



FLEAS & TICKS ARE BACK!

Vet Clinics Have Been Very Busy

The 2011 flea and tick season seems like it never ended, and here we are in 2012! **Pet Quarters** has prepared for the season with a wide variety of products for our customers. We are stocking natural products from Natural Chemistry and Vet's Best. Zodiac products have been on our shelves for years and have proven tried and true. We have since taken on Bio-Spot power drops and foggers, and foggers by Adams. It is always important to check the information on any of these products for directions for proper use, and any cautions they may list. For example, some products are only to be used for dogs and not cats. Some have a minimum age of the pet for safe use.

During flea season, it is often assumed that if your pet is scratching, it has fleas. Itchy skin can be caused by an allergy to something in the environment. Itching is often one of the first signs of allergy to something in the diet. Animals often develop allergies to beef or chicken, and some react to grain in the food. Fortunately, there are several diet alternatives to these ingredients.

There is an old trick for checking a black or dark skinned pet for fleas. You stand the pet on something white like paper or a bedsheet. You scratch them briskly all over their body. If you see little bits of charcoal looking particles fall off the pet, most likely they are flea droppings....dried blood.

Good luck with your pets this flea and tick season.

Pet Quarters has been hosting veterinarian Joel Hokkanen in seven of our stores as he conducts his Wellness Vet Clinics. Over the years, our customers have benefited from his low cost services, including an exam at no charge. The result has been his having repeat clients yearly. His services for cats and dogs include shots, worming, blood testing, microchipping, and the selling of heartworm medication.

Dr. Joel appreciates the patience of the people in lines that are often long, especially around license registration season.



Grain Free Food

Because cats are carnivores, grain-free foods are perfect for them. You don't see felines eat oats in the wild. Some of our customers have given feedback that the grain free diets have equalized their cats' weight. Both overweight and underweight cats reached a better weight. Hopefully other feeders of grain-free cat food will see this same result.

Some of our customers who feed grain-free to their dogs do so for mostly 2 reasons. They like the idea of not feeding grain and feeding a higher protein food for active dogs. The other reason is an allergy to grain. We are hearing about this allergy more all the time.

An important step in feeding grain-free for allergy is that all members of the household follow the same rules. There is no point in keeping the dog on the new diet if someone else is feeding them biscuits and treats that have grain. There are now choices for treats with no grain.

Check out our selection of these foods the next time you visit Pet Quarters. You'll be surprised at the variety....Taste Of The Wild, Wellness Core, Natura's Evo, Natural Balance and Canidae Grain-Free.



Tennis Balls



Dogs like tennis balls. They can chase them and gnaw on them for hours. Unfortunately, tennis balls are not good for your pet's teeth. The coating on real tennis balls is like sand paper, and can erode the enamel on your dog's teeth! All the "tennis balls" sold at Pet Quarters do not have this abrasive coating and are safe for your pets. Please pass on the information about this danger. One of our customers at our Rockland store told us she found out about this problem too late and only after the damage was done to her German Shepherd's teeth.

DID YOU KNOW?
catnip is an herb and one of 3,500 species of plants that belong to the mint family? In the US 400+ tons of catnip are used each year with 78% of the crop going to cats!

