

Blue Ravine News

YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS OUR CONCERN

Volume 18 Issue 3

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Blue Ravine Will Have Continued Shortened Hours and Curbside Care for the Immediate Future

Blue Ravine Animal Hospital is very grateful for our clients' cooperation with the rules and procedures put in place for getting through the COVID-19 pandemic. We plan to continue our 7 am - 6 pm business hours until further notice. This allows our staff more flexibility to deal with child care, homeschooling, extra cleaning, physical distancing, and eventually less daylight. Please respect all the procedures, distancing rules, wearing of masks, and clients remaining curbside with pets until further notice.

Again, we ask that you have your cell phone handy and call us when you arrive for your appointment. You are welcome to use the outside seating arranged for your convenience. Just let us know where you are or what numbered spot you are parked in. Food and prescription orders will still be brought to your vehicle and payment will be handled by phone.

The supply chain for orders is a bit slower than usual so refills may take longer; we suggest that you order supplies a week in advance to allow adequate time for delivery.

Thank you for continuing to trust our team with your pets; your and your pets' health are of great concern to us.

Dr. Ricky Walther—New Veterinarian at Blue Ravine

Dr. Ricky Walther was born in San Jose and grew up in a rural community north of Auburn, CA. He has wanted to be a veterinarian since he was very young. Throughout high school and college he volunteered in veterinary hospitals where his passion for animals and medicine grew. Dr. Walther is a graduate of UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and has a BS in Animal Science from UC Davis as well.

Dr. Walther joined the team at Blue Ravine Animal Hospital after graduation. He has a special interest in preventative medicine, nutrition, ultrasonography and repro-

ductive medicine and is trained in stress-free animal handling. He is a member of the AVMA, CVMA, and SVVMA.

Dr. Walther has two Miniature Australian Shepherds named Kiya and Kimba. In his free time he loves to travel as well as spend time outdoors camping, boating and hiking with friends and family. He and his wife moved back to Folsom after his graduation and Dr. Walther is very excited to meet new clients and pets as he and his wife settle in the Folsom community.



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The Cutest Pet Contest

When the latest news and social media are filled with depressing updates about COVID-19, we can look to our four-legged — or otherwise feathered, finned, scaled or furry — friends to bring joy to our families and friends. No matter how or where you share them, there's nothing like a funny pet picture to bring smiles to people's faces.

Pets are cute and funny, often without any effort at all.



Do they chase their tail or each other if there are two or more in your house? Do they hide their toys, fall off their exercise wheel or sleep in funny positions? Our pets are often good for at least a chuckle, and outright laughs for their funnier antics.

Blue Ravine has decided to sponsor a **"Cutest Pet Contest"** this month. We encourage you to enter the cutest pictures of your dog, cat or "critter" in the contest. The pet's photo(s) and its name should be submitted to Kschwartz@blueravineanimalhospital.com. The Blue Ravine staff will then upload the photo to the "Cutest Pet Contest" folder on Facebook. You can go to the folder to view the pictures and "Like" your favorite. The pet photo that receives the most "Likes" by September 30 will be the winner of the contest and receive a prize!

Photo Submission Period: The Cutest Pet Contest folder has already been created on our Facebook page; you may begin to send your photos to Katie at the email address above as soon as your picture(s) are ready. The contest will end at 11:59 p.m., ("PT") on September 30, 2020.

The winner will be announced on Facebook on October 2, 2020.



Give us all an "awww" moment or a big smile when we see your picture.

Enter your pet now to see them on Facebook and "Like" your favorites. Maybe your pet will be the Winner published on our Facebook page on October 2!

EIGHT THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR DOG IN HOT WEATHER

1. Never, ever leave your dog in the car.
2. Make sure your dog has unlimited access to fresh water.
3. Make sure your dog has access to shade when outside.
4. Take walks during the cooler hours of the day.
5. When walking, try to stay off of hot surfaces (like asphalt) because it can burn your dog's paws.
6. If you think it's hot outside, it's even hotter for your pet – make sure your pet has a means of cooling off.
7. Keep your dog free of external parasites (fleas, ticks) and heartworms – consult your veterinarian about the best product for your pet.
8. Consider clipping or shaving dogs with long coats (talk to your veterinarian first to see if it's appropriate for your pet), and apply sunscreen to your dog's skin if she or he has a thin coat.

For Safe and Happy Pets during COVID-19

More ideas for your pets' welfare at home

Make sure you have a good stock of food and treats on hand.

Keeping your pets eating well and on the same diet is a recommendation for maintaining their good health in general. Grocery stores and online retailers are rapidly selling out of household essentials and it's smart to check on your pet food supply to ensure you have at least a couple of weeks' worth, just in case. On-line vendors are still shipping and stock of hundreds of favorite brands; just be prepared for slower delivery time.

Keep your pets entertained.

Whether you're trying to work from home or you're feeling sick, there are plenty of options for keeping needy pets busy and out of your personal space. Luckily, unlike humans who crave electronics, games, and crafts to stay entertained at home, most pets are more easily occupied.

1. Hide food games around the house

Keep your furry friend entertained by hiding treats, treat dispensing toys, or food puzzles around the house.

A creative option is freezing treats inside a block of ice and make your pet work for it.

2. Give your furry friend a window seat

Let your pet stay entertained by setting them up in a comfortable spot where they can look outside. Open the blinds or curtains and let them watch what's going on.

3. Turn on the television

YouTube for Dogs or Animal Planet are popular ways to keep pets busy while at home. The sounds and sights of other animals can be calming or interesting for all pets alike.

4. Schedule a play date or hire a dog walker

While practicing social distancing, connect with a neighbor or friend to have your pets hang out together in one or the other's home or outside at an open park. While dogs and cats can be vulnerable to catching the coronavirus, it is rare that they can pass on the virus to humans.

5. Put toys on a rotation

Pet owners know there is always a favorite. Keep your furry friend on their paws by switching toys out, allowing them to stay busy in new ways while owners reap

the benefit of toy longevity.

6. Teach some new tricks

Dogs can be taught to help with household chores, like hitting a light switch, fetching a remote control, leash or opening the fridge via a towel or rope tied around the handle.

If your dog doesn't know basic commands of sit, stay, down, drop it or come, a recommended 5 to 10 minutes a day can be effective for teaching obedience and creating a foundation for following commands.

7. Find ways to keep your pet calm

If your pet is on edge or experiences anxiety, essential oils, diffusers, calming chew toys, calming collars and massages are all ways to keep your pet calm.

Specifically for Cats

Got a friendly feline who loves playing in boxes? Let them have at your empty Amazon packages. Another quick cat distractor: a DIY food puzzle, made by dropping a cat treat into a small juice cup, empty candle votive, or other non-breakable vessel that's too deep or awkward for their face to fit, and let them figure out how to fish it out with a paw.

To keep cats from trying to nap on your laptop keyboard: take an ordinary brown paper bag for your cat to rustle with but infuse it with catnip for a tantalizing smell.

Specifically for dogs

For bored and affection-starved pups, consider a DIY scavenger hunt: Hide treats around the room, house, or (fenced) yard and let 'em hunt. In a pinch, you can also put peanut butter into the bottom of a cup (that you don't mind getting chewed), or just give the dog the remnants of an empty peanut butter jar. Or fill a long-forgotten hollowed-out dog bone with peanut butter and freeze it.

For a long-lasting chew treat, try a Himalayan Dog Chew, which tastes like cheese and is made with yak and cow milk, salt, and lime juice. They are hard and your dog will only be able to scrape off a little bit at a time, providing hours of enjoyment.

Settle in for a snuggle. While we may not be able to touch other humans outside our homes during social isolation, our pets are safe for a cuddle if you're healthy. Hugging your pet feels great, reduces depression and releases feel-good hormones. It can also help you relax, ease tension and even relieve physical pain.



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BLUE RAVINE OFFICE HOURS

COVID-19 Temp. Hours, Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
For emergencies outside regular office hours, please call MarQueen Pet Emergency & Specialty, 916 757-6600
or Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, 916 362-3111.

www.blueravineanimalhospital.com

Send your pet's "Cutest Pet Picture" to Blue Ravine for posting on Facebook. The pet picture with the most "likes" will win a Gift Basket.

BLUE RAVINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
1770 Prairie City Rd., Folsom, CA. 916-984-0990

Rules: Send your cute/funny photos now to Kschwartz@blueravineanimalhospital.com. The deadline for submitting photos is September 30, 2020.

Blue Ravine's staff will announce the Winning Cutest Pet on October 2, 2020 on its Facebook page.

Enter your cute pet now!

