

Winter 2012

Welcome Winter: Or should I say Spring! Normally I am begging for snow, but this year I am enjoying the mild temperatures. As long as the sun is shining, I feel so great! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, it felt like they just flew by for my family and I this past year. We had a full house at the kennel over the holidays for the third year in a row. It was great; we were able to accommodate all of our “regulars” and Santa even left them all a little something Christmas morning. My Winter newsletter usually provides a few tips for the frigid temperatures, although it was 60 degrees today, I feel compelled to list them anyway. Puxatony Phil did see his shadow which calls for 6 more weeks of winter so here they are....

Here are a few tips:

-It is best to keep pets indoors during the winter months, but if this is not possible, outdoor pets must be provided with shelter. Their home should be elevated off the ground to prevent moisture accumulation and have a door of some kind to keep out winter winds, sleet, and snow. Shelters should be insulated or heated. In severely cold or inclement weather, no pet should be kept outside. During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape. Be particularly gentle with elderly and arthritic pets during the winter. The cold can leave their joints extremely stiff and tender, and they may become more weak than usual.

-If you live near a pond or lake, be very cautious about letting your dog off the leash. Animals can easily fall through the ice, and it is very difficult for them to escape on their own. If you must let your dogs loose near open water, stay with them at all times.

-Keep an eye on your pet's water. Sometimes owners don't realize that a water bowl has frozen and their pet can't get anything to drink. Animals that don't have access to clean, unfrozen water are more likely to drink out of puddles or gutters, which can be polluted.

As for my main squeeze Brodie, he is just the love of our lives. He celebrated his third birthday December 25th. He is such a lucky boy; he got so many toys. My only wish is that he would play with the toys and not destroy every inch of them within minutes. It is just like watching him shred your money! I was hoping by three he would be past that, but nope, still at it. We also have a new addition to the family, I found a kitten outside of the kennel and decided to keep her and named her Sophie, she is such an instigator with Brodie. She knows that we will discipline him for playing too rough, so she just eggs him on every chance she gets. I swore after losing my two older female cats this past year that I would never have another pet again, and somehow here we are. It is like no matter the pain we feel when we lose them; we can't go on without them. It was a lot of hard work in the beginning with a kitten. After moving my plants, and finding her in the toilet, I began to question my sanity! We can't live with them, and we can't live without them!!

I also want to thank the Georgetown SPCA for all their help over the past few months. Kittens were left on our doorstep; we were finding them in the woods, and even along the road. We didn't have the proper medications, but we offered to house them until they were old enough for adoption. The SPCA provided us with all vaccines, and medications, they are such a wonderful organization! Don't forget when searching for your new companion to visit the SPCA, they are full of puppies/kittens, adult dogs/cats, mixed and pure breeds that all need homes. Please give your local shelter a chance before contacting a breeder, I promise that an adopted pet will love you just as much, *if not more*....

Thank you again for taking the time to read this quarterly newsletter and don't forget to think of us when it comes time to board your little ones if you decide to head south, *or north*, for the winter. It's always the perfect temperature inside with us!

From one *extreme* pet lover to another....

Nichole