
ANIMAL CONTROL NEWSLETTER

Town of Sterling - December 2015

News



Holiday Safety Tips!

Danger! Pets may try to sneak out...the open door as company comes in. So when you know family or friends are coming over, play it safe and put pets in another room, preferably with door closed, or in a crate if crate trained and keep them there until all company arrives and is settled in. Once everyone is settled, allow pets to join in.

Food danger There are a lot of food dangers for pets this time of year so be careful! People tend to use grapes and raisins a lot in their main dishes, but beware, both grapes and raisins can make your pets very sick. Guests may leave food dishes in areas where pets can get to them (like wastebaskets). Be safe and post an area with "please put dirty dishes here" and keep food dangers away from your pets.

Chocolate Dangers Chocolate contains theobromine, a xanthine compound which is in the same family as caffeine and theophylline- and is toxic to dogs in large doses. Xanthenes affect the nervous system and cardiovascular system primarily. Symptoms of toxicity include hyper excitability, increased heart rate, restlessness, increased urination, muscle tremors, vomiting, diarrhea and in extreme cases, even death. The toxic dose for cats is even lower than for dogs, however, there is less chance of this happening to cats as they are unable to taste sweetness.

Danger with ice melts & anti-freeze can occur as pets lick themselves to clean their paws causing a toxic reaction to these chemicals. Pet owners should store ice melts & anti-freeze out of pets reach and wipe their pets' paws after they have been outside.

Emergency veterinarian: Post these emergency numbers near your phone, they are open when your local vet is closed 24/7:

- Tufts Veterinary Hospital in Grafton 508-839-5302
 - Wachusett Animal Hosp. in Westminster 978-407-1122
- Reach the APCC/Animal Poison Control Hotline 24 hours a day at 888-426-4435

On Saturday, November 7, 2015, Sterling Animal Control Officer Louis Massa and Animal Control Advisory Board members Terri Sadler and Anne Marie Catalano attended a Large Animal Training taught by Roger Lauze, Equine Rescue and Training Coordinator from the MSPCA Nevins Farm. Roger has worked for the MSPCA for thirty years and is internationally recognized as an expert in large animal rescue. The training covered key components of large animal rescue based on national standards. Several scenarios were presented for participant training, including rescuing a horse from a trailer accident and getting a downed horse out of a stall. The piece of equipment used was the Rescue Glide, developed by the MSPCA and Chip Fisher. The glide is a backboard or stretcher for horses that allows the animal to be secured and then moved to a safer location. For rescues where the horse needs to be either lifted up or down, the UC Davis Large Animal Lift and the Anderson sling were demonstrated. Although it is hoped that we never need to put this training into action, given the large number of horses stabled in Sterling, owners should be aware it is available.



Lucky, the rescue horse model being lifted in an Anderson sling from the Rescue Glide. Roger Lauze to the left of the horse's head.

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (ACO)
LOUIS MASSA
CAN BE REACHED @ 978-422-7331
STERLING POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Farmer's information!

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Chickens, and other birds.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has been doing routine testing in Massachusetts and as of to date **NO HPAI has been found.**

Signs of Illness!

- 1) Respiratory Disease, including coughing, sneezing, snicking (IS A HACKING SOUND)
- 2) Decreased Feed Consumption
- 3) Decreased Egg production or misshapen eggs
- 4) Swollen Heads
- 5) Swollen or discolored wattles or combs
- 6) Sudden Mortality

Holiday plants can be toxic and some real dangers exist for pets that eat house plants seen mostly during the holiday season. Holiday plants to keep out of pets reach are: Poinsettias, Mistletoe, Holly & Philodendron. Any of these plants can cause pets to be very sick if eaten.

Noted Pet Health Hazards: Wind chill is a threat to pets, even those protected by shelters. Outdoor dogs must be protected by a dry, draft free dog house that is large enough to allow the dog to both sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to retain body heat. The floor should be elevated a few inches off the ground and covered with small cedar shavings or straw. The entrance of the dog house should be turned to face away from the prevailing winds and the entrance should be covered with a flap of heavy waterproof fabric or heavy plastic.

Warm automobile engines are dangerous for cats and small wildlife. Parked vehicles can attract small animals which may crawl under the hood of vehicles engines seeking warmth. To avoid injuring hiding animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them off before starting your engine.

ACO REMINDER

2016 Dog Licensing in Sterling begins

January 1ST Be prepared!

Make sure your dogs rabies shot is up to date.

Call your veterinarian to check!

Without an updated rabies shot for your dog you cannot license your dog in the
State of Massachusetts.

Also a reminder- That any resident in the town of Sterling that is 70 Years of age and older there is
NO fee to license your dog/dogs, including kennel owners.

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