



300 York Mills Rd, Toronto  
416-444-7387  
info@yorkmillsvet.com  
www.yorkmillsvet.com  
Dr. Amanda Kolhatkar & Associates

*OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO FRIENDS BOTH NEW AND OLD!*

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## Top Five Tips for Training your Puppy

Adopting a new puppy is a fun and exciting time for the whole family. It is important however, to have a clear set of rules that everyone follows when it comes to training, consistency is key!

- 1) Be consistent. Puppies are looking to you to guide them and teach them. They are very malleable at a young age and will learn quickly but the rules have to be the same day to day and everyone in the household needs to be on the same page. Patience is key.
- 2) Use treats and positive re-enforcement as much as possible. Puppies are never inherently "bad" or "naughty" – they want to please you and follow your direction so always remember to be kind. A simple "no" or "off" in a firm voice is harsh enough and remember to keep a baggie of treats on you at all times so you can quickly reward the good behaviors!
- 3) Discourage biting and unwanted behaviors from day one. Your puppy will be teething until it is about 6 months old so chewing and exploring with his or her mouth is a natural thing. We often allow our puppies to get away with behaviors simply because they are small and the biting doesn't hurt. Remember your puppy is going to grow into a much bigger dog soon enough and the rules need to be enforced from the get go.
- 4) Utilize confinement. Crate training is an excellent way to keep your puppy safe when you are not home and a tool for housetraining as well. Puppies naturally do not wish to make a mess in their personal space and can learn bladder control much quicker. Remember however, that it is unrealistic to expect a young puppy to hold his or her bladder all day. They need multiple bathroom breaks over the course of a day.
- 5) Handle your puppy a lot. In general puppies do need to be desensitized to handling of their feet, ears and mouths. Depending on the breed of dog grooming may also be big part of their life. Loud noises such as clippers and dryers can be very scary. Starting at home in a safe environment can minimize the stress of trips to the groomer.



### BEE AND WASP STINGS

Observe your dog closely after the sting to ensure an allergic reaction doesn't develop. If needed apply ice to the area. Signs of a reaction include:

**General weakness, Difficulty breathing, A large amount of swelling extending away from the sting site.**

If your dog is having a severe reaction, you need to take them to a vet immediately.



### Human Medications...Are they safe for your pet?

Many people think that over the counter or prescription medications are safe to give to their pets for the same purpose. In fact, most human medications are toxic to cats and dogs. Pain relievers such as ibuprofen and acetaminophen are extremely toxic and should be kept out of reach. Always enquire with your vet before giving any human medications. For further information, please visit: [www.petpoisonhelpline.com](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com)



# Letter from the Vet

Dr. Amanda Kolhatkar, DVM

**Cats need Vet Care Too!** With many people living in smaller condo's and an aging population, the number of cats as pets is steadily increasing however, the number of cats receiving annual check ups and preventive vet care is on the decline.

It's not hard to figure out why - people find it stressful to bring their cats to the vet. They have a hard time catching them and getting them into a carrier and many cats don't travel well and suffer from motion sickness. They are crying, yowling and hyperventilating often eliminating on themselves...

I hear from many people that their cats do not go outdoors and seem "fine" so why do they need to perform annual check-ups. Our feline friends are unfortunately missing out on a lot of preventive care that can better the length and quality of their lives. What owners often don't realize is that cats especially will hide their illnesses. It is in their nature to conceal when they are unwell making it very difficult to catch things early. Our cats rarely cry out in pain or whimper and whine as a dog may.

We frequently diagnose kidney disease, thyroid problems, dental disease, heart disease and arthritis all in seemingly "well" animals and their owners are often shocked to discover what their pet had truly been dealing with.

Often the early signs of disease are very subtle such as a gradual changes in the amounts they drink or eliminate, chewing on a different side of the mouth when a tooth is sore or finding a new favorite spot to sleep when it becomes too painful to jump. These subtle changes are easily missed or misinterpreted and many cats are simply suffering in silence.

All cats should be receiving an annual physical examination and I recommend performing baseline blood panels in all cats over 7 years. There are so many preventable and treatable conditions if we are able to catch them early!

### So how do we minimize the stress?

- ✿ Leaving the carrier out so your cat may get used to it and feel more comfortable going inside
- ✿ Schedule appointments at times of day when there is less traffic on the street.
- ✿ Using products like Feliway - a synthetic calming hormone that can be sprayed directly in the carrier to help calm their nerves.
- ✿ Simply letting the staff know ahead of time that your cat gets particularly stressed so that we can keep the appointment times short and ensure there are no loud barking dogs or extended wait times.
- ✿ If traveling to the vet is simply too much for you and your cat then a house call can always be arranged and we'll come right to your door.



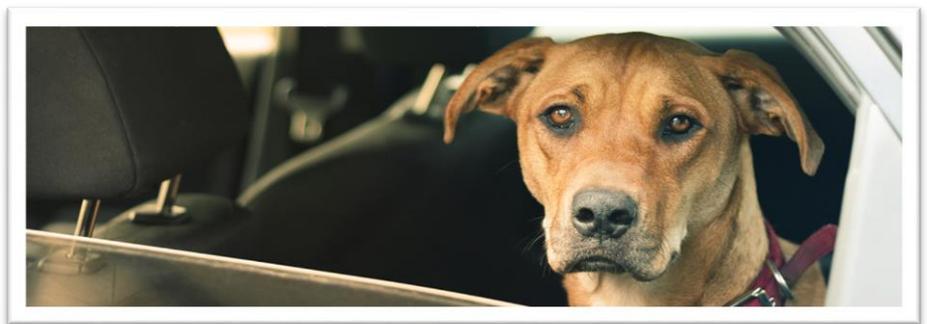
### Toxic Plants!

Did you know that many of the common indoor and outdoor plants that you have around your house may be toxic to your furry friends? Below is a list of some of the most common toxic plants:

- ✿ Lilies of any kind
- ✿ Azaleas
- ✿ Hydrangea
- ✿ Daffodils
- ✿ Peony
- ✿ Tulips
- ✿ Carnation

For a complete list:

[www.aspca.org/petcare/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants](http://www.aspca.org/petcare/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants).



**Dogs and other Pets in HOT Cars....** Our dogs are part of the family and we like to take them with us when we go on outings. No matter how prepared we are when we leave the house, there is the inevitable errand that we need to do along the way. In the warmer weather, the risks of taking our pets with us increases dramatically. Those of us who have opened a car door after it has been sitting in the sun has noticed the increase in temperature inside. The temperature outside can be 15-20°C but in the sun there is a greenhouse effect, the temperature inside your vehicle can be upwards of 40-50°C, essentially turning your car into an oven. Think ahead and if you have to stop anywhere, do not take your dog with you.

