

the **TwoByFour** NY Monthly Online NEWS LETTER



January 2012

2012

IT'S A NEW YEAR!!

It's a NEW YEAR and that means another year of our ONLINE Newsletter. In the past most of our articles were generated by stories in the news or sheer inspiration and only one or two in response to questions from TwoByFour NY clients and Newsletter readers. I would love to make this Newsletter even more relevant to all of you, whether you are a client or just a casual reader who found us on the internet. So I am inviting all of our readers to suggest topics or a question. If our editorial department thinks that our readers might benefit and enjoy a story on the topic I'll write an article on that subject. Please make your suggested topics general enough to be interesting to a broad audience of pet lovers. And thank you for interest in our Newsletter.



YOUR DOG'S DOGS

(Continued from previous column)

... a wet cloth to wash off any salts or chemicals.

And lastly, here is a great bonding moment that owners should do when their dogs were puppies, PAW MASSAGE. We all love a good pedicure and having someone massage our feet... so do dogs. While massaging a dog's paws you can examine them, trim their nails, snip between their toes, clean out any debris, and moisturize them ALL at the same time. And your dog will LOVE you for it. And isn't that what it's all about?



FAT CATS

No we're not talking about "corporate fat cats"; we really are talking about cats that are overweight. Weight gain is a problem for people as much as it can be for dogs and cats. Although cats don't have as much of a problem with weight gain, there are some cats that can be classified as... obese. The problem is basically the same no matter who it is... intake of food exceeds energy output. Sound familiar? And like us, carrying too much weight can lead to health issues and in cats that means diabetes, liver problems, and joint pain.

As always, ask your vet if he/she thinks your pet is overweight. There are many things you can do to trim 'em up. Ask your vet about a different diet. A reduced caloric diet can result in other changes besides weight... a reduction of too many calories can deteriorate a cats coat and create skin conditions. So ask the vet.

However, increasing physical activity is always a good idea not only for weight loss and weight maintenance but mental alertness. Also, when playing with your cat, cut

We walk a lot of dogs at TwoByFour NY and at the end of a long day, to use a colloquialism for feet – our “DOGS” can really hurt. So we put out feet up or soak ‘em in a foot bath. But we have to keep in mind that the dogs WE were walking weren’t wearing shoes or sneakers, or any footwear at all. It was just bare paws on pavement. Ouch.

Thank goodness a dog’s paws are made for walking on a variety of surfaces. Dog’s paws have pads that provide a protective cushioning that provides insulation from extreme weather and protects the dog’s deep muscular tissue and bones when walking on rough ground. But don’t get me wrong, a dog’s paws still takes a beating and that means YOU should provide your dog’s paws with a little TLC to make sure their paws are in tip top shape.

First, check out your dog’s paws on a routine basis. It is always wise to raise your dog to accept you touching their paws. This starts out when they’re puppies. A dog should allow you not only to touch their paws, but just about anywhere on their body including their mouth. They may not always like it, but YOUR dog allowing you to have access to examine them is critical to their health and well being.

Second, nail care for dogs is extremely important and unfortunately something too many people ignore or avoid, because trimming a dog’s nails requires some knowledge and understanding of the structure of a dog’s nails & paws. A dog’s nails should not touch the floor when they walk. When their nails are too long they can be uncomfortable or hurt the dog when they walk. Also long nails can snag on a rug or material and could pull the nail off the dog’s paw and that can be very painful and become an injury with a potential site for infection. Take the time to learn how to trim your dog’s nails and use the proper nail clippers. If you have trouble, ask your dog’s groomer to check and trim the nails, or ask your vet to teach you how to do it properly. At TwoByFour NY or staff can also check and trim your dog’s nails, but we won’t do that unless YOU request it.

Third, just image all of the gunk that could get trapped between a dog’s toes. Well it does, so regularly check between your dog’s toes for pebbles, seed spurs, bits of broken glass, and other debris. And while you’re there it might be a good time to clip some of the hair matted between the toes as well. You don’t have to clear it out; the hair should be level to the bottom of the foot pads.

Fourth, in the winter some owners think that they should apply a moisturizer. That’s a great idea BUT ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN about what moisturizer is best to use BECAUSE if you SOFTEN a dog’s PAWS TOO MUCH it can actually make the paws TOO SOFT and LEAD TO INJURY. So ASK YOUR VET if your dog would benefit from a moisturizer and ask what moisturizer you should use and how often.

Continuing on winter issues, people throw chemicals and salt on the ground to melt ice and snow. Besides causing paw pads to chap, dogs can... and will lick their paws and unwittingly ingest these chemicals. So if your dog doesn’t wear “snow/winter booties” on their walks, it is a good idea to give your dog’s paws a quick wipe

down on the treats.

Here are a few tips that helps modify a cats eating triggers: REMOVE the cat when you/your family sits down for dinner. Feed your cat several smaller meals throughout the day. And feed your cat treats only in their food dish so they learn NOT to eat food that isn’t intended for them. And lastly keep in mind that IF you let your cat roam outside the home... cats are hunters and they might be catching an extra mouse meal or two while outdoors. Too bad cats can’t just sign up for a gym membership.



PET SITTING SERVICE

The next time you go on vacation or a business trip, don't bring your pet to a kennel to be locked up in a pen or a cage. Let your pet stay at home. TwoByFourNY's loving pet professionals will see to it that your pet is well fed, watered, walked and played with; so that when you come home your pet will be happy, healthy and content. If you don't want to leave your pet in a kennel or at home... ask about TwoByFourNY's “In OUR Home” **24 HOUR SUPERVISION and TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED** Pet Sitting Service. Call today. Call 516.662.7461



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We Accept:



[Information supplied here is only to keep you aware about the needs of your pet – nothing can replace the examination and care from your veterinarian.]

with...

(Continued in next column)



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