

## We are OPEN Everyday from 4PM to 11PM for all of your Pets After Hours URGENT CARE Needs



Santa Clarita

## ANIMAL URGENT CARE

## and Wellness Center

Check out our List of Services or contact us at... www.scanimalurgentcare.vet

## We are Here For Your Pets Needs 7 Nights a Week

18597 Soledad Canyon Road Santa Clarita 91351

## Spring is Almost Here...

 And what does this mean for your Pet?Allergies... Many Pets suffer the same Allergies as Humans (Sneezing, Coughing, Itchy Eyes, Skin Irritations, etc.) Allergy Testing will determine what your Pets Allergies are and will help you to be proactive in your pets surroundings


Call or Message us at (661) 888-8VET (On the Corner of Shangri La Street in the Vallarta Shopping Center)


Smith Veterinary Hospital Quality Compassionate Care

Open Hours MONDAY and TUESDAY 8AM - 5pm

WEDNESDAY - CLOSED
THURSDAY and FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM
SATURDAY 8AM - 3PM SUNDAY - CLOSED

## Pet Dental Health Month is Extended for March!

Lets start with a FREE Dental Exam and then we'll ADD Additional Dscounts...

Pet Dental Cleaning Services:
\$50 Discount for Cats and Small Dogs \$75 Discount for Large Dogs
(Expiration Limitations Apply so call for details)
As with many health issues...
Preventive Care is the Best Medicine
We are located at 44623 10TH Street West between Lancaster Blvd. and Newgrove Street Call or Message us at 661-948-5065 or visit us at www.smithveterinaryhospital.net to see a list of Services we Offer and Request an Appointment
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ANTELOPE VALLEY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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www.quantumhealthchiro.com 10\% Off First Chiropractic Visit ONLY!

## Claws Magazine \&

 Animal and Pet Lovers
## Directory \& Resource

## Guide for the Antelope Valley

 Focus StatementThe staff is dedicated to the care of animals. Whether pets or livestock, we surround ourselves with people who demonstrate a passion for pets and compassion for their care providers. We
will provide a venue where animal lovers can share their experiences as they focus on the unconditional positive treatment of their charges. We are a 501 (c)3 Public Service Non Profit Corporation Make all donations to: All Creatures Network Inc. 43759 15th St W \#250 Lancaster, CA 93534 PUBLISHER \& EDITOR John Henderson, CEO EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Karen Henderson CONSULTANT \& SENIOR WRITER Larry Bosma, DVM (Ret), CFO Andrew Bosma, COO CORRESPONDENTS Kimberly Maevers * Shelly Quinn Virginia Pressly * Lauren Mertz


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Send your letters, comments, article submissions or resumes for Claws Magazine or All Creatures Directory to: All Creatures Media: EDITOR clawsmag@roadrunner.com

## John Henderson 661.341 .4252

## BE A FRIEND - PLAY!

Dogs, of course, love to play. Set aside time each day for play sessions. Apart from the obvious benefit of having fun together, play also provides an outlet for your dog's energy.
GO ON WALKS
Take your dog on frequent walks. He will enjoy exploring the neighborhood and will benefit from the exercise. Make sure that you have a good strong leash and that you maintain control of the dog at all times.

## TALK TO YOUR DOG

Your dog won't understand your words, but he will enjoy the sound of your voice. Talking to your dog will make him feel involved. You can also use different voice levels to praise or correct your dog's behavior.
GIVE TREATS
Your dog will always appreciate a treat, and treats can be used as a supplement to his regular diet, as well as an excellent training aid.
SWITCH OUT TOYS
Keep your dog entertained by rotating his toys.
Cont'd on page 17


PET LOVERS JOURNAL AND RESOURCE GUIDE


CRITTERS LIVES ARE VVORTH SAVING wuww.claws-magazine.com LET'S HONOR THE BEST!
We are looking for dedicated people who demonstrate a passion for pets and compassion for their care providers. We will provide a venue where animal lovers can share their experiences as they focus on the unconditional positive treatment of their charges. We hereby establish an
award system based on true care principles and dedication to our goals as principled care providers called:


Email your nominee's business name, address, owners name and reason for your choice to: PUBLISHER \& EDITOR John Henderson
Cell: 661-341-4252
Email: On subject line "AWARD" to:
clawsmag@roadrunner.com


Share your favorite pet story with us! If we like it, we'll print it!

## Your donations . . .

Will enable us to offer financial assistance for veterinary bills, vaccinations, and other crucial pet care needs. These funds bridge the gap for those facing financial constraints, ensuring that pets receive the care they deserve, fostering healthier and happier relationships between owners and their furry companions. Imagine the joy of a child reunited with their healthy pet, or the relief felt by an elderly person knowing their loyal companion will receive necessary medical attention. Your generosity can create these heartwarming moments. With your support, we aim to reach our goal of 500 donors. Every donation, regardless of size, plays a vital role in transforming the lives of both pets and their owners.
Together, let's build a community where financial barriers do not stand in the way of compassionate pet care. Join us in making a difference - one paw at a time.

## ESSAYCONTEST

If you are between the ages of 12-15 or 16-18 we Invite you to write an essay telling our readers.

## "What does my dog/cat mean to me?"

Prizes will be gift certificates to our advertisers and will be announced in next issue

1. Is this a scholarship?

No. This is an contest with a set of rules and cash prizes.
2. When will the 2024 contest dates be announced?

The dates are usually announced in the current issue of Claws Magazine for the following issue.
3. What are the contest rules and requirements for my entry?

The rules and requirements for each contest may vary from year to year and the theme will be announced. The theme for the March/April issue is "What does my dog/cat mean to me?" Each entry must be no longer than 250 words and must have your name, birth date, phone number and address on the top of every page.
4. When can I send in my entry?

Entries are accepted only between the
contest opening and closing dates. Your entries must be postmarked by 5pm on the 20th of April 2024.

## 5. Where do I send my entry?

Your typed entry must be on white paper double spaced in Times Roman or Book Antiqua font submitted to:

## All Creatures Media ESSAY 43759 15th St W \#250 Lancaster, CA 93534

Entries sent to us in any other way will simply be discarded.
6. If you have a question about the contest, email it to us ...

Questions about the theme "What does my dog/cat mean to me?" must be emailed to: clawsmag @roadrunner.com with "ESSAY ENTRY" in the subject line and your name, address and birth date in the body of the email before your question.

Questions You Can Answer

In Your Essay .. .
a) How old were when you got your first pet?
b) What was your first pet?
c) Was your pet a rescue or from a pet store?
d) Who named your first pet and what was their favorite toy?
e) What's the difference between a rescue and a pet store pet?
f) Did your pet ever have babies, if so, tell about the experience.
g) Did you have a pet that died, share the experience.

Column Specs \& Rate Card May \& Jun 2024 deadline for Reserving ads is Apr 5th. Ads \& text due 3pm on Apr 10th (Ad sizes are subject to change to fit properly)

| $7.5 " \times 10 "$ | Cover | $\$ 480$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $7.5 " \times 10 "$ | Full Page | $\$ 380$ |
| $7.5 " \times 5 "$ | $1 / 2$ Page | $\$ 210$ |
| $2.5 " \times 10 "$ | $1 / 3$ rd Page | $\$ 165$ |
| $4.5 " \times 4.5 "$ | $1 / 3$ rd Page | $\$ 165$ |
| $3.5 " \times 5 "$ | $1 / 4$ th Page | $\$ 120$ |
| $2.5 " \times 7.5 "$ | $1 / 4$ th Page | $\$ 120$ |
| $2.0 " \times 3.5 "$ | BC $-1 / 6 t h$ | $\$ 75$ |

## In Defense of Feral Cats . . .

Iunderstand the objections to community cats but most of the problems occur because a colony has not been controlled. For more than 10,000 years, cats have lived among humans sharing the environment with birds and wildlife. One of the common misconceptions about community cats is that removing (killing) them is the only way to control colonies.

* If cats are removed from their outdoor home, it creates a territorial opening - or vacuum - that will not remain empty.
* According to one scientific journal article, "...the presence of feral cats in a place indicates an ecological niche for approximately that number of cats." (Zaunbrecher) Each time cats are removed, the population will rebound to
fill that niche.
* Removing cats from an area may cause a temporary decrease in the cat population, but more cats WILL take their place - and it won't take long. * This phenomenon is known in conservation studies as the Vacuum Effect. The Vacuum Effect has been observed in many species, not just cats. * Catching and removing (or killing) cats is therefore futile. It is an expensive, deadly cycle which yields no long-term benefits.
* Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the only way to stabilize cat populations. It is the humane, effective approach to community cats and is sound public policy.



## Ken Neill Kennels

Established in 1969
kenneillkennels@aol.com

## Cleanliness you can see, touch and smell

## Santa Clarita Animal Urgent Care \& Wellness Center Mar/Apr 2024

Santa Clarita Animal Urgent Care is an Emergency/Critical Care and Specialty Veterinary Hospital, dedicated to providing compassionate medical care to the dogs and cats entrusted to our care. We understand that your Pet is part of your Family, and we strive to treat them with the utmost empathy and respect. There has long been a need for additional Emergency and Specialty Care for the pets of Santa Clarita and its surrounding areas.

In 2020, we opened the Santa Clarita Animal Urgent Care to help meet these needs as an AFTER HOURS Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Hospital.

Our facility is OPEN 365 NIGHTS a year from 4PM to 11PM when your Veterinary Hospital is closed for the day, and provide a valuable Urgent Care Service to area Pets while utilizing the very best in modern veterinary care.

Our Hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art technology. We use a full spectrum of In-House Labs, Full body and Dental Digital Imaging,

Ultrasound, Endoscopy, Internal and Surgical Medicine all with Exceptional Patient Care and Expertise.

Our staff at the Santa Clarita Anim al Urgent Care Hospital is committed to providing the highest quality veterinary treatment and care for your Pets in Sand Canyon, Santa Clarita, Antelope Valley and when necessary, their surrounding areas as well. You can be confident knowing your Pet is in exceptional care due to our advanced training, expertise, and cuttingedge technology.

Providing an Urgent/Emergency and Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation Center is our Primary Care focus. Our hospital provides advanced veterinary medicine and high-quality, compassionate care that improves the lives of pets and their owners.

Our Orthopedic Rehabilitation Center provides aftercare Physical Therapy utilizing Water Treadmill and Cold Laser treatments systems.

Cont'd on page 9


## Santa Clarita Animal Urgent Care \& Wellness Center Mar/Apr 2024 Cont'd from page 6

Our veterinary team is committed to maintaining regular and open lines of communication with the Pet Owners and their Primary Family Veterinarian.

We are proud to provide our clients with timely access to the most advanced veterinary specialists and emergency services available today.

## Our Staff:

As a collective, our Veterinarian team has over 75 years of experience in all areas of Veterinary Primary and Emergency Care, Endoscopy, Surgery and additionally Orthopedic Surgery with Rehabilitation Therapy. Having a collective of Veterinarians offers our Patients the very best in care with a collaborative knowledge that extends far beyond the basic necessities of Veterinary Health Care.

We see ourselves as an extension of the family veterinarian and strive to keep your veterinarian informed through timely updates. Once your pet is under our care, we will confer with as needed until your pet is recovered and can be transferred back to your care.

Together, our Team as pet owners ourselves, treat patients as though they were our very own pets and work to ensure that patients receive the best care and follow-up treatment possible while maintaining communication with their Primary Veterinarian. The well-being and comfort of our patients and their families is the focal point of our efforts.

[^0]March \& April Pét Holidays and Veterinary Awareness Days

| March Awareness M | Week (second full week in April) |
| :---: | :---: |
| Poison Prevention Awareness Month | April 10-16 \| National Dog Bite Prevention Week |
| March Awareness Weeks | (second full week in April) |
| March 6-12 \| Professional Pet Sitters Week | April 17-23 \| Animal Cruelty/Human Violence |
| March 20-26 \| National Poison Prevention Week | Awareness Week (third week in April) |
| March Holidays and Awareness Days | April 17-23 \| National Pet ID Week (third week in April) |
| March 1 \| National Pig Day | April 24-30 \| Veterinary Receptionist Week |
| March 3 \| If Pets Had Thumbs Day | April 24-30 \| National Scoop the Poop Week |
| March 13 \| K-9 Veterans Day | April Holidays and Awareness Days |
| March 14 \| UK Dog Theft Awareness Day | April 2 \| National Ferret Day |
| March 23 \| National Puppy Day | April 3 \| Every Day is Tag Day |
| March 23 \| Cuddly Kitten Day | (first Saturday in April) |
| March 28 \| Respect Your Cat Day | April 4 \| World Stray Animal Day |
| March 30 \| Take a Walk in the Park Day April Awareness Months | April 4 \| World Rat Day |
| National Heartworm Awareness Month | April 6 \| National Siamese Cat Day |
| National Pet First Aid Awareness Month | April 8 \| National Dog Fighting Awareness Day |
| Prevent Lyme Disease in Dogs Month | April 10 \| National Hug Your Dog Day |
| Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month | April 11 \| National Pet Day |
| Canine Fitness Month | April 11 \| Celebrate Shelter Pets Day |
| National Adopt a Greyhound Month | April 11 \| Dog Therapy Appreciation Day |
| April Awareness Weeks | April 19 \| Pet Owners Day |
| April 3-9 \| International Pooper Scooper Week | April 19 \| National Cat Lady Day |
| April 10-16 \| Animal Care and Control Appreciation | April 21 \| Bulldogs are Beautiful Day |

## How to inquire of and contract with

## a Professional Pet Sitter

Watch our YouTube video at https://youtu.be/tBLZK79JMh8

1) Search for Professional Pet Sitters at the National Assn. for Professional Pet Sitters (www.petsitters.org) and Pet Sitters International (www.petsit.com) websites;
2) Ask for referrals from your Veterinarian, Groomer, Trainer, family and friends;
3) Discuss your pet care needs in detail with your prospective pet sitter, be honest about your pets' behavior, health and special needs;
4) Get a written quote and agree to a price (and terms) BEFORE you leave on your trip;
5) Ask for proof (and copies) of Business License, Insurance and Bond! Also find out WHO will be coming to your home to provide the pet-care service. Check references;
6) Schedule the Meet and Greet with the Pet Care provider (the person who will

actually be performing the pet-care visits); 7) Make sure the pet-sitter has a PLAN B in the unlikely event they are unable to perform their duties and on the schedule, you've agreed to...know what their course of action is for Plan B and WHO will be in your home if it's not the person you hired; 8) Leave well written, last-minute notes in a visible location and a clean work-space;
7) Ensure your pet-sitter is prepared to text or email you daily or per-visit updates with photos of how your pets are doing in your absence;
8) Share your positive experience and reviews of your pet-sitting experience with your friends and family!

If you have any questions, call Kimberly at<br>Fun Fur U - In Home Pet Care (661) 865-7412<br>kimberly @ FunFurU .com




## Local Shelters and Rescue Groups

The following list of local shelters and rescues has been provided as a public resource only, and covers the cities of the Antelope Valley. To reach their website, type the URL without spaces, then hit enter on your browser...
A Passion for Paws Akita Rescue, Inc. apassionforpaws. org/
Aussie Rescue of Southern Calif Inc. aussierescuesocal. com/
Basset Hound Rescue of S. Calif bassethoundrescue. org
California Miniature Schnauzer Rescue (CMSR) schnauzers. us

CA Animal Rescue \& Education Sanctuary (C.A.R.E.S)
www.facebook. com/groups /1517407391890058/
Community Effort Animal Rescue (C.E.A.R.) (Former: AV Dog \& Cat Rescue)
www.communityeffortanimalresc ue. com
Dachshund Rescue \& Placement www.doxiekeeper. net/

Doggy Smiles Rescue
www.calcitypd. org/AnimalControl.html
Forgotten Angels Cat Rescue, Inc www.forgottenangelsrescue. org/
Frank and Lucy Project
frankgandolfo62@gmail.com
French Bulldog Village Rescue www.frenchbulldogvillage. org/
GreySave Greyhound Adoptions
www.greysave. org/
Halfway to Home
www.halfwaytohome. net/
High Desert Angels for Animals www.highdesertangelsforanimals. com
The Homestretch Greyhound Rescue
Adoption houndsavers.org/
Lange Foundation
www.langefoundation. org
L.A. County Animal Care \& Control: www.Lancasteranimalcare. lacounty. gov/
Kit's Pawprints Dog Rescue
PawprintsDogRescue@gtmail.com

Ruff Patches www.ruffpatches. org/
SecondHand Animals
www.facebook.com/groups/LPSec ondHandAnimals/
Southern California Labrador
Retriever Rescue www.sclrr. org/
Westside German Shepherd Rescue of LA
www.sheprescue. org/
Woof Project
www.woofproject. org/
Doberman Pinscher SOS
www.dobiesos. net/

## Call us if your group is missing

Our heart is in the right place, but so far, no one has stepped up to help organize our rescue list. If you have been bored looking for a purpose, PLEASE look to All Creatures Network, Inc. If you love animals, we want to hear from you...

## In Defense of Feral Cats . . .



Through TNR, community cats are humanely trapped, altered, vaccinated, ear tipped for identification, and returned to their outdoor homes where they not only continue to lead full, healthy lives, but they provide a natural solution to rodent and pest control. According to a recent Harris Interactive poll, 84 percent of Americans prefer that their communities use tax dollars to adopt sterilization as its cat control policy instead of bringing cats found outdoors into shelters to be killed. And that is true even when they are unaware of the Vacuum Effect. People simply believe, correctly, that cats have intrinsic value to their lives and do not want them to suffer and be killed.


## PUPBY'S RULE OE TMELVE from ASPCA

Apuppy is most willing to try new things before she reaches the age of five (5) months. The Puppy's Rule of Twelve is a handy guideline for puppy owners to ensure that a puppy is exposed to a variety of things during this critical time-period. It is very important to ensure all experiences are positive - so be ready to reward your puppy with lots of super, yummy treats and praise. If your puppy is scared or frightened of something slow down, decrease distance or intensity and reassure her.
By the time your puppy is five (5) months old, your puppy should have:
EXPERIENCED TWELVE (12) different surfaces - Wood, woodchips, grass, asphalt/cement, tile, wet grass, rocks, gravel, dirt, mud, puddles, grates, uneven surfaces, metal, on a table, on a chair, etc.
PLAYED with twelve (12) different objects Fuzzy toys, hard toys, big \& small balls, funny sounding toys, wooden items, paper/cardboard items, milk jugs, metal items, etc.
EXPERIENCED TWELVE (12) different locations - Front yard, other people's homes, lake, pond, river, boat, elevator, stairs, car, moving car, veterinarian (just to say "hi" \& get lots of treats no vaccinations), kennel, grooming salon (just to say "hi" \& to get lots of treats - no grooming), etc. MET \& PLAYED with twelve (12) different people (outside of the family) - Include children, adult men, adult women, elderly adults, people in wheelchairs, people on crutches, people with hats, people with sunglasses, etc.
EXPOSED to twelve (12) different noises Garage door opening, doorbell, sirens, children playing, babies crying, loud/big trucks, motorcycles, laundry machines, skateboards, shopping carts rolling, motorboats, clapping, loud singing, vacuums, lawnmowers, pan dropping, etc.

It is very important to observe your puppy's body language during this exercise to ensure she is not frightened or uncomfortable. Reduce the distance to the object or the level of the noise until she is comfortable and reward her with lots of super, yummy treats and praise. See Canine Body Language tip sheet for more information on body language.

EXPOSED to twelve (12) fast moving objects (don't allow to chase) - Skateboards, roller skates, bicycles, cars, trucks, boats, people/children running, cats, wild critters, scooters, vacuums, horses running, etc.
EXPERIENCED twelve (12) different challenges - Climbing stairs, climbing off/in/around a box, going through a tunnel, climb over obstacles, going in \& out of doorways, walking on a wobbly table, play hide-n-seek, jump over something, getting a bath, etc.
HANDLED by owner \& family members twelve (12) times a week - Hold under arm, hold to chest, hold on floor near owner, hold in-between owner's legs, hold head, look in ears, hold paws, hold and take temperature (with veterinarian's assistance), hold like a baby, hold \& trim toenails (with veterinarian's assistance), hold in lap, look in mouth, etc.
EATEN from twelve (12) different containers Wobbly bowl, metal, cardboard, paper, coffee cup, pie plate, plastic, frying pan, KONG, dogsafe puzzle toy, spoon fed, etc.
EATEN in twelve (12) different locations - Back yard, front yard, crate, kitchen, basement, bedroom, laundry room, friend's house, car, school, bathtub, up high (supervised), under an object, etc.
PLAYED with as many puppies and safe adult dogs as possible.
LEFT ALONE safely, away from family and other animals twelve (12) times a week for a period of 5 to 45 minutes.
Start with a short time period and gradually increase the amount time your puppy is alone. See Crate Training tip sheet for more information.
EXPERIENCED a leash and collar twelve (12) different times in twelve (12) different locations.

> Please let the advertisers know you saw their ads in this issue of the Claws Magazine

## Welcome to All Creatures Network, Inc. Communily Scction animal tovers need you... <br> 

We have been publishing Claws Magazine since August 2021. I've been in marketing and publishing for the better part of 45 years. As much as I love this business, I love animals more!

I have fostered and/or rescued 50 dogs in my 74 years and I don't know what I would be without a precious dog as a companion. Lucky for me, my precious wife of 42 years feels the same.

This corporation is a nonprofit public benefit
Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable
This corporation is a nonprofit public benefit
corporation. It is organized under the Nonprofit
Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable
This corporation is a nonprofit public benef
corporation. It is organized under the Nonpro
Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable purposes.

The name and contact in the State of California of this corporation's CEO \& President is:John Henderson, Ph. 661-341-4252,
Email: clawsmag @ roadrunner.com This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for purposes within the meaning of exclusively for purposes within the meaning of
Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. 1. To publish a pet lovers journal and resource guide;
2. Establish a Military, Civil Service Animal Memorial;
3. To provide financial assistance in the form of grants to families and individuals unable to pay for veterinary services for their pets, and
4. To Establish Antelope Valley Animal Care for veterinary services for their pets, and
4. To Establish Antelope Valley Animal Care Coalition.


> All Creatures Network Inc, A CALIFORNIA PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION

All Creatures is a labor of LOVE and I will continue proclaiming my love for dogs until they plant me! If you have a passion for fur babies, please make a donation to help continue this endeavor. We are looking for 500 animal lovers to donate $\$ 100$ or more each so we can fulfill our promise to you.

## PLEASE HELP!



Our focus for 2024 is to raise funds to help low income families with pet care which can include medical, food, shelter as well as transportation to local clinics. Sometime pet parents need to get awy or need care while recovering from illness or accidents so we may even be able to find boarding in the short term for those cases.

All circumstances are different and each occurrence will be handled on an individual basis. Applications will be available and credit checks preformed to determine the amount of help needed.

Rarely will we be able to provide $100 \%$ care so a portion will come from the pet parents or other source.

There are several resources that provide the same services and each will have their own priorities and may or may not be able to help.

We are looking for volunteers to help facilitate this part of All Creatures Network. Please call if you are called to participate.

## Welcome to All Creatures Net work, Inc. (contd from page 14)

## AnImal lOVERS need YOU... Pg I4 * Tell ndvertisers you saw them in CLAWS



To establish a national memorial honoring service horses, dogs and birds and other animals that have contributed to the military, law enforcement and civil service sectors of service to humankind.
Are you a retired military service or law enforcement person? Have you been a K9 Handler? Please volunteer to help build this memorial!

## Project Paws Alive

Our interest in this - Project Paws Alive; a nationwide 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization (info@ppak9.org) - is to support their efforts. Visit their web at - https://www.ppak9.org. They rely solely on donations and sponsors to provide lifesaving $K 9$ equipment such as bullet \& stab-proof vests, first aid kits, vehicle heat alarms, cooling vests, and pet oxygen mask kits to Law Enforcement, Fire, Search \& Rescue, EMS, and Military nationwide.

## Smith Veterinary Hospital Mar/Apr 2024

At Smith Veterinary Hospital, we are proud to serve the Antelope Valley and its surrounding areas in our AAHA Certified \& Accredited Facility. We are dedicated to providing the highest level of Veterinary Medicine along with friendly, compassionate care.
We Always Welcome New Clients At Smith Veterinary Hospital, you can expect to be greeted by a courteous receptionist's, clean exam rooms, caring technicians, and amazing doctors. We appreciate the role we are entrusted with in your pets' health care journey. We strive in nurturing the humanpet bond and creating a harmonious relationship between you and your pet. We believe that "Preventive Care" is the Best Medicine, and it helps to keep your pet and your home happy and healthy.
At Smith Veterinary Hospital, we have a vast list of veterinary services available to our patients. Our Hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art technology. We use a full spectrum
of In-House Labs, Full Body Digital Imaging, Ultrasound, Internal and Surgical Medicine all with Exceptional Expertise and Patient Care.
Some of the services we offer are Allergy
Testing \& Treatment, Spays \& Neuters,
Vaccine Clinics, Dentistry, Behavioral Health Care, Nutritional Support, Orthopedics and Senior Care just to name a few.
Our Staff:
Our staff at Smith Veterinary Hospital are passionate animal (mostly rescued) owners who are excited to be part of your pet's health care journey. They are highly trained and dedicated to making sure that your pet receives Quality, Compassionate Care when they are entrusted to our care. Our goal is to give your pet the absolute best care available. Always feel free to Call or Message us if you have any questions about how we can help care for your pet at:
Smith Veterinary Hospital
44623 10th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534 (661) 948-5065

# Ten Tips for Keeping your Children SAFE when you have pets... 

Ten Tips for Keeping Your Children Safe When You Have Pets To experienced dog owners or parents, close interaction with children and pets may seem like no big deal - but if dogs decide to retaliate or play in a too aggressive way, they are all too often punished for something they didn't know was wrong. In certain situations, these dogs are sent to animal shelters, marked as too aggressive, or euthanized for behaviors and actions that could be avoided if adult humans would simply show some concern and respect for the animals and children in their care.

If you have children and pets in your home, take a moment and make sure that you are taking the proper precautions to keep everyone in the home safe. We all get busy or distracted, but with a few precautions, a little distraction won't lead to disaster.

Here are 10 tips to keep kids and pets safe: 1.) When the dog is around, don't put the baby on the floor. If a baby is on the floor, it can oftentimes look like a toy to your dog. A baby is too small and fragile to roll out from under a heavier dog, and it can create a dangerous situation.
2.) Never leave baby and pet alone together unsupervised Similar to leaving them together on the floor, there can be unforeseen circumstances that could put the baby or the dog in danger.
3.) Don't let the baby out of your sight This is a pretty basic rule for babies and parents, it is especially important with pets around as babies and pets should not be left alone unsupervised.
4.) Don't let children approach unaware or

sleeping dogs
The dog may or may not see this as an attack of some kind, and they could retaliate against your pup.
5.) Never let baby hit, throw toys at, or sit on your dog Similar to a child approaching an unaware dog, this may annoy or irritate your dog and make them feel defensive.
6.) Don't let them approach unknown dogs, don't let your dog approach unknown kids There are unknown dangers, such as aggressive dogs or kids who don't know the rules to not anger a dog.
7.) Teach babies not to take things out of a pet's mouth Putting your hand in the mouth of any animal is rarely a good idea, as they are more likely to feel threatened or uncomfortable and snap at them.
8.) Never let them sleep or lay in the same bed. The baby could be inadvertently smothered by your pup or may be subject to the rowdiness some dogs display and could be injured.
9.) Don't neglect your pup when the baby is born If they are both fighting for your attention, it could create an issue and strain on their relationship.
10.) Don't run

Running from an animal causes them to feel the need to chase, causing them to play too rough. While you should do research before bringing home a pup to a baby, or a baby to a pup, these tips should keep your family healthy and happy.

> For The Safety Of Your Family, Remember That Dogs Are Animals, Not Children!

## BE A FRIEND - PLAY!

## Cont'd from page 4

Put "old" toys out of sight for a month or two and then bring them out again - your dog will enjoy them just as much as when they were new.
GIVE YOUR TIME
You are the center of your dog's world. You may be tired after a long day at work, but your dog has spent the day anxiously awaiting your return. Reward that loyalty with your time. Pet him, talk to him, play with him, laugh with him. Let your dog know you value his company.
FIND THE "SPOT"
Scratch your dog's belly often. If you find the "spot," so much the better. LEAVE THE RADIO ON Try leaving the radio or television on when you leave your dog alone. The noise will keep him company.
PLAN ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR DOG
Include your dog in family activities. Take him to the park or on outings to the beach, or to special activities such as the "Dog Olympics" or dog parades. Your dog will love being out and about with you.

## GIVE A MASSAGE

Dogs love to be petted, and recent studies have shown that structured massages may be beneficial to your dog's health and behavior. They may also be very relaxing for you!
MAKE THAT TAIL WAG
Your dog's tail is a barometer of his emotions.
Do what you can to keep it happily wagging.
GO ON TRIPS
Dogs can add another element of fun to a family vacation. Check ahead for lodging that accepts dogs. If flying, ask about travel accommodations

for your dog when you make your reservations. EASE SEPARATION ANXIETY
Your dog will want to be with you at all times, but for most people that simply isn't possible.

Help your
dog get used to being alone. Leave him each day with a minimum of fuss. When you come home, greet him calmly. This will teach him that your leaving is not something to be concerned about.

## GET ANOTHER ONE!

Dogs are pack animals by nature and generally enjoy the company of other dogs. Your dog may benefit greatly from having a companion to play with. Be as conscientious about getting a second dog as you were about getting the first; multiple dog ownership isn't for everyone, and some dogs do better as an "only."

## DON'T LET YOUR DOG DOWN

You aren't a dog owner just at Christmas, or on the weekends, or in the afternoon, or when you have spare time. You aren't a dog owner just when the dog is behaving, or when he's a cute fuzzy puppy, or when he's winning awards.

When you bring a dog into your family, that dog is yours for life. If you can't keep that commitment, don't make it. And once you've made it, don't break it. Your dog's life depends on you.

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