

Fall 2007
Edition

Issue 2

Avery Creek Pet Hospital

The Paw Press



565 Long Shoals Road, Suite 105 * Arden, NC 28704 828-651-8868

Our goal at Avery Creek Pet Hospital is to provide the highest quality of medical care for our clients and patients by listening to their needs, and by giving exceptional client services in a professional and compassionate manner. We will nurture the bond between humans and animals by teaching our clients how to better care for their pets, thus enabling them to live longer, healthier lives.

Shedding Allows Dogs To Prepare Their Coats For Winter

As the days start to grow shorter and the nights grow colder, you may observe what seems rather odd for a body preparing for winter: your dog is shedding more than usual.

Be assured: It's perfectly normal.

In the fall, as the summer coat is shed it's making room for their heavy protective fur for winter. This change is more obvious in "double-coated" breeds. Those breeds carry not only a harsh, protective long overcoat, but also a soft, insulating

undercoat and they lose masses of fur from both in spring and fall.

The amount of shedding varies from breed to breed. Shorthaired breeds may shed as much as the longhairs, but since the hair they shed is easily overlooked, it may seem as if they are shedding less.

All shedders, even the heaviest, can be tamed by a regular and frequent schedule of combing and brushing. After all, the fur you catch on a comb won't end up on a rug. Work against the grain to catch as much of the

ready-to-fall fur as possible. No matter what the breed, shedding, and heavy seasonal shedding is normal. Some heavy shedding can be a sign of health problems. Skin allergies and skin parasite may trigger shedding, and poor nutrition can also be a cause of coat problems.

Become familiar with your pet's normal pattern of shedding. Please contact us with any questions or concerns if your pet's coat condition seems too dull or excessive hair loss is noticed.



Can Your Cat Learn a Trick or Two?

Some people point to the dog's ability to learn obedience commands and tricks as proof that dogs are smarter than cats. Others point to the same as proof that cats are smarter than dogs. The cat came from a different place - from solitary hunters who didn't need teamwork to survive. If you want to put a good spin on it as a cat-lover, you could say that dogs need to be with people, while cats choose to. Because of this distinction, you absolutely cannot get a cat to do something

he doesn't want to. Something must be in it for him. With training tricks, that something is usually food. (Although some cats will work for a toy, or petting.) Teach the cat an association between a word - such as "sit" - and an action by using treats and praise. According to animal trainer Anne Gordon, in her book *Show Biz Tricks for Cats* (Adams), you start teaching the "sit" command with a hungry cat, a table, and a quiet room. Get your cat to stand by touching her in front of her tail

and then hold the treat a little over her head, saying her name and the command "sit." Slowly move the treat between your cat's ears, but not high enough for her to pick her front paws off the ground and grab the tidbit. Instead, she'll sit. After she does, praise her and give her the treat. Work in short sessions and be patient. Your cat eventually gets the idea! Sounds crazy? Gordon has trained dozens of animals - including many cats - for commercials, TV shows, and movies. Her book offers precise instructions for teaching 30 tricks, including jumping through a hoop, climbing a ladder, and rolling over. Great fun!

Did You Know?

- The dog is believed to be the first domesticated animal.
- Dogs and cats can see color, just not all the variations that humans can see and not as vividly.
- Cats can produce around 100 different sounds: dogs only about 10 vocalizations.
- Dogs and cats have sweat glands in the pads on their feet.

Don't forget to check out our website at AveryCreekPetHospital.com

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828-651-8868 TO:

Please use
your indicia

In Loving memory:

Gunni Samuels Barkley Wenzl

Sissy Branch Blondi Patton

Misty Cromwell Murphy Wood

Pepper Curtis Toby Nichols

Wally Rogers Cookie Calloway

Moosie Cowboy Cannon

Darren Mackiernan

It is with much sadness that we tell you Carol-Marie has left the ACPH family to move back to Greenville, SC so she can be closer to her family and further her education. Words can not express how much she will be missed here. She could always be counted on her for exceptional TLC. We wish her best of luck in all of her endeavors.

First of all I would like to congratulate Leslie Patton and family on being the winners of the contest to name our newsletter. After careful consideration, we choose "The Paw Press". Since we had several really good names, we would like to acknowledge our top 9 favorites

These are in no particular order:

1. Paw Points by: Sherry Harcke
2. Critter Tales by: Pete and Mary Sagonias
3. Pawspectives by: Dave Stenseth
4. The Paw-ty Line by: Mireille Laverty
5. Avery Creek Wag Rag by: Dave and Lynne Parlier
6. Nosey Notes by: Dave and Lynne Parlier
7. Wags and Whiskers by: Christi Britt
8. Avery Creek Pet Press by: Lynn Kessler
9. Critter Call by: Carrie Tye

In the past we have been allowed the privilege of helping clients in need with donations from the SPCA. Often the SPCA funds are too low to help. If you would like to contribute by sending a donation, please make checks payable NC-SPCA and send to:

NC-SPCA

P.O. Box 467

Asheville, NC 28802

If you have any questions please call

828-277-2426