



## Mountainview Animal Hospital

### WINTER NEWSLETTER



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One in three pets will experience a new illness or injury requiring veterinary care this year; one in six will sustain two or more.

Pet insurance gives pet owners peace of mind; it gives them the reassurance that if their pet needs emergency care due to an accident or illness they will be able to afford the cost of treatment.



Remember, pet insurance will only be available to you if your pet is registered prior to an accident or illness; most pet owners regret not having insurance after their pet has been diagnosed with an illness.

## PET INSURANCE

Sometimes I struggle with what to write as the main subject of the newsletter. It's not that there is a lack of topics; I have plenty to say about a great many things. I sometimes struggle with narrowing it down to just one idea. Until last week I was considering four different subjects; then three different pets were brought into the hospital for the same type of emergency. This time it was not the medical decisions that were difficult, it was the financial decisions that we struggled with. At that moment, it became clear that I had to remind people about the benefits of pet insurance.

The first pet was a fourteen year old cat who had fallen down the stairs while wrestling with the other household cat. He had broken his front leg. This type of fracture might have healed well with a splint but would clearly heal better with surgery. I gave his family both options and the cost of each. The estimate for his surgery was \$1800.00. Despite the higher cost, his family without hesitation selected surgery. The final bill for the surgery was closer to \$2000.00. What would your decision have been?

Later that day a second family brought in their young cat who had fallen off the balcony. This cat had broken his leg at the hip. The type and location of the fracture meant that surgery was this cat's only option. Because this fracture was not as complex as the previous cat's, the estimate was \$1250.00. Despite everyone's effort to find a way to make this work, the family could not afford the cost of his surgery. The family was heart broken. Unfortunately, this family's situation is all too common.

The following day a young dog was brought in after falling off the sofa while playing with her owner. This puppy broke her elbow in the worst possible place. Again the only option to fix the fracture was surgery. Because of how complex this surgery would be the estimate was \$2500.00. Her family struggled a great deal with their decision. This was a lot of money to spend for a young couple. After a lot of painful soul searching and sacrificing, they gave me the go ahead. Would you have been able to afford this surgery?

All these pets had a broken leg and yet each situation was very different. For only one of these families was the process of repairing a broken leg a simple and affordable decision. Consider for a moment, if your pet broke his or her leg, which of these families would you identify yourself with? If your answer is one of the later two, you should strongly consider getting pet insurance before something happens and you are faced with the same struggles as these families.

Coincidentally, the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association just published an InfoSheet promoting the advantages of pet insurance. I think it gives a good overview of pet insurance and so I have copied it for you to read.

## The bottom line

Tux is a domestic shorthaired cat, so was Nike. A domestic shorthaired cat (DSH) is a cat fancy term used to describe a shorthaired cat that does not have a pedigree or belong to a recognized cat breed. They come in a wide range of colours. They also exhibit a wide range of physical characteristics and, as a result, domestic shorthaired cats in different countries tend to look different in body shape and size, as they are working from differing gene pools. DSH cats in Asia tend to have a build similar to a purebred Siamese cat or Tonkinese cat, while European and American varieties have a thicker, heavier build.

### CHRISTMAS JOKES

Who delivers Christmas presents to cats?  
Santa Paws.

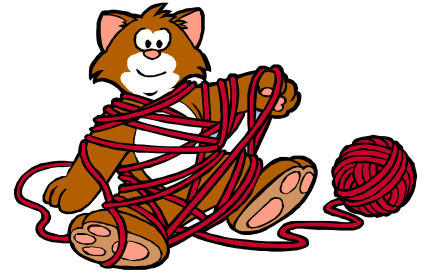
Who is never hungry at Christmas?  
The turkey, he is always stuffed.

What kind of candle burns longer, a red candle or a green candle?  
Neither - a candle always burns shorter.



## TIME WITH TUX

Hello. Let me introduce myself, I am Tux the resident cat; I have been living at Mountainview Animal Hospital since the spring. Dr. Ewing wrote about me in the last newsletter but she made me sound a little like a trouble maker. I, of course disagree, I don't create trouble but it often finds me. I am super friendly, in fact I am best friends with a Shih tzu named Dolby and a Labrador retriever named Arthur. I have noticed that everyone here works very hard, so to contribute I have designated myself as the company greeter. When you and your pet come in the front door I will be there to welcome you. My friend Dolby likes it when I wrestle with him, so if you are a small fuzzy dog like him, I will welcome you with a tackle. If you are a bigger dog like Arthur, I know you will love for me to play with your tail and tease you. I greet cats too. When you arrive I will poke my face into your carrier to say hi. As an added bonus for cats, once you have come out of your carrier, I will jump in to inspect it. I am a great client geeter but unfortunately I don't always find it is appreciated. Some dogs bark at me and many cats hiss at me. Dr. Ewing keeps chasing me away, saying that someday I am going to get hurt. I know she is worried about my safety but I take my job seriously. So next time you come in I will be there to annoy - I mean greet you and your pet.



## HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve:	Open 9:00 - 12:00
Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day:	Closed
Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup> - Boxing Day:	Closed
Dec. 27 <sup>th</sup> - Monday:	Closed
Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup> - New Years Eve:	Open 9:00 - 12:00
Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> - New Years Day:	Closed
Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Sunday:	Closed

Unless otherwise specified here, Mountainview Animal Hospital will be open during its regular office hours. Animals in the hospital over the holidays will receive the same great care and attention as always. For those patients requiring emergency care over Christmas and New Years, The Emergency Veterinary Clinic on Hwy 10 will be open to serve your pet's medical and surgical needs. You can call ahead at 905-495-9907 or go directly there. The Emergency Veterinary Clinic is located on the south east corner of highway 10 and Wexford Rd, just one block north of Bovaird (Highway 7).

From all of us at Mountainview Animal Hospital,  
we wish all of you

**A Very Merry Christmas, A Joyous  
Holiday Season and A Happy New Year!**