



PVPC Newsletter

June 2024 Issue



Rattle, Rattle, Rattle

Happy summer to all! It's officially time to take advantage of the warm sunshine and spend our days romping around in the outdoors. Whether you're hiking around in the mountains, camping at the lake, or simply working outside in your yard, it's not uncommon to run into some critters that live in the area. During the hot season it's especially common to run into rattlesnakes! As many already know, rattlesnakes are very dangerous to us, but it's important to remember that they are dangerous to our pets as well. What may seem like a small, harmless bite can actually be rather deadly to a cat or a dog if left untreated. A single puncture from a rattlesnake's fang transmits enough venom to not only cause major swelling and bruising on the surface, but also cause rapid anticoagulation throughout the bloodstream and eventually damage to the major organs. Unfortunately, there aren't any methods to prevent a complete reaction to a rattlesnake bite, but there are some precautions everyone can take.

One way to prevent a reaction from a rattlesnake bite is to simply try your best to be more aware of your surroundings in order for yourself or your pets not to become bitten. If you're out and about on a hike or camping, being sure to scan the ground and/or surrounding rocks can help you detect a snake before accidentally stepping on it and getting bitten. Another recommendation, is to keep your dog on a close leash and not allow them to freely roam in areas you have not been able to examine first can help limit the risk of a rattlesnake bite. Simply maintaining the weeds and bushes in your own yard as best as you can is a great way in reducing locations for rattlesnakes to hide out then be found accidentally by you or your pets. There are even rattlesnake avoidance classes specific to dogs held by trained professionals to help train dogs to become more aware of their own surroundings. Oftentimes, these professionals travel around and will

Oftentimes, these professionals travel around and will host classes at local veterinary hospitals over the weekend. If you're interested in seeking information about these classes it's recommended that you consult your regular veterinary office as they typically will have available information.

Even doing your best to be more aware of your surroundings and having rattlesnakes on your radar, bites can still happen when you least expect it.



Luckily, there is a rattlesnake vaccine for dogs that we recommend keeping up-to-date especially during the warmer months of the year. It is important to understand the rattlesnake vaccine itself does not prevent a dog from having a reaction from the rattlesnake bite; however, it does help allow pet owners more time to seek immediate emergency medical care for their dog. Unfortunately, there are no vaccines labeled safe to give cats at this time to help reduce the reaction of a rattlesnake bite so it is highly recommended that cat owners seek emergency medical care as soon as possible.



As stated before, it is highly advised that you take your pet to a veterinary hospital for immediate medical care in the event of a rattlesnake bite. Once a pet is brought to a veterinary hospital, a treatment plan including lab work, IV antivenin, IV fluid therapy, and hospitalization with intensive monitoring will take place. The quicker treatment is able to start, the greater the chance of a positive outcome.

All in all, we just want everyone to try the best that they can to minimize the risk of a rattlesnake bite. Otherwise, we hope everyone has a fun and safe summer!

Staff Member of the Month



Hello everyone!

We'd like you to meet Sierra, one of our wonderful assistants! Sierra's interest in becoming a registered veterinary technician led her to join our PVPC family a year ago. In the last year, Sierra has proven to be a very fast learner and is more than thriving being one of our exam room assistants. Her end goal is to become a registered veterinary technician and a step in that direction was her training here at the clinic and just recently passing her exam to be a certified veterinary assistant.

To say we have found ourselves a gem is an understatement!

Although Sierra is newer to our team, she has spent most of her life here in El Dorado County and graduated from high school locally. When she isn't gracing us and our clients with her wonderful smile and great sense of humor, Sierra spends a lot of her time outdoors with her boyfriend and her dog, Moto. When you see her during your exam, be sure to offer Sierra a big congrats on her recent certification as a veterinary assistant!



Noodle's Notes



Hello again, it's me Noodle! I wanted to cover a couple things with you all before you go about your summer festivities.

First, my people will be offering a 10% discount on all dental and surgical services **IF** you schedule the procedure within 30 days of a doctor seeing your pet. If you're unsure of costs, the staff here will be sure to make estimates according to the recommended procedure and review those estimates to help address any questions/concerns you may have.

Secondly, I want to remind you again that microchips are extremely important to have especially during the fire season in our area. Since you all loved the discounted price during May, we are offering the same promotion through the month of June. So, if you thought you missed out on the reduced cost, here's your chance to get in and have your pet microchipped. And don't forget to make sure your pet's microchip is registered with your current contact information.

Lastly, June 18th is Veterinary Appreciation Day in the veterinary medicine industry. Even though I hate when my people start pokin' around at me, I do want to give them a huge shoutout. Everyone in veterinary medicine, front to back, work their bums off all because they care greatly about the pets and their owners. So, I guess they deserve one day of appreciation and a little less catering to my needs. Anyway, remember to take a moment to thank a veterinary medicine team member for all of their hard work.

