

The Wintergreen Post

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Pet Profile – Tiggie McCullough



Breed: Maine Coon Cat
Color: Gray Tiger
Birthday: January 1984
Veterinarian: Memorial Drive Animal Clinic
Favorite Cattery Activity: Attention & petting in the TLC room
~Owned and Loved By Dolores McCullough
and the late Bernie McCullough~

Tiggie delights and amazes us with his stamina and good humor. In addition to his hearty appetite, Tiggie loves catnip and teases for it during his TLC playtime. He enjoys curling up with soft blankets from home and napping away the lazy summer afternoons.

Heatstroke (Hyperthermia)

Heatstroke occurs when normal body mechanisms cannot keep the body's temperature in a safe range. Animals do not have efficient cooling systems (like humans who sweat) and get overheated easily. A dog with moderate heatstroke (body temperature from 104° to 106°F) can recover within an hour if given prompt first aid and veterinary care (normal body temperature is 100-102.5°F). Severe heatstroke (body temperature over 106°F) can be deadly and immediate veterinary assistance is needed.

~Signs~

A dog suffering from heatstroke will display several signs:

- Rapid panting
- Bright red tongue
- Red or pale gums
- Thick, sticky saliva
- Depression
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Vomiting - sometimes with blood
- Diarrhea

~What you should do~

Remove the dog from the hot area immediately. Prior to taking him to your veterinarian, lower his temperature by submerging his body in water, keeping his head elevated above the water. Alternatively use a shower or hose to wet him down. For very small dogs, use lukewarm water; for larger breeds cold water may be used.

CAUTION: Cooling must take place gradually. Cooling too quickly or allowing his body temperature to become too low can cause other life-threatening medical conditions.

The rectal temperature should be checked every 5 minutes. Once the body temperature is 103°F, the cooling measures should be stopped. Even if the dog appears to have recovered before you reach the veterinarian, he should still be examined. He may be dehydrated or have other complications.

Place him on a wet towel and keep cooling the dog during transport to the veterinarian by keeping him wet, and running the air conditioner or driving with the windows open.

Allow free access to water or a children's rehydrating solution if the dog can drink on his own. Do not try to force-feed cold water; the dog may inhale it and will choke.

~What your veterinarian will do~

Your veterinarian will lower your dog's body temperature to a safe range (if you have not already) and continually monitor his temperature. Your dog will be given fluids, and possibly oxygen. He will be monitored for shock, respiratory distress, kidney failure, heart abnormalities, and other complications, and treated accordingly. Blood samples may be taken before and during the treatment. The clotting time of the blood will be monitored, since clotting problems are a common complication.

~Aftercare~

Dogs with moderate heatstroke often recover without complicating health problems. Severe heatstroke can cause organ damage that might need ongoing care, such as a special diet prescribed by your veterinarian. Dogs who suffer from heatstroke once increase their risk for getting it again and

original care such as a special diet prescribed by your veterinarian. Dogs who suffer from heatstroke once increase their risk for getting it again and steps must be taken to prevent it on hot, humid days.

~Prevention~

Do not leave your dog in the car, muzzle him, confine him without shade, or confine him to concrete or asphalt surfaces.

Restrict exercise, provide constant access to water, and keep pets with breathing problems indoors. Move the dog to a cool area of the house. Wetting down your dog with cool water or allowing him to swim can help maintain a normal body temperature. Air conditioning is one of the best ways to keep a dog cool, but is not always dependable. To provide a cooler environment, freeze water in soda bottles, then wrap them in a towel or tube sock. Place them on the floor for the dog to lay on. You may also place ice and a small amount of water in several resealable food storage bags, cover them with a towel, and place them on the floor for your dog to lie on.

Overweight animals are more prone to develop heatstroke, so keep your dog at his optimal weight.

**Employee Profile - Judith Miller Conlin
Owner/Operator**



The photo above illustrates two things Judith loves: dogs and gravestones. Together with her husband, Michael and their two golden retrievers, Phoenix and Lincoln, they trace down their New England forebears. Judith holds national office in the Gravestone Society.

The late 1950's marked the tiny beginnings of the present Kennel. Judith's parents brought home two AKC registered Collie puppies from New Hampshire and began raising their offspring for sale. When customers asked that we care for their dogs during vacations, a sheep barn was converted into the original boarding facility.

During the forty years her parents spent breeding AKC puppies, Judith helped socialize Shelties, Old English Sheep Dogs, Keeshonds, Dandie Dinmont Terriers and Shih Tzus. Dogs captured her heart then as they do now.

She has a fondness for cats and the cats respond in kind. This makes grooming them pleasant for both. Most likely if your cat has been groomed at Wintergreen, Judith has provided the "beauty

treatment".

Her civic responsibility here in Southampton as Cemetery Commissioner is shared with Michael. They are rightfully proud of the care they provide which results in well kept cemeteries.

Judith is a trained soprano. She sings in our Church Choir and in the Community Chorus. To hear her lovely voice over the barking dogs is a pleasure to all at the kennel.

When a busy schedule allows the time, she is an accomplished cook. Her favorite is Thanksgiving dinner, prepared for as many as twenty or more family and friends.

As her loving father, I am proud of our "Number Four" daughter, Judith.

--Lew Miller

**THOUGHTS FROM
THE GROOMING SHOP**

Recently, we have seen a tremendous amount of badly matted dogs. We have to ask ourselves why...is it that people either do not have the proper tools, or the technique to thoroughly brush their dog's coat?

By the time we get our hands on an extremely matted dog, we have two options. The first option is to painfully demat each and every section of the dog's coat. This is certainly no fun for us, the Groomers, or for the dog. It places added stress on the dog, and is very time consuming. The second option is to shave the dog down, most likely to the skin. This is taken as a last resort measure.

The first thing we need to understand is the anatomy of a mat. Mats will occur when new hair growth comes up under old dead hair. The problem worsens when water is added to the mix causing a jumbled mess. As this dries, the hair tightens; a mat is created. Things are made worse with repeated wetting and drying of the coat, causing the mat to grow tighter and tighter against the skin. If gone untreated, these mats have the potential to grow mold and other harmful bacteria. Skin irritation is sure to follow.

The most common mistake of good intentioned owners is to brush the top layer of their dog's coat, not reaching the base of the hair shaft nearest the skin to eliminate the mats. There are a variety of effective tools, such as a shedding blade, shepherd rake, or a dematting rake.

Using these tools are easy if you have a willing subject; not all dogs want to or will sit still for the process of brushing and dematting. Making sure to get down to the skin, you should start at the base of the neck working down the back, then each side. The chest and rear are left for last. When you are finished, you should be left with a smooth coat right down to the skin. Frequent brushing, at least two to three times a week should be enough to limit the need for deep dematting, and also gives you a chance for some one on one time with your pet which is something we all would love to fit into our busy schedules.

If you are still not sure what tool or technique to use, please consult your groomer. Preventative maintenance assures for a happier grooming experience for all involved.

--Lisa Peloquin

Lisa's personality and grooming skills have made her a popular fixture with the staff, customers and pets during her time at Wintergreen Kennels.

KITTY KORNED

KITTY KORNERS
Polydactyly -(Extra Toes)



Extra toes on a foot are common in cats, but relatively rare in dogs. This condition is called polydactyly. Cats normally have five toes on each front foot and four toes on each hind foot for a total of 18 toes. If your cat has more than 18 toes, your cat is polydactyl. Some cats have been seen with a total of 24 toes. Usually, the extra toes are found on the front feet, and some people refer to these as 'double-pawed' cats.

Having extra toes is known to be a genetic trait, and breeding two polydactyl cats will increase the odds of getting polydactyl kittens. Breeding for these 'double-pawed' cats, however, is not advised. It is a genetic defect and may be associated with other conditions as well. Extra toes pose no medical problem other than the nails do not wear evenly and ingrown nails may result. This can be prevented with frequent nail trimmings.

Some of the famous cats in the world have had six toes. Teddy Roosevelt's extra-toed cat, Slippers, occupied the White House during his presidency and 'Princess Six Toes' was one of the 60 beloved felines kept by Ernest Hemingway.

Above information from www.peteducation.com

Events – Past & Future

~Canines For Cancer~

The 2nd Annual *Canines for Cancer* festival, will be held on October 4, 2003 . A day of dog related fun held to help raise money for the Cancer Connection, a drop-in support center for cancer survivors, friends and family. The event, hosted by Wintergreen Kennels, will include Avid Micro-chipping by Dr. Lewis Owen of North King Animal Clinic, a State Police Dog Demonstration, a Nail Clipping booth, vendors such as Precious Paws, Cabel Roome's Pet Portraits and Cindy Hardy, who had a variety of toys and treats to offer. There will be a booth where you can get a button, magnet or keychain made with a picture of your pet on it. Other events should include Doggie Square Dancing and a Look Alike Contest with the grand prize – a Wintergreen goodie basket!

Hope to see you there!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dakin's 3rd Annual Dog Wash

August 17, 2003

From 11 – 4 p.m. at Valley Veterinary Hospital , Hadley

For more information, visit www.Dakinshelter.org

MSPCA's 2nd Annual Putt For Paws Golf Tournament

September 18, 2003

Oak Ridge Golf Club

For more information, visit www.MSPCA.org

Canines For Cancer

October 4, 2003

From 1 - 3 p.m. at Wintergreen Kennels, Southampton

ONGOING~

MSPCA'S POOCHES IN THE PARK

Volunteers will be walking shelter dogs in Forest Park on Sunday mornings. Look for the dogs in the bright "Adopt Me!" vests!

The dog has an enviable mind. It remembers the nice things in life and quickly blots out the nasty.



-Barbara Woodhouse

From Your Veterinarian
Pet Owners: Information You Need About Rabies

Dr. JoAnne Leja, D.V.M.

Pet House Calls, Westfield , MA

(413) 562-1551

Rabies is a virus that can affect all warm-blooded animals including humans. In western Massachusetts , our most common rabies carriers are raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats and woodchucks (groundhogs). If you've read the news recently, you know that less common carriers, like bobcats, can also be a threat. You cannot identify an infected wild animal by looking at it. A rabid animal may display viciousness, or may become unusually docile or friendly, or may behave normally. Since rabies in humans is virtually 100% fatal, we are very concerned about protecting you and your pet

from this deadly disease.

Rabies prevention takes two forms: 1.) educating ourselves and our children to never touch or feed wildlife, and 2.) protecting by vaccination those species that can act as a "bridge" between wildlife and humans. The vaccination of domestic animals, especially dogs and cats, is one of the reasons human rabies infection is rare in the U.S.

Your new puppy or kitten should receive its first rabies vaccine by the time it is 1 weeks of age, as determined by your veterinarian. A newly adopted older pet should have a rabies vaccine as soon as possible. Nine to twelve months later, your pet should get a booster vaccine. Thereafter, rabies vaccines are given at regular intervals, either every year or every three years as determined by your veterinarian. It is also important to prevent your pet from being exposed to rabies, so you should not let your pet run loose or unattended outdoors.

Humans are not routinely vaccinated against rabies, although pre-exposure rabies vaccines are available for humans who are at high risk for exposure, and most veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal control officers, zoo workers and wildlife specialists have received them.

Humans who have sustained a bite or scratch wound should contact their physician and their town's animal control officer. If you awakened to find a bat in your room (or tent), even if no wound is notices, you should contact your physician immediately. If the biting animal is not known, or is unavailable, to be quarantines by the animal control officer, then post-exposure rabies vaccines can be started.

If this treatment is started soon enough, it can save the life of the person who has been exposed to rabies.

Even if your pet has an up-to-date rabies vaccine, certain precautions need to be taken:

- If your pet comes home with a wound, DO NOT touch the wound area with your bare hands.
- DO NOT touch any saliva or dampness on your pet's fur, since you don't know whether or not the attacking animal had rabies.
- Your pet may need a rabies booster right away, and certain observation or quarantine regulations may apply.
- Call your veterinarian and animal control officer/health department for specific instructions.

If you have any questions about rabies, call your veterinarian or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 888-658-2850. You can also go to www.state.ma.us/dpa to search for information on rabies.

Dr. Leja is a native of Chicopee . She graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University in 1981. She has been a veterinarian in the Westfield area since then and opened Pet House Calls Veterinary Clinic in 1988.

TICK TIPS

- Deer tick adults and nymphs may carry Lyme disease, babesiosis and ehrlichiosis. American dog ticks have not been shown to carry these diseases.
 - Ticks are found generally in a wooded habitat, neassr the ground. They may be active during any month, but late spring to early summer, and fall, are seasons of high risk.
 - Do a tick check every time you & your pet play outdoors.
 - Remove imbedded ticks promptly. Grasp the tick at the point of entry and pull back steadily, using tweezers. Avoid squeezing the body. Then, swab the site with antiseptic.
 - If you suspect that you or your pet have Lyme disease, see your doctor or veterinarian. Symptoms vary but include flu, headache, joint aches and/or a reddish circular rash.
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Looking for the perfect gift for the dog or cat lover in your world?

A Gift Certificate To Wintergreen...

What A Great Gift!

Wintergreen Kennels' Gift Certificates can be used for both boarding and/or grooming services. They are available in any denomination and good for one year from the date of purchase.

Peanut Butter Treats

2 1/4 cups whole wheat flour
3/4 cup all purpose flour
1 1/4 Tbsp baking powder

1 1/4 cup peanut butter
1 cup milk

Combine flour and baking powder in a large bowl.

Combine milk and peanut butter in a separate bowl and mix until smooth.

Gradually stir peanut butter mixture into flour in the larger bowl.

Knead dough by-hand and roll-out on floured surface to desired thickness. Cut-out treats. Place aluminum foil on cookie sheet and bake 15 minutes at 400°. Cool before storing. Note: cooking time may vary depending upon thickness.
