care

Bad breath in pets may be a sign of periodontal disease and can lead to detrimental health problems! Periodontal disease begins when plaque, (a bacterial film) coats the tooth, hardens and becomes tartar, (a thick yellow-brown layer) which then irritates the gums causing them to become tender, red, and swollen. As time goes on the irritated gums begin to recede from the tooth, bleed, expose the tooth's roots, and cause your pet to feel pain when eating. If the bacteria enter the bloodstream, they can affect your pet's organs, such as the heart, liver, and kidneys.



- Most dogs & cats develop periodontal disease by 3 years of age
- Periodontal Disease is the most common health problem in dogs & cats.
- Bad breath may be a sign of periodontal disease in your pet.
- Providing routine dental care for your pet can be easy & can benefit your pet's oral & overall health!

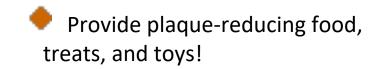


<u>What can you do?</u>

Take your pet to their annual check-ups.

Brush your pet's teeth.

Feed dry dog food.



Top 10 toxins: Protect your dog from common dangers

Chocolate, grapes and raisins may be delicious to you, but they can be toxic to pets.

he veterinarians and toxicology experts at Pet Poison Helpline have released their top 10 list of household items that generated the most poison consultations for dogs and cats in 2013. The items below are presented in order of frequency, with number one being the item that caused the most emergency calls to Pet Poison Helpline. If at any time you think your pet has ingested a toxin, call your veterinarian.

Top 10 toxins for dogs

 Chocolate: Dark equals dangerous! Baking and dark chocolate are the most toxic, and milk chocolate can be dangerous if ingested in large amounts.
 Xylitol: This sweetener found in sugarless chewing gum and candy, medications and nasal sprays causes a rapid drop in blood sugar and liver failure only in dogs (not cats). **3) Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs):** Ibuprofen, naproxen and so on, found in products such as Advil, Motrin and Aleve, are not easily metabolized by dogs; ingestions can result in stomach ulcers and kidney failure.

 4) Over-the-counter cough, cold and allergy medications: Those that contain acetaminophen or decongestants, such as pseudoephedrine or phenylephrine, are particularly toxic.
 5) Rodenticides (mouse/rat poi-

son): These may cause internal bleeding (brodifacoum, bromadiolone and so on) or brain swelling (bromethalin), even in small amounts.

6) Grapes and raisins: These harm-less human foods may be tasty to you,

but cause kidney damage in dogs.7) Insect bait stations: These rarely cause poisoning in dogs—the bigger risk is bowel obstruction when dogs swallow the plastic casing.

8) Prescription ADD/ADHD medi-

cations: Amphetamines such as Adderall, Concerta, Dexedrine and Vyvanse can cause tremors, seizures, cardiac problems and death in pets.
9) Glucosamine joint supplements: Overdoses of these tasty products typically only cause diarrhea; however, in rare cases, liver failure can develop.
10) Oxygen absorbers and silica gel packets: Iron-containing oxygen absorbers found in food packages or pet treats can cause iron poisoning.

Silica gel packs, found in new shoes, purses or backpacks, is rarely a concern.

What to do if your pet gets poisoned

First, take a deep breath. The more calm, cool, and collected you are, the sooner you can seek the correct medical attention. Then get a handle on the situation by taking the following steps:

1) Remove your pet from the area. Make sure no other pets or children are exposed to the area, and safely remove any poisonous material.

2) Check to make sure your pet is breathing normally and acting fine otherwise.

3) Collect a sample of the material, along with the packaging, vial, or con-

tainer. You'll need that information to help your veterinarian or a pet poison expert assess the situation.

4) Don't give your dog any milk, food, salt, oil, or any other home remedies. Doing so will likely complicate the poisoning.

5) Never induce vomiting without talking to your veterinarian or a pet poison expert—doing so may be harmful.

6) Get help. Program your veterinarian's phone number into your phone, as well as an emergency veterinarian's number and a pet poison hotline number. There are two 24-hour hotlines: Pet Poison Helpline at 800-213-6680 (\$35 per call) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal's Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 (\$65 per call).

Remember that a pet's prognosis is always better when a toxicity is reported immediately, so don't wait to see if your pet becomes symptomatic before calling for help. Calling right away is safer for your pet and could help you save on treatment costs in the long run. Remember that there's a narrow window of time to decontaminate in cases of poisoning.





Sure, allowing your pup 25 feet of extra freedom seems rewarding, but it doesn't come without unforeseen dangers. The following is a list of hazards that could be putting your pup, yourself, and innocent bystanders in danger.

<u>Injury</u>

Both people and pets are at high risk for injury. Coming in contact with a moving cord can cause extreme burns, cuts and even amputation. The cord can also easily entangle or trip others. Dogs can be jerked back suddenly while running and hitting the end, causing severe neck, throat, or spinal injuries.

<u>Control</u>

Retractable leashes can extend up to 30 feet. This can allow for your dog to get into some really unsafe situations. Running into the street, meeting an unexpected, possibly aggressive, dog, or eating something off the ground, are all dangerous scenarios.

Runaway Dog

Retractable leashes have larger handles that can sometimes be hard to handle and easy to drop. Some dogs will startle at the loud noise of the dropping handle and take off running, becoming even more scared as the handle drags and scraps behind them. This can put a dog in harm's way or even traumatize them from wanting to go for walks again.

Malfunction

With the different working mechanisms of the retractable leash, there is bound to be a time for failure. The button or levers inside could stop working at any time. Also, the cord can wear thin and snap causing a runaway dog or serious injury to you as the cord snaps back.

Bad Habits

If you use a retractable leash, you are unknowingly training your dog to pull away while walking. The dog learns that if they pull, they are rewarded with more rope. Again, this can often put your dog in an unsafe situation.



A simple, traditional leash is recommended for your dog. Choose the width and length according to your dog's size. A traditional leash will ensure the safety of your dog, you, and others.

Puppies and Kittens Who Bite

Bringing home a new puppy or kitten can be a fun and exciting experience. However, the learning and development process for puppies and kittens can be challenging. Biting is a common issue for young pets and needs to be addressed properly.

Why Do Puppies and Kittens Bite?

Biting, in which a dog or cat actively and purposefully bites down with their teeth (although not necessarily to break skin) is a common behavior in puppies and kittens. Mouthing, which is a general term for dogs or cats that put their mouths/teeth on people and other pets, sometimes in a chewing manner, sometimes in a nipping manner, is also common in puppies and kittens and tends to occur for the same reasons as biting. Biting and mouthing are normal behaviors in young, developing dogs and cats and are rarely associated with aggression.

Reasons for biting include:

Biting can be a way to communicate or achieve a result in puppies and kittens. Just like with human infants and children, a young pet's communication skills are a little bit more basic and they can't do as much for themselves as they could as an adult. Biting is a way to say, "No! Stop that! I'm afraid!" or "I don't like that!" or even "Come on, come play with me!"

Play biting or mouthing during play is extremely common in puppies and kittens. It is not uncommon to see them wrestle, growl, and posture aggressively as a part of normal, healthy play. If things get out of hand, the offended youngster will yelp or distance himself until things calm down. Issues can arise when puppies and kittens play too roughly with their human owners and normal dog or cat social cues are missed because of species differences.

Biting can be associated with hunting behaviors. This is probably seen more often with cats than dogs, and may be associated with chasing or unexpected attacks. It is an instinctive ritual to help teach kittens and puppies how to hunt. Hunting behaviors, more often directed towards dog or cat housemates, can be an issue with humans, especially if the little one doesn't have animal "siblings" to play with. Their humans may be the only moving objects with which to practice this behavior.

Biting and mouthing may occur during times when adult teeth are replacing baby teeth. Mouthing is part of how they learn and gather information about food, toys, and their surroundings. Biting/nipping can be breed or genetically associated, as with herding dog breeds. Rarely, biting can be aggressive in nature for puppies and kittens.

Consequences of Biting

Biting and mouthing may be normal for puppies and kittens, but continuing to bite into adulthood can lead to issues. Normally, young animals learn to stop biting during play when their mother and siblings correct them with yelps or distancing themselves. When siblings and parents are not available to teach a little one how to behave in the family, human owners must step in. Long-term consequences of biting vary depending on the cause. For example, biting out of fear, frustration, or to avoid something can teach bad habits if not prevented. When biting achieves the desired result of getting a human to stop an action (such as biting while having nails trimmed), the youngster could potentially learn that biting to get what he wants as an adult is acceptable. The same goes for biting because of attention seeking. If a puppy or kitten is mouthy as a means to get you to play with them and give them attention, rewarding this behavior with any kind of attention (to some pets, even corrections are attention) could mean continued mouthing or attention seeking behaviors as an adult. Even mouthing because of teething can lead to bad habits and continued mouthing well beyond the onset of adult teeth if not corrected.

Regardless of why a youngster bites, biting should never be encouraged because it can lead to continued biting into adulthood, and as adults dogs and cats that bite can inflict serious damage and/or result in a poorer quality of life for themselves and their owners.

How to Manage Biting

Below are some suggestions for discouraging and preventing biting and mouthing. Remember that this is a learning process for everyone and that some suggestions will not be as effective as others depending on the reason for biting, such as play biting vs fear/avoidance.

Do not encourage mouthy play or play biting between the pet and humans. Rough play, such as wrestling or rough housing, between owners and pets can encourage mouthing behaviors and should also be discouraged in a mouthy pet.

It is important to find a way to meet the need to bite through play, chewing because of teething, and hunting behaviors.

Use time outs to de-escalate biting and mouthing behaviors and calm down your pet. This can be done by removing the pet or yourself from the pet's attention when play biting occurs, including eye contact and talking to the little one; this time out should be brief but repeated if biting continues during an interaction. Remember to come back to attention and play with love and excitement once the pet has settled down and quits biting.

Use command words, such as "sit," to distract from biting. Give a reward only if the biting stops and the command is followed. This may be easier with puppies than kittens.

When biting and mouthing, redirect the puppy or kitten to something more appropriate to chew on such as squeaky, jingly, or chew toys.

Use a high-pitched yelp noise like the siblings or mother would make or a high-pitched "ouch" when bitten. Be careful that this does not create fear or additional excitement.

In some situations, a firm, strong command such as "no bite" may be effective to distract from mouthing and biting. This command must be performed *during* a biting behavior. Again, be careful that this does not cause fear or increase excitement.

Make sure you are providing a good outlet for biting behaviors; youngsters need plenty of play time, exercise to expend some energy, safe encouragement for hunting behaviors, and so on.

Treat or food puzzles can encourage food-seeking and hunting behaviors that can decrease the need for mouthing and biting. Owners that run and/or yell when bitten may encourage and worsen inappropriate hunting behaviors.

Remember to reward for good behaviors with attention, petting, and treats. Providing the appropriate reward for a kitten might be a little more difficult than for a puppy, but food and toys still work, especially at a young age.

Veterinarians can be a valuable tool when attempts to minimize biting are unsuccessful. Discuss your concerns with your veterinarian, who may refer you to a veterinary behaviorist for more help.

Punishment for Biting

Do *not* punish a puppy or kitten for biting. Punishment, especially for a normal behavior, can prevent a puppy or kitten from learning normal skills like play biting to hone hunting skills. It can also affect the bond between the pet and humans and may even lead to fear, aggression, and/or anxiety. *Punishment does not serve to teach an appropriate behavior.* The best solution is to stay consistent with your training methods and be patient. Use management tools that encourage better actions and provide good outlets to meet the needs of both you and your young pet.

Jacqueline Brister, DVM Date Published: 02/28/2019