

Blue Ravine News

YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS OUR CONCERN

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Introducing Dr. Kristina Nicole Jackson, DVM

Dr. Jackson grew up in the Santa Barbara, California area. From a young age, she fostered a love of animals through competitive horseback riding, 4-H, and caring for her family's numerous pets. 4-H allowed her to raise and exhibit a variety of species including sheep, pigs, and even turkeys.

Dr. Jackson graduated with a BA in Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. She then attended The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine where she graduated top of her class.

Her professional interests include emergency medicine, soft tissue surgery, diagnostic imaging, and animal behavior.

Outside of work, Dr. Jackson enjoys baking, painting, and spending time with her



Dr. Kristina Jackson, DVM

spouse and their crazy Labrador retriever (TJ) and cat (Lila).

Microchips, Collars & ID Tags, or Both?

According to lost pet statistics, around 90% of lost pets are found within 12 hours if an owner is actively searching for them. The 12-hour window is the best chance for finding them after they first disappear. Many pets are never found because they lack an ID or microchip. Experts recommend putting a collar on your pet because it's a worldwide recognized symbol that a pet has an owner, plus microchipping, because the chip can never be lost or removed.

A microchip is a radio frequency chip about the size of a grain of rice, which is placed underneath the skin of your pet.

Placing the chip requires no anesthetic and is as simple as getting a vaccination. A veterinarian simply injects the microchip between the pet's shoulder blades which takes only a few seconds. Your pet will not react any more than it would to a shot. And microchips are designed to work for 25 years.

Reading a microchip takes a special scanner, something your neighbor down the street may not have. If your dog wanders off, it's likely to be seen first by a private



Microchips, Collars & ID Tags (Continued on page 2)

Keep Pets Safe in the Summer Heat

Before anything else, prepare for power outages: you never know when the power may go out in your home.

Hot weather tips:

Never leave your pets in a parked car, not even for a minute! Not even with the car running and the air conditioner on. On a warm day, temperatures inside a vehicle can rise quickly to dangerous levels. On an 85-degree day the temperature inside a car with the windows cracked can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees. Your pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die. You can help a pet left inside a hot car by taking action or calling local law enforcement. (<https://aldf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Animal-Protection-Laws-of-California-2018.pdf>)

Watch the humidity: Animals pant to evaporate moisture from their lungs, which takes heat away from their body. If the humidity is too high, they are unable to cool themselves and their temperature will skyrocket to dangerous levels very quickly. Taking a dog's temperature will quickly tell you if there is a serious problem. Dogs' temperatures should not exceed 104 degrees. If your dog's temperature does, follow the instructions for treating heat stroke.

Limit exercise on hot days: On very hot days, walk your dog in the early morning or evening hours, and be especially careful with short-nosed pets, which typically have difficulty breathing. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so try to walk your dog on grass if possible. Always carry water with you to keep your dog from dehydrating.

Don't rely on a fan: Dogs sweat primarily through their feet and fans don't cool off pets as well as they cool people. Any time your pet is outside, make sure it has protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cold water. In heat

waves, add ice to water when possible. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—in fact, it makes it worse.

Cool your pet inside and out: In advance of high temperatures, whip up a batch of quick and easy DIY 'pupsicles' for dogs and add ice cubes to water. Invest in a cooling body wrap, vest or mat. These products can be soaked in cool water, and they'll stay cool for up to three days. Your dog might also enjoy a cool bath or playing in an outdoor doggy pool to cool off.

Watch for signs of heatstroke: Extreme temperatures can cause heatstroke. Some signs of heatstroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure and unconsciousness.

Animals are at particular risk for heat stroke if they are very old, very young, overweight, not conditioned to prolonged exercise, or have heart or respiratory disease. Some breeds of dogs—like Boxers, Pugs, Shih Tzu's and other dogs and cats with short muzzles—will have a much harder time breathing in extreme heat.

How to treat a pet suffering from heatstroke: Move your pet into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to their head, neck and chest or run cool (not cold) water over them. Let them drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. Drive them directly to a veterinarian—call Blue Ravine Animal Hospital 916-984-0990 or an emergency veterinary hospital like MarQueen, 916-757-6600, or Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, 916-362-3111.

Microchips, Collars & ID Tags—(Continued from page 1)

citizen. That's why an ID tag could be your pet's first ticket home. Microchips provide that extra level of protection in case your pet loses its collar and tags.

How does the chip help to find you? Each microchip contains a registration number. A veterinarian's or animal shelter's handheld scanner can read the radio frequency of the chip and contact the registry to get your name and phone number.

Pet companies are now advertising and selling "MICROCHIPPED" dog collars that are designed to let people know that your pet has a microchip. This collar does not actually contain a chip, it is meant to communicate that the dog is chipped. If a person finds your dog with one of these collars, they no longer have to take them to a vet to be scanned because the collar can show your dog's name,

phone number, address, ID number or any text you want to put on it.

Talk to your veterinarian and make an appointment to have your dog or cat microchipped if it is not chipped yet. We strongly recommend it. Call Blue Ravine Animal Hospital at 916-984-0990 for more information. And for the best protection, consider adding a collar with an ID tag.



Beware! Foxtails Are Dangerous Weeds

Thankfully, those of us who live in suburbia with mowed lawns do not confront foxtails as often as those who frequent areas with long or tall grasses.

The foxtail is a grass-like weed with a barbed head that only moves one way – forward – when it attaches to your dog. These tough seeds don't break down inside the body, so they can lead to serious infection for your dog and can even lead to death if left untreated.

The barbed seed heads of the foxtail plant can work their way into any part of your dog or cat:

- Nose
- Eyes
- Mouth or Throat
- Ears
- Paws or Feet
- Skin

From these areas they can also migrate into a lung or the brain.

Foxtail



If you have been in a grassy area with your dog and it shows symptoms of irritation or embedded foxtails, call your veterinarian right away. Symptoms to watch for: Shaking the head; violent sneezing or coughing; scratching ears; redness, squinting, swelling, discharge or scratching of the eyes; swelling, bumps or licking of the feet or limping.

Call your veterinarian right away if you find an embedded foxtail or an area is red or swollen.

Remember, foxtails will not come out on their own!

Prevention Measures: Stay out of tall grass; keep your yard mowed and weeds pulled; brush your pet and examine its coat thoroughly every time you have been in any area where foxtails grow.

Springtime and Summer Allergies

Summer season allergies in dogs can be annoying, especially if your dog enjoys being outside. In the summer, pollen is usually the biggest hindrance to dogs that are allergic, along with stinging insects and smog. In recent years, dogs in California have also been impacted by smoke from local fires.

Although trees have already released their pollen in the spring, many other plants and shrubs such as weeds, ragweed, certain grasses, and other summer plants also release pollen. These can be more bothersome to your dog since many of these plants are low to the ground where your dog usually walks, lays, and plays.

Stinging insects such as wasps, hornets, fire ants, yellow jackets, and similar insects are also threats to your dog. Dogs,

like humans, may have a very severe reaction to a sting. Smog is the other culprit for summer allergies, especially in cities. The air pollution from car exhaust and other chemicals combined with summer breezes can trigger an allergic reaction in your dog multiple times per day.

These allergens can affect your dog's eyes, nose, skin or throat. Symptoms may include red and watery or itchy eyes; irritated and itchy skin, dry or scaly skin; coughing or sneezing; nasal discharge; excessive licking and scratching.

If you suspect your dog has allergies, it is important to see a veterinarian rather than attempting to medicate your pet yourself. Although there are allergy treatments on the market today, it is important not to give medications until you get advice from a veterinarian.



Ragweed

Your veterinarian will assess your pet's symptoms and ask a variety of questions about the start of the allergies, the symptoms, and how long they last. The veterinarian may also question you about the types of trees and plants around your home and whether your dog is on any flea treatments.

If your dog's symptoms occurred after a possible bee or other insect sting, your veterinarian will assess the site of the irritation and might need to immediately

treat the dog for a severe allergic reaction, such as anaphylaxis.

Additional care may include scoping the nasal area or doing blood tests that can help pinpoint the source of allergies. Once diagnosed, recommended treatments may include an appropriate anti-inflammatory, steroid, or antihistamine; baths; supplements; or topical anti-itch ointments.

The treatment of seasonal allergies in dogs can be frustrating but your veterinarian can help determine whether the allergies are caused by environmental factors or from food or bacterial infections. To get help and an appropriate treatment plan, call Blue Ravine Animal Hospital: 916-984-0990.



Yellow jacket

Snake Bites

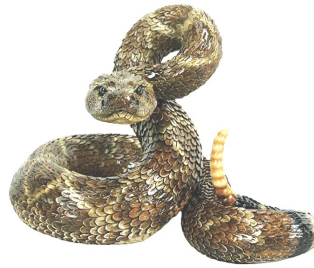
Animals that hibernate during the winter, including snakes, come out in the spring and summer to bask in the warm sunshine and to find prey. Snakes are usually totally uninterested in you or your pets—the majority of snake bites are actually the result of pets being in the wrong place at the wrong time. But if your dog sees a snake it will want to sniff it and investigate it, interrupting the snake's primary mission at this time—finding food! If the snake feels threatened by the dog, it has no other defense mechanism, so it will use its mouth to bite.

Most snake bites are harmless but a bite from a venomous snake can be dangerous. What should you do? First, stay calm, and call your veterinarian to seek immediate care.

Some dogs have no reaction to a snake bite but others may react almost instantly or begin to show symptoms up to 24 hours later. The

intensity of snake bite symptoms can vary; your dog could experience sudden weakness and collapse; trembling, shaking or twitching of muscles; excessive salivation, drooling or frothing at the mouth; bloody urine; dilated pupils; paralysis; diarrhea and/or vomiting; unsteadiness/weakness in the hind legs.

If the snake bite was venomous, you'll see significant swelling where the dog was bitten. Your veterinarian will be able to talk you through the situation and tell you what to do. But if your dog is having difficulty breathing or has collapsed, get them to an emergency pet clinic right away.



Rattlesnake

A veterinarian will usually begin to treat your dog by conducting a physical exam and ordering bloodwork. Based on the severity of the bite and suspected type of snake, the veterinarian may administer antivenom, which is a first-line treatment in areas where rattlesnake bites are common.

The type of treatment provided to your dog will vary depending on the circumstances. Some common treatments for snake bites on dogs are clipping and cleaning bite wounds; giving antibiotics for a tissue injury; using supplemental oxygen for trouble breathing; giving intravenous (IV) fluids; pain medications; giving vaccine to protect against future bites; giving steroids or anti-inflammatory drugs.

In some cases, the veterinarian may advise that your pet be hospitalized for additional support care for at least 24 hours, followed by 1-2 weeks of rest at home.

Be proactive: Discuss risks with your veterinarian and where to go if your pet is bitten by a snake. Ask your veterinarian about the rattlesnake vaccine and seek out Rattlesnake Aversion Training: this training will teach your dog how to recognize the scent, sound, and sight of a rattlesnake and learn how to avoid it.

A snake bite can be life threatening and your pet's life depends on getting treatment quickly. Dogs left untreated are less likely to recover.

Veterinarians have been known to say—"Your best medicine in the case of a snake bite is your car keys."

BLUE RAVINE OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday, closed.
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

OPEN HOUSE IS BACK!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Blue Ravine will have its Open House in December:
Saturday, December 3, 2022 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**With all the usual Festivities
including photos with Santa Claus.**

Come one, come all!!!



**ALSO WATCH BLUE RAVINE'S FACEBOOK PAGE
for details about our
Halloween Pet Costume Contest.**



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