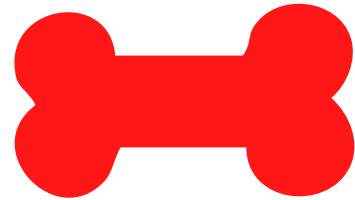
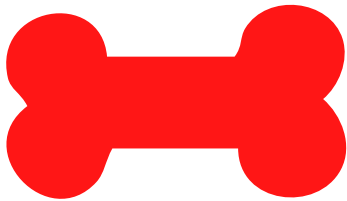


# PRAIRIE PAW PRINTS

*Crookston Pet Clinic's Newsletter*



Happy February! **Our office is open and we welcome 1 guest in per appointment, but our doors will remain locked. We will continue to provide curbside service if requested.**

If you have any information you'd like to submit, or perhaps a topic you'd like to see talked about, please send it to us via email at [crookstonpetclinic@gmail.com](mailto:crookstonpetclinic@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you and providing you with information that you WANT to know about!

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Crate Training**

**Keep those Claws!**

**DR. LEAH'S CORNER**

**Preventative News!**



# Did you know?

Sea otters hold each others hands to prevent them from drifting away.



## **Dr. Leah's Corner**

### **Lyme Disease**

Lyme disease was first identified in humans in 1977 and first reported in dogs in 1984. Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi* and it is transmitted when an infected tick feeds on an animal or person.

Lameness is the most common sign in dogs, followed by lack of appetite, fever, depression and enlarged lymph nodes. Usually the lameness develops quickly and affects more than one joint. Some dogs are so painful they refuse to move. In other dogs, lameness will come and go over a period of months. Lameness from Lyme disease can be mistaken for injury or arthritis.

There are other form of Lyme disease in dogs which are not as common. Lyme infection can cause a unique form of kidney disease which is rapidly progressive and fatal. Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers seem to be more vulnerable to this form of Lyme disease. Often these dogs can have had joint disease weeks to months prior to the onset of kidney disease. Cardiac (heart) and neurological (brain) disease are infrequent.



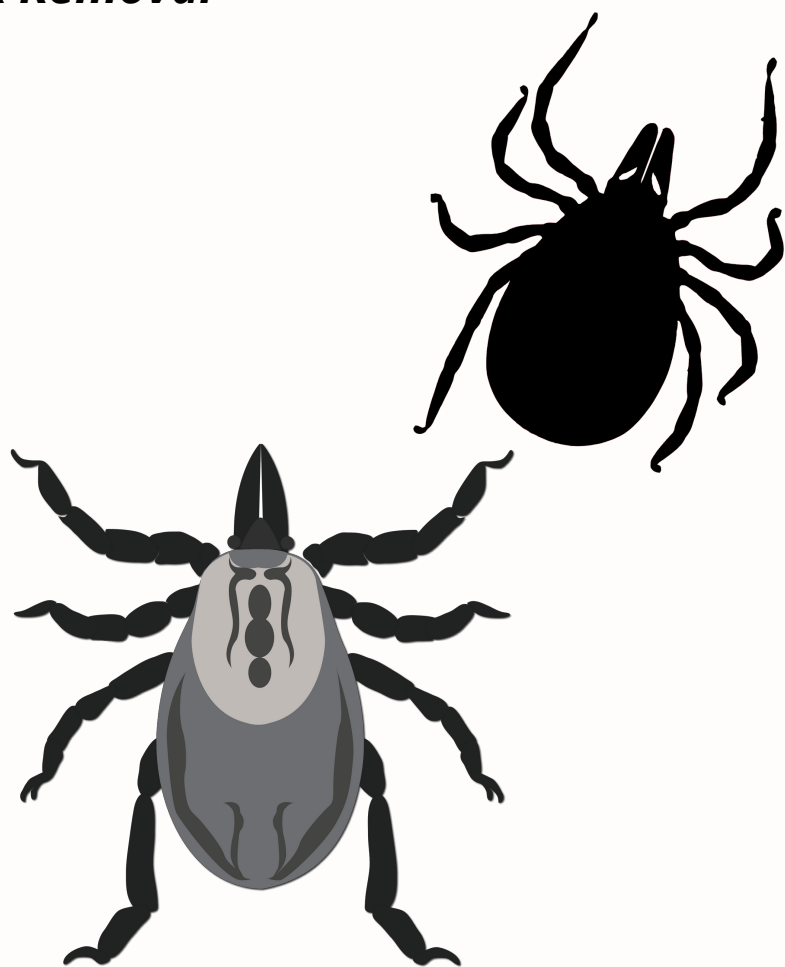
## Dr. Leah's corner (continued)

There are 3 key steps to prevention of Lyme disease in pets. They are : **1)** Prevent tick attachment. **2)** Groom daily. **3)** Vaccinate. The best way to control Lyme disease is to decrease exposure to ticks. Avoid high risk areas such as long grasses and wooded areas. Use effective tick preventatives and remove ticks daily. The longer a tick is attached, the greater the chance of the disease spreading from the tick to the pet. Removing ticks every day reduces the risk of transmission. Some ticks are hard to find, particularly in dogs with long or heavy hair coats. We recommend vaccination for puppies and adult dogs that test negative for Lyme disease. Puppies should receive a series of 2 vaccinations at 9 and 12- 13 weeks of age. A booster is given yearly. Vaccination does not replace tick control because no vaccine is 100% effective.

It is not just hunting breeds that are exposed to Lyme disease. The presence of disease in dogs is an indication that ticks in the area carry Lyme disease. Animal owners should follow the advice of their physicians regarding tick avoidance. Lyme disease has been recognized in animals for over 20 years and there is still a lot to learn about this disease.

### ***Safe Tick Removal***

*Using a jewelers forceps or splinter forceps, grasp the tick between the body and the attachment to the skin. Gently pull upwards and away with steady pressure. Removing ticks this way helps to avoid pushing the Lyme organism out of the ticks salivary glands and into the bite. Cleanse the tick bite with soap and water. Mouth parts left in the skin may cause irritation or infection like a splinter. Do not use petroleum jelly, nail polish, alcohol or hot matches to remove ticks.*



# Crate Training Benefits :

- Crate training is a vitally important part of bringing a dog of any age into your life and home.
  - Puppies, adult dogs and seniors can all benefit in one way or another from being properly crate trained.
  - Crate training gives dogs a sense of security and safety and helps give owners greater peace of mind.
- 

## Breeders and Vets Recommend Crate Training

Although many dog owners may feel guilty for crate training their canine companion, enclosed spaces create a shelter for your dog to rest and relax. In fact, dogs instinctively seek small spaces to create protective shelters for themselves. Crates are useful training tools for puppies, safe havens for senior dogs, and lifesavers for emergencies.

Most veterinarians, trainers and breeders recommend crate training dogs from a young age. Crate training is an essential part of housebreaking puppies, as dogs don't like to soil their sleeping quarters. They learn to hold their bladder while they're in their crate, so you won't have to clean up messes.

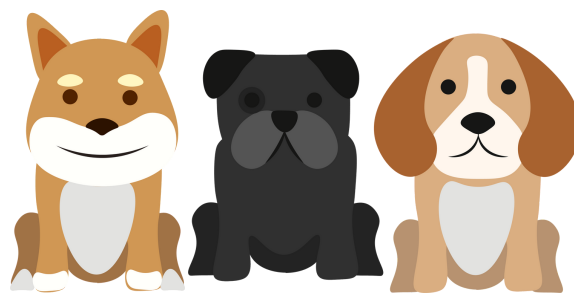
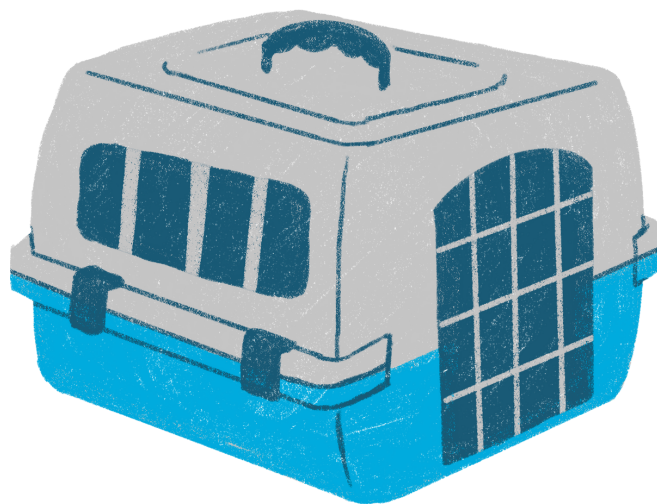
"We recommend crate training every dog because you never know what's going to happen in the future." says Christine Kroh, intake coordinator at Beagles to the Rescue. In emergencies crate training can be the difference between safety and uncertainty. You must be able to evacuate your dog efficiently, so having a cooperative dog get into a crate quickly saves crucial time.

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Having dogs secured during evacuations reduces the chances of them getting lost or injured. It also allows your dog to stay with you during an emergency, since dogs typically have to be crate trained to remain in shelters with their owners.

## **Crate Training Makes Life Easier**

For dogs that aren't crate trained, crates may be the scariest part of a harried situation. Crate training can help prevent compounding a dog's stress during emergencies. In worse case scenarios, dogs may be required to be on crate rest while recovering from surgery. Dogs are less likely to have complications following a surgery when they can peacefully relax rather than accidentally aggravate injuries because they can't settle down in a crate.



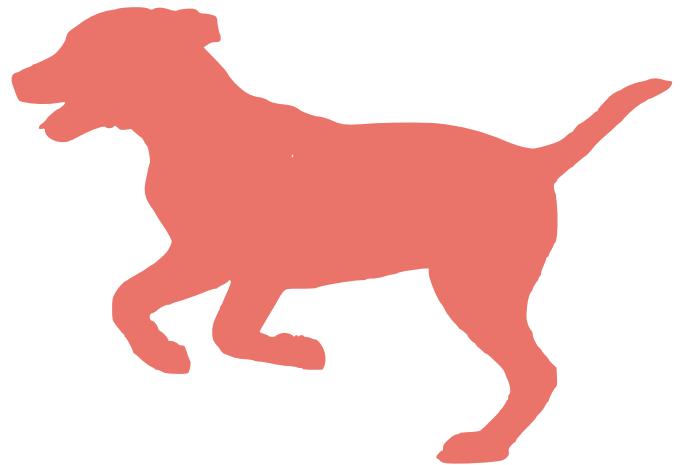
Crate training comes in handy during everyday life for dogs who might need a break from a bustling household or a familiar place to rest. Crates help dogs learn to self soothe, or deal with their anxiety, during situations where they become distressed, like during fireworks, a thunderstorm or construction. Dogs can retreat to their crates when situations are too chaotic or scary. It also helps dogs confront new situations successfully, like the addition of a new of a new baby or having company over. " If the dog's freaking out, they think : ' I can go hide in my crate and it's safe here and nobody is gonna bother me'. That helps them out for their lifetime" says Kroh.

Crates make it easier to safely transport your dog by car or by air during long-distance travel or vacations. Crate training makes long car rides more pleasant for both humans and canines. Crates allow dogs to lay down and sleep without distracting the driver.

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## Crate training benefits dogs of All Ages

Crates keep curious puppies safely sequestered when you're not able to supervise them. Dogs instinctively try to keep their sleeping areas clean. As such, the crate helps puppies learn to hold and strengthen their bladder and bowel muscles, making housebreaking less of a chore. "When they're puppies, the crate is really the major tool that will help you house train," says trainer Heike Purdon. Crate training early in a dog's life prevents introducing unnecessary stress later. When older dogs are dealing with illnesses like incontinence, arthritis, or canine cognitive dysfunction, they don't need the additional stress of learning new rules. Crate training helps senior dogs deal with health issues by providing a restful place to rest their joints or take frequent naps, prevents nighttime wandering, and makes transporting them to vet appointments easier. Crates also create a safe haven for older dogs. They may be especially in need of this when surrounded by rambunctious children or other dogs.





## Tips for Successful Crate Training

The first and most important step in crate training is making it a positive experience. Try feeding them meals or treats in their crate so crate time feels like a reward. Never leave dogs in their crate all day. Limit crate time based on how long they spend in their crate daily, their age, and level of house training. Understanding the need for crate training is just the first step, but the training itself is another matter entirely. Make sure to do extensive research on how to crate train your dog, and be sure to stick to your plan to ensure the greatest chance of success.

*This article was written by Kaitlyn Arford for AKC for more information regarding crate training go to [AKC.org](https://www.akc.org)*



# Keep those claws! Why cats need them



Recent studies show that declawing can significantly increase the risk of long-term adverse effects on feline physical and emotional health, including chronic neuropathic pain, biting, and an increased likelihood of house-soiling. Here's what you should know if you're considering this procedure for your cat. Declawing is an emotional, controversial, and divisive topic. Some people consider it an option to prevent destructive damage in the home and protection from potential scratches. Others consider the elective procedure inhumane, unethical mutilation that should be performed only to treat true medical conditions.

## Pain and adverse behavior

The term "declaw" may sound straightforward, yet it misrepresents the extent of the surgical procedure. "declawing is also known as onychectomy or partial digital amputation," says Margie Scherk, DVM, DABVP. "The surgery is actually amputation of the cat's third toe or finger bone. A comparison in human terms would be cutting off a person's finger at the last joint of each finger."

Whether by scalpel, laser, or guillotine method, the procedure isn't without risk or complications, nor is it pain free, Dr. Scherk says. Studies show declawed cats often experience pain from remaining bone fragments; nail regrowth; reluctance to move or play; lameness; and chronic pain. All of those factors result in the following negative effects:

- Reduced quality of life from chronic pain
- significantly higher odds of back pain due to change in gait kinetics.
- Greater likelihood of excessive grooming and fur chewing (barbering).
- Greater likelihood of aggression than non-declawed cats; that aggression is appreciably higher in declawed cats with bone remnants.



" Being in chronic pain understandably results in less positive interactions and lower acceptance of handling for some individuals," Dr. Scherk says.

In one study, 63 percent of declawed cats had residual bone fragments, and those cats were 10 times more likely to eliminate outside the litter box.

"whether that is because the litter hurts the hidden damaged nerves or for other reasons isn't known," says Dr. Scherk. "We do know, at the very least, that cats experience pain directly where the nerves were severed."

Currently, 39 countries have enacted legislation prohibiting medically unnecessary declawing. In January 2019, Labrador and Newfoundland join two other Canadian provinces, British Columbia and Nova Scotia, in banning declawing. In the U.S., it is illegal in eight cities in California and in Denver, Colorado. No state has passed legislation banning declawing.

## Scratch this!



Claws and scratching are an innate part of being a cat. The instinctual behavior cannot be unlearned or surgically removed by declawing-even declawed cats engage in the scratching motion.

All cats, even indoor cats, need their claws for balance, mobility, protection, grooming, and gripping prey and objects. Cats naturally scratch to promote nail health to shed the outer nail husk, stretching for isotonic exercise which leaves spine and joints supple, and to mark territory by leaving visual and scent marks (pheromones deposited from scent glands in the paws). Scratching may also act as a pressure valve, allowing cats to release pent-up stress.

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For all of these reasons, it's important to seek alternatives to declawing and to teach cats to direct their scratching toward appropriate surfaces.

"We can manage where and what a cat scratches, by placing a desirable, stable scratching surface in locations that a cat needs to mark," Dr. Scherk says.

"Scratching can be a result of not meeting kitty's environmental needs. We have to learn to see the world from the cat's point of view, regardless of how comfy we think we have made it for them."

Use of synthetic pheromone products can reduce or redirect the need to mark. The chemical messengers encourage cheek marking, and one, *feliscratch*, can attract cats to the scratching post.

Positive reinforcement in the form of treats, play, and praise can help as well. Be patient and give the cat time to learn what you want.

Regular nail trims help reduce damage to home decor and the risk of injuries from scratches. Remember that not every nail must be trimmed every time.

Plastic nail caps adhered to your cat's claws are another option. They don't hurt your cat, the adhesive is nontoxic, and the caps come in a variety of fun colors that are easy to see when they naturally fall off in 4 to 6 weeks. If you aren't sure about how to trim your cat's nails or apply nail caps, your veterinarian can show you how or do it for you.

Nearly 25 percent of pet cats in the United States are declawed and most of the procedures occur before the cat is 8 months old. If your cat is declawed, take a special care of those sensitive paws and be aware that some behaviors may be an expression of pain. If declawing is the only way you can have a cat, consider adopting one from your local shelter who is already declawed.



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**this article was written by Ramona Marek for [fearfreehappyhomes.com](https://www.fearfreehappyhomes.com)**

**for more information follow this link**

**<https://www.fearfreehappyhomes.com/keep-those-claws-why-cats-need-them/#:~:text=Claws%20and%20scratching%20are%20an,and%20gripping%20pre>**

# We have some exciting News!

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- On March 1st we will be switching our heartworm preventative from Iverheart Max to Sentinel Spectrum Chews! These new preventatives protect your dog from six different parasites including tape worms and whip worms! These chews are taste tested and we have been informed they even taste better! We are very eager to see how much your dog will love these.
- The price of Bravecto will be going up on March 1st, but don't worry! We have amazing rebates that you can claim the very same day at checkout! These rebates will only be offered in our clinic, they are not accepted on Chewy or any other online retailer. We are trying our hardest to save you money!



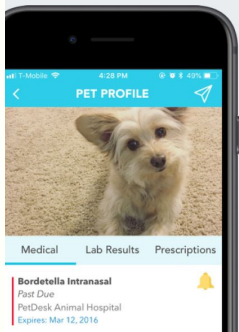
We will have more Information In the coming weeks, feel free to ask any questions!

Upcoming in our clinic we will also have a few price changes. Those not only include bravecto, but also nail trims and anal sac expressions. If you have questions about other price changes in the clinic please give us a call. **218-281-4231**

# Email Us!

**crookstonpetclinic@gmail.com**

**Closed Dates - Will be posted on  
our website as well as our  
Facebook page.**



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**Request Appointment**

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