Daisy Mae came to us as an emergency hit-by-car patient in the late summer. Ms. Debbie Rhodes was driving and saw her laying by the side of the road in obvious distress. She managed to get her into her car and brought her straight to us. Daisy Mae, as we nicknamed her, was wearing a brown leather collar at the time. Dr. Melissa Tiffany, one of our associates, examined her and treated her for shock with intravenous fluids and pain medications. The initial prognosis was very guarded; Daisy Mae had no use of her rear legs and Dr. Tiffany could only elicit a pain response from one of the rear legs meaning that Daisy Mae was potentially paralyzed.

Once Daisy Mae was stabilized, Ms. Rhodes spent the rest of the day attempting to locate Daisy Mae’s owner but to no avail. Meanwhile, x-rays of Daisy Mae’s back showed a fractured vertebrae (the very last vertebrae in her back). She was now out of shock but with a very poor prognosis for the long term. Dr. Tiffany did not want to give up on her and even though it was becoming apparent that Daisy Mae was without a home, Dr. Tiffany persisted with her treatment. With the University of Tennessee’s College of Veterinary Medicine so close by, Dr. Tiffany consulted with their neurology department to see what options

Household Dangers

By Beth Danyi, Veterinary Assistant

Just like children, pets can be mischievous and potentially come in contact with many common, household items that may harm them. Anyone who has been around children knows there are many precautions that need to be taken. Pet parents also need to be aware of these dangers and be concerned for the safety of their pets.

Plants. Most owners do not know that there are types of plants that may be harmful, if not lethal, to their cat or dog. Azalea, geraniums, lilies, mistletoe, and poinsettia are all very common, but poisonous. These are only a few of the many poisonous plants that are out there. Symptoms can range from an upset stomach with vomiting, to seizures and even death. According to the Humane Society of the United States, there have been over 700 identified plants known to be harmful to animals. Of course, it is difficult to constantly follow your pet to make sure he or she doesn’t come in contact with certain plants, but you can do a lot by keeping houseplants out of reach.

Medications. Medications are another potential danger to your pet’s health. Aspirin, ibuprofen, and acetaminophen are all pain medications that we...
Daisy Mae (continued):

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were available for Daisy Mae. Since the fractured vertebrae was the last one in her back, there was only a small chance that with time her paralysis would resolve without surgery. Chronic pain, however, would probably result. Therefore, without surgery, Daisy Mae’s survival was looking bleak. The cost of surgery was pegged at over $4000. Dr. Tiffany called around at the veterinary college to see if any of its esteemed neurosurgeons would be willing to do the surgery for free. Dr. Avril Arendse answered her call. Dr. Arendse, a neurology resident, at the college had never done the surgery before and this would represent both an opportunity for her to learn how to do the surgery (under the supervision of an experienced neurosurgeon) and an opportunity for Daisy Mae to walk again. The only condition that Dr. Arendse presented was that we come up with a home for Daisy Mae for there was a high likelihood that Daisy Mae would not have control of her bowels or urination. Debbie Rhodes, the woman who had rescued her, agreed to offer her a home if no other home could be found. After a surgery that lasted over 10 hours, Daisy Mae surprised all her caretakers at the veterinary college by standing up the next day. In fact, her rear leg paralysis recovery was almost too rapid and there was concern that she would disrupt the fracture repair site. Since her surgery, Daisy has been recuperating at our hospital. Daisy Mae is almost fully mobile and although still incontinent has gone home with the Lewis family who has adopted her.

Household Dangers (continued):

(Continued from page 1)

take to help our aches and pains feel better. Many owners believe the same will hold true for their pets. None of these medications, however, should be given to any pet without instruction from a veterinarian. For example, one Tylenol tablet alone can be lethal to a cat. If you notice that your pet may be in pain, the best thing to do would be to have your veterinarian advise you on the proper medications to give. Even medication prescribed to pets can present issues if not stored properly. Many of these medications now come in flavored or chewable form, and pets can be very ingenious about getting into these “treats” if they are not stored in a safe location.

Food. Human food should always be kept out of reach from a dog or cat. A garbage bag is full of food leftovers and other tasty treats. Not only is it bad for their diet, foods can be hazardous to pets as well. Chicken bones can be a choking hazard and also cause an obstruction in their digestive system. Chocolate, garlic, onions, anything with caffeine or tobacco, moldy foods, and even dough can be toxic. Placing garbage in a cupboard or having a locking lid helps to keep their noses out of trouble.

Household Items. Many common household chemicals are potentially toxic to animals. Antifreeze, lawn fertilizers, pesticides and even over-the-counter flea and tick remedies are just a few examples. Antifreeze containing ethylene glycol has a sweet taste, and attracts dogs and cats. Just a small dose can kill your pet. Use antifreeze with propylene glycol which is safer if spilled for children, pets and wild animals alike. Another potentially toxic chemical is the salt used for de- icing. The pet could become poisoned after licking the salt off of its paws. The paws should be cleaned and dried off as soon as the animal has come in from the snow. There are safe de- icing salts made just for animals as well as boots that can be strapped to the paw. Over-the-counter flea and tick remedies can potentially be harmful to your pet. Frequently, cats are presented to emergency clinics with serious reactions to over-the-counter dog flea products applied mistakenly. Advantage, Frontline and Revolution are all flea products available at your animal hospital that can be applied to both dogs and cats safely. As with any household chemical, owners should read the precautions listed on the label and use it appropriately.

Extra concern should be taken when you have a young kitten or puppy or a senior cat or dog. Young animals tend to get into things out of curiosity and may not know to keep away. Using locks on cupboard doors is a safeguard against those curious critters potentially hurting themselves. The use of gates to keep pets out of certain areas is also beneficial. At My Pet’s Animal Hospital, the most common items removed from young dogs with intestinal obstructions are items of clothing such as socks, underwear and nylons. Senior dogs and cats (over 7 years of age) should also be watched over carefully. Older pets may get confused and may not be aware of dangers they could get into. Because of their age, they also may not be able to recover as easily from any health problems.

If your pet does get into a household item and you are wondering whether or not it is toxic, the ASPCA has a poison control hotline (888-426-4435) one can call. Also, please call us with your questions as well.

Beth is a junior at the University of Tennessee, and plans to continue on to veterinary school. She is one of our team leaders.
Our services include annual preventive care, medicine and surgery.

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here for over twenty years. For an experienced gentle groomer for your pet, don’t hesitate to give her a call (984-5620).

Upon acquiring the hospital, we immediately updated the computer system and the facility is now paperless as far as medical records are concerned. In addition, new Abaxis blood test machines were installed to do chemistry panels and blood counts. For ill patients, this gives us the capability of obtaining blood results within twenty minutes.

With an eye to the future, our architect, Keith Moody, of Building Resource Consultants, has been drawing up plans to expand and remodel the hospital facility. We will be expanding the number of exam rooms from two to four and building a state-of-the-art surgery suite. Our boarding area will be completely renovated and all kennels will have air conditioning and heating. The rest of the building will be renovated and upgraded as well.

Our Northshore location continues to be one of the Knoxville area’s only private veterinary hospitals with digital radiography. The practice is well into its second year and our client base is growing well. Dr. Tisha Webb, Dr. Sam Meisler and Dr. Daniela Fanikos are our veterinarians at the Northshore location.

Dr. Sam Meisler is the owner of both practices and has a third practice in Lakeland, Florida. “Dr. Sam” grew up in East Africa where he developed a keen appreciation for wildlife and a fondness for pets of all sorts. He lives in West Knoxville with his wife, Julie, and their two children, Hunter and Sarah. They have two “mutts” - Toby and Sparta.

“I’ve been bringing Peppy to this animal hospital for 2 yrs. I felt much more welcome and involved with the care of Peppy than I ever have!!! Katie, Ashley, and Dr. Tiffany were very helpful, personable and professional. Everyone was great with my dog. Thank you so much!” - Beth Wigley, one of our clients about a recent visit to our Airport location.

All-in-one Parasite Protection for Cats!

Revolution, a Pfizer product, is a once-a-month topical medication that prevents feline HEARTWORM disease, treats intestinal roundworms and hookworms, treats ear mites and mange, and also FLEAS. It is safe enough to use on kittens as young as 6 weeks of age. For those of you who use Advantage for fleas on your cats, Revolution costs only a fraction a month more to have all these additional benefits.

As many of you are aware, the dog is the primary host for heartworm disease. A large number of cats, however, come down with heartworm disease every year. Although less common in cats than in dogs, heartworm disease in cats is just as serious. Unfortunately, once a cat has the disease, there is no treatment. The treatment protocol that exists for dogs is too toxic for cats to undergo.

Heartworm disease is spread by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes can be hard to avoid and it only takes one to infect a cat.

A recent study by Dr. Levy at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine showed that 20% of cats with heartworm disease were strictly indoor cats. In addition, Sharon Patton, MS, PhD., professor of parasitology at the school of veterinary medicine at the University of Tennessee, cited that the prevalence of heartworms in the local humane society cats was between 8% to 12%. This is above average nationwide.

We now recommend Revolution for both our outdoor and indoor feline friends.

With the additional benefit of treating hookworm and roundworm infestations, as well as preventing flea infestation, Revolution for cats is hard to beat. With its ease of use and safety, we at My Pet’s Animal Hospital heartily recommend this product.

Revolution—Buy 6 months worth, get 1 FREE dose
Back in May 2006, My Pet’s Animal Hospital acquired the Airport Animal Clinic from Dr. Richard Daugherty. Dr. Daugherty had owned the practice for the last thirty years and had built up a vast and loyal clientele. Overall, the transition has gone exceptionally well although many clients understandably were sad to see Dr. Daugherty retire. Our two associate veterinarians, Dr. Mike Fanikos and Dr. Melissa Tiffany, have done an excellent job in bringing the hospital along.

Undoubtedly one of the best assets that came with the hospital is Vicky Maslowski, our talented groomer. Vicky has come through the transition very well. If you meet Vicky, it seems impossible that she has been working

(Continued on page 3)

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