



# Animal Clinic of Chardon

440-285-9191

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER



## Did you know?

*The life expectancy of cats has nearly doubled since 1930 – from 8 to 16 years.*

*The expression "three dog night" originated with the Eskimos and means a very cold night - so cold that you have to bed down with three dogs to keep warm.*

*Cats lose almost as much fluid in the saliva while grooming themselves as they do through urination.*

*The best time to train your dog is from the day you bring it home regardless of its age. Use positive rewards and ignore bad behavior. When your dog does something good then reward it. If it does something bad, like jumping up on you, then ignore it.*

## Special Deals!

### Heartgard

Buy 12 doses, get a \$12 rebate

## My Dog is Afraid of Nail Trimmings

### Why are long dog nails a problem?

Fear of nail trims is a very common issue dog guardians face and the fear can range from a mild dislike to outright terror, depending on the dog. For some pet parents, the only way to trim a dog's nails is under anesthesia, which is certainly not an option that works every week. Many give up trying and just allow the dog's nails to remain long. While the frustration is understandable, this option can lead to health drawbacks for dogs. Overgrown nails affect a dog's posture, eventually leading to joint problems and arthritis. They're also more prone to splitting and breaking in painful ways. Long nails are a problem for humans as well. Dogs with longer nails are more likely to destroy furniture and other objects, unwittingly, as well as break human skin when jumping up to say hello or when playing.



### Reducing stress when trimming your dog's nails

If your dog is terrified of having nails trimmed, what can you do? Here are some ideas:

Some dogs' nails will stay at a healthy length if they are exercised regularly on a rougher surface such as concrete or pavement.

Another innovative idea is to create a filing "board" which consists of a sheet of wood covered with sandpaper. You teach your dog a paw target behavior and then apply that behavior to the board, so the dog effectively is filing down his own nails as he paws the board.

Nail trim mats are basically door mats with a rough surface that files the dog's nails each time he walks on the mat.

While these ideas can be helpful, a preferable option is to be able to trim your dog's nails whenever you need to. An effective plan is to do away with your nail clippers all together and switch to a nail grinder. There are many benefits to using a grinder. If you have larger dogs like I do, clipping their nails is more difficult due to the

## Heartgard & Nexgard

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## Nexgard

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size and the nails often splinter and leave jagged edges. Properly used, a grinder can make the nails smoother and less likely to catch on items. It's also effective for dogs that have simply developed such a strong conditioned fear of the clippers that trying to desensitize them to it will be frustrating for both of you. You can get a grinder at most pet supply stores and even some hardware stores carry models appropriate for use with pet nails.

To read more, [click here](#).

## March is Pet Poison Awareness Month People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets

### Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine



When ingested by pets, it can cause vomiting and diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and even death.

### Alcohol

Alcoholic beverages and food products containing alcohol can cause vomiting, diarrhea, decreased coordination, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing, tremors, abnormal blood acidity, coma and even death.

### Avocado

The leaves, fruit, seeds and bark of avocados contain Persin, which can cause vomiting and diarrhea in dogs. Birds and rodents are especially sensitive to avocado poisoning, and can develop congestion, difficulty breathing and fluid accumulation around the heart. Some ingestions may even be fatal.

### Macadamia Nuts

These nuts can cause weakness, depression, vomiting, tremors and hyperthermia in dogs. Signs usually appear within 12 hours of ingestion and last approximately 12 to 48 hours.



### Grapes & Raisins

Although the toxic substance within grapes and raisins is unknown, these fruits can cause kidney failure. In pets that already have certain health problems, signs may be more dramatic.

### Onions, Garlic, Chives

These vegetables and herbs can cause gastrointestinal irritation and could lead to red blood cell damage. Although cats are more susceptible, dogs are also at risk if a large enough amount is consumed.

### Xylitol



Xylitol is used as a sweetener in many products, including gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste. It can cause insulin release in most species, which can lead to liver failure. The increase in insulin leads to hypoglycemia (lowered sugar levels). Initial signs of toxicosis include vomiting, lethargy and loss of coordination. Signs can progress to recumbency and seizures.