

Summer 2026



In this issue

- 1-Featured Dog & Cat
- 2-View From A Vet
- 3-Ask Homer & Hope
- 4-There's A New Dog Breed In Town

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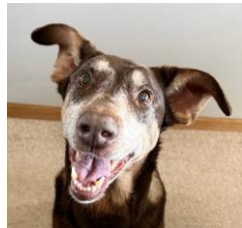
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Our featured pets



Meet Donna!



Donna is a very sweet and gentle 11-year-old Doberman mix whose journey has not always been easy. She was found tied

to a tree years ago, before being rescued and adopted into a loving forever home. Sadly, after her owner passed away, Donna found herself back with AHF searching once again for a place to call home for her golden years.

Despite everything she's been through, Donna is friendly with everyone she meets, including children. She has a calm and quiet nature that makes her an easy companion to have around the home. Donna is wonderfully well-mannered — she's potty trained, politely circles by the door when she needs to go outside, doesn't climb on furniture, and is perfectly content spending her days napping peacefully in her crate or simply relaxing beside her people.

One of the simple things that still brings her joy is going for walks, and she's happiest simply being beside her people.

Donna doesn't ask for much — just love, companionship, and a peaceful home where she can finally settle in for good. She does need to be the only pet in the home, with no cats or other dogs. If you're looking for an easy, loyal companion with so much love left to give, Donna is waiting for you.

Meet Khajitt & Pochocco!



Khajitt is a cuddly and curious girl who loves to play and snuggle in equal measure. She loves to chase laser lights, running thru her

tunnel and walking around the house with her favorite orange fish meowing the whole time. She especially loves it when her brother Pochocco joins her. Some of her favorite things to do are watching critters outside the window, napping in her cat tree and curling up in a warm lap. She loves to snuggle and will push her brother out of the way to get all the attention. She also loves to give sweet little nose boops to show her love.

Pochocco is an affectionate, curious and playful boy. He loves to explore, snuggle and have lots of fun. He enjoys chasing the laser lights, playing in his tunnel and snuggling in a warm lap. He loves to give nose boops when he is feeling extra loving. He enjoys hunting for his small toys. He has a playful spirit and affectionate nature.

Both are fascinated by water and love to watch the faucet drip. At times, they do play in their water bowls and hunt for toys to drop the toys in. It does take them a bit to warm up to new people as they can be shy. They are good with kids.

They are a bonded pair and are looking forward to finding their forever home.

View From a Vet *Tick Takeover!!*

Summer is upon us, and with that comes tick season. In the past couple years, we have been experiencing a rise in tick populations in Illinois. In addition, types of ticks normally not seen in the Midwest are becoming more common. According to the CDC, the number of emergency department visits for people bitten by ticks has climbed rapidly in recent months. Therefore, if humans are being bitten more, the chance of our furry friends being exposed is more likely than ever. Ticks carry a variety of diseases, many of which are specific to a type of tick. When a tick encounters an animal, they will bite to feed on its blood and stay attached there until they are full and fall off. If the tick is attached for an extended amount of time, it can transfer whatever bacteria they are infected with to that animal. That bacteria will then replicate via the blood stream.

Here in the Midwest, a common disease that pet owners associate with ticks is Lyme disease. Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria that is transmitted by deer ticks. Clinical signs usually appear about 2-5 months post-tick bite. Dogs may have a fever, become lethargic and/or have swollen joints. In severe cases, kidney infections can occur. Like most tick-borne diseases, Lyme disease is hard to diagnose and cure completely. Many veterinarians automatically include tick-borne disease testing when your dog gets blood drawn for heartworm testing each year. As ticks are becoming increasingly common and more pets are being tested, we are seeing an increase in positive Lyme disease tests. However, if your dog comes back as positive, don't fret. This means that your dog has been exposed to the disease at some point and created antibodies against it. If your dog is still acting normally, and doesn't have any clinical signs, it may not be necessary to treat your pet with antibiotics. However, always consult with your veterinarian on what they think is best for your pet.

Therefore, it's extremely important to protect your pet against ticks, and the best way to do so is through flea and tick prevention. **Remember, any animal that steps outside is exposed to fleas/ticks and can be bitten!** There are a variety of safe, effective, researched options available to fit different lifestyles including monthly oral and topical medications, and flea collars. Make sure to obtain flea/tick medication that is prescribed through your veterinarian or an online pet pharmacy. Over the counter flea and tick sprays or household ingredients have not been researched and are not proven to be effective in repelling and/or killing fleas and ticks. If you frequent wooded areas, talk to your veterinarian about the Lyme disease vaccine, which can add another layer of protection against these parasites. In addition, make sure to check your dog's coat after walks or trips to forest preserves/dog parks. Common places for ticks to be found on dogs are the neck, around the ears and face, armpits, and belly. However, some ticks are the size of a pinhead (deer tick) and can't easily be seen.

Hopefully with this information, you can feel more comfortable going into the summer with your pet. Fleas and ticks should not be a reason to discourage pets from going outside and playing in outdoor areas. Instead, protect your pet, that way both of you can have a worry-free summer!

As always, if you have any questions on this topic or need recommendations please talk to your family veterinarian.

By: Nina Pasquini, DVM



Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, what is canine thunderstorm anxiety?

Many dogs recognize an approaching thunderstorm even before thunder and lightning make it obvious. They feel the drop in barometric pressure; they smell the ozone change. They see the darkening sky and hear the wind. Their ears flatten; their eyes widen. They begin to whimper or shake. They run in circles, searching for a safe person or place. They experience incontinence. They may even attempt to escape through windows or doors, harming themselves in their hurry to find safety. This is astrophobia or canine thunderstorm anxiety. It is not just the fear of the storm; it is the reaction to the atmospheric clues prior to the storm's arrival.

What causes this range of symptoms from mild to extreme? Some breeds are genetically high strung; they are sensitive to sounds that other dogs would tolerate. Some dogs lack exposure to thunderstorms, especially as puppies, so they have no prior experiences to distract them. Still others take their cue from the owner's fear of thunderstorms that reinforces negative responses. Whatever the situation, thunderstorm anxiety must be addressed before it causes more widespread stress.

What are some solutions to canine thunderstorm anxiety? So much depends upon the severity of behavior. For example, some dogs just need a calm, familiar voice and a safe location to sit through the storm. A windowless room will eliminate the lightning flashes and reduce the sound of thunder. If this is not possible, a room with darkening window treatments will help. Even the dog's crate covered by a blanket provides comfort. Soft background sounds or favorite toys and treats can be enough distraction. However, if their behavior is more extreme, some dogs benefit from anxiety vests, desensitization training, aromatherapy, and medication. Always seek professional help in these cases.

Hope, do cats like to sunbathe?

Like their human companions, cats enjoy lounging in the sun. While those of us who sunbathe like that sun-kissed look and a dose of Vitamin D, cats stretch out in the sunniest spot in the house for several reasons.

According to experts, cats are natural sunbathers. It's just instinct. They have a higher body temperature than humans, so basking in the sun helps them regulate their body heat while staying warm. Sunlight can enhance your furry friend's mood and reduce stress levels. Cats may roll around when the sunlight pours in through the window indicating they are content and happy.

Cats are experts at conserving energy. Laying in the sun helps them store extra energy for chasing their favorite toy or playing with the humans in the household. When cats are in the sun, their bodies produce vitamin D, which is necessary for bone health, strong teeth and overall wellbeing. Stretching out and relaxing in the sun can also help alleviate discomfort from conditions like arthritis.

While sunbathing in their favorite sunny spots is not primarily used for marking territory, scent marks from their fur are left on the surface. It's just their way of saying "I've been here! It's my space!" Some cats can be strategic when choosing places to soak up the sun. They like to observe the world around them even when they're snoozing under their favorite sunny window.

While sunlight has some benefits for cats, it's important to remember, safety first! Indoor and outdoor cats can get sunburn, dehydrated or develop skin problems. Limit their sun time. Close the shades. Bring them indoors. Change their water often. Keep your kitty happy and healthy this summer while she enjoys the warmth and benefits of the sun!

There's a New Dog Breed In Town!

The American Kennel Club regularly adds new breeds to its registry. Each breed has gone through a lengthy process by breeders before the AKC will accredit them. This accrediting can take years. These recent inductees bring the total number of AKC-recognized breeds to 205. These breeds are "new" to official U.S. registry; their genetic lines have actually existed in their native countries for decades or centuries. Here are the three that were added In 2026.



Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka, which translates to Russian Colored Lapdog, a dark, curly-coated toy breed from Russia that was selectively bred starting from the 1950s. It's a small companion dog that is funny, spirited, clever, sociable and good with children.



Basset Fauve de Bretagne, which translates to Fawn-colored Brittany Basset. A small, personable, and centuries-old hunting hound originally from France. Smart, courageous and determined. It is a member of the scent hound family and primarily bred for hunting small game.



Teddy Roosevelt Terrier, a distinctly American, short-legged terrier named in honor of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. American original bred in the 1800's to hunt vermin and be playmates for kids. The Teddy Roosevelt Terrier is a lively, friendly, affectionate dog with his family but can be somewhat of a one-person dog. A bold, tenacious hunter with unlimited energy and endurance, makes him an excellent hunter of squirrels and vermin.

Fun Facts

Dogs can smell in 3D and even "smell time". Thanks to their unique respiratory system, they can continuously inhale scents through their noses and push the air out of slits on the sides

Cats only have about 473 taste buds (compared to a human's 9,000). Because their sense of taste is so weak, they rely almost entirely on their nose to decide if food is appetizing.

Adopt, don't shop! Let's keep spreading the word!