



August 2009

Beckett & Associates Veterinary Services, LLC Links

About Us

Meet The Doctors

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Health & Grooming



Beckett & Associates Veterinary Services, LLC online pet store allows you to buy all your pet supplies instantly and at your own convenience. We offer everything from pet health products, to toys and treats.

No time to go to the pet store, that's okay Order Online and have your pet supplies delivered to your home.

Contact Beckett & Associates Veterinary Services, LLC

860-659-0848
1269 Main St

Beckett & Associates Announcements



Congratulations Dr. Chediak!

Congratulations to Dr. Chediak & her husband for their newest addition: Alexandros Andreas who was born on Friday, June 5th. The entire family is doing great! We hope to see Dr. Chediak back on a part-time basis this fall.

Shop For Your Pets Online

Take advantage of our online vet store for all of your pet's prescriptions, treats, collars & toys. [Click Here](#) to start your summer shopping! Check out the monthly specials to see how you could be saving. In addition, take advantage of all products being shipped directly to your home!

Diseases Transmitted by Pets

(compliments of AAHA's HealthyPet.com)

In 64 million American households pets are a source of joy and perhaps even the key to longer, healthier lives. However, pet-owning households with young children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems need to be aware that their animals can play host to disease-causing microorganisms.



Humans are not likely to catch a disease through their pets, but in very rare cases it can happen. Fortunately, most of these diseases rarely occur in healthy individuals, are mild and can be easily treated. Others, like [toxoplasmosis](#), can be far more serious. Diseases transmitted from animals to humans are called zoonotic diseases. Zoonotic diseases usually live out their complex life cycles in animals, but sometimes cross into human bodies. Usually contracting a pet-borne disease requires very close contact with animals or their excretions, so zoonotic diseases can be avoided with common sense,

cleanliness and regular pet examinations and vaccinations.

Children often put their hands in their mouths, providing an easy route for bacteria to travel into their

Glastonbury, CT
06033

Office Hours

Monday - Friday:
7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday:
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

24-hour Large
Animal Emergency
Coverage



Pet Angels provides animal lovers a direct link to local rescues in Connecticut. Our Pet Lost & Found allows users to search for their lost pet or post a found animal. Visitors can also put up their animals for adoption.

Pet Angels was created by Beckett and Associates Veterinary Services, LLC and is a free service to those looking to adopt or rescue their next – or first – pet.

Visit [Pet Angels](#) to find out more

bodies. For example, children who eat dirt are more susceptible to contracting zoonotic diseases. Children also are more susceptible to pet-borne illness because they carry fewer antibodies than adults do. The same holds true for puppies and kittens, making them more likely to carry disease than older dogs and cats.

Although the chances of getting a zoonotic disease from your pet are slim, these are some common pet-borne illnesses that can make people sick:

Salmonellosis: This bacteria generally makes its way into human bodies through contaminated food. The bacteria can be passed through animal feces and may cause symptoms like fever, vomiting, diarrhea and exhaustion.

Roundworms: Roundworm eggs and microscopic adult worms can be excreted in the feces of dogs and cats infected by the worms. Children may be at a higher risk for contracting roundworms because they play near pets or touch infected feces and put their hands into their mouths. Because of the risk to children, all cats and dogs should be taken to their veterinarians for regular fecal examinations. Also remember to cover all sandboxes when not in use to prevent children from contacting contaminated feces. Symptoms can include fever, cough, loss of appetite, weakness and lung congestion.

Cat Scratch Fever: This bacteria is usually transmitted from cats to humans through scratches. The bacteria is found on nails or claws and can cause high fever, loss of appetite, weakness and swollen lymph nodes. In otherwise healthy people, Cat Scratch Fever is usually mild and resolves itself. However, the bacteria caused by Cat Scratch Fever can be extremely dangerous or even fatal if left untreated in immune-compromised individuals. It's important for these pet owners to tell their doctors they own a cat. Young children should be sure to wash scratches thoroughly with soap and water.

Strep Throat: Though your pet is probably not the culprit bringing strep into your household each year, the possibility does exist. Recently, researchers have found that it's more likely that people are infecting their pets. In any case, keep your children from kissing, licking or exchanging food by mouth with their pets.



Ringworm: A fungal infection of the skin, hair or nails, ringworm starts as a rapidly spreading hairless, circular lesion. Humans can be infected through use of contaminated objects like hair brushes, towels or clothing or by contact with infected animals like cats, dogs, mice, rats and guinea pigs.

Scabies: Also called sarcoptic mange, scabies is a skin disease caused by itch mites which burrow under the skin. Scabies cause intense itching and scratching that can result in severe eczema. Humans can be infected through contact with infected animals.

The most effective way to prevent zoonotic diseases and ensure your good health is to ensure good health for your pets. This means taking your pet to the veterinarian for regular exams and vaccinations. Most pet owners find that by following their veterinarian's nutritional and health

recommendations, their pets will lead happy, healthy lives with little risk of zoonotic infections.



Your Horse's Life is Not Worth the Risk

What every horse owner should know about drug compounding

Every horse owner has the right to know the safety and efficacy of medications a veterinarian prescribes for their horse. But even the most experienced horse owners may not be aware of the health risks involved with using compounded drugs. Compounded drugs are unregulated drugs

produced by altering or combining other drugs to serve a patient's particular need.

Recently, compounded drugs have been linked to tragic incidents in the horse industry, including the sudden death of 21 polo ponies in April and the deaths of several horses in Louisiana in 2006. Because compounded drugs are not regulated, other incidents remain unreported.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners acknowledges that reputable pharmacies produce legitimate compounded drugs to improve the health of horses when an FDA-approved option doesn't exist. However, when inappropriately compounded and used, these drugs may pose a serious threat to the health of your horse. Knowing the facts about legitimate and illegitimate compounded drugs will help you and your veterinarian decide on the best treatment option for your horse.

What is a compounded medication?

Compounding is a process to produce a medication by combining or altering ingredients for the special needs of an equine patient. Only a licensed veterinarian may write a prescription for the compounded medication. Because there is a scarcity of approved medications for use in horses, there is a legitimate need for compounding in equine veterinary medicine. Some examples of legitimate compounding would include crushing a tablet and creating a paste or gel to aid in the administration to the patient or mixing two anesthetics in the same syringe for use in your horse.

Weigh the risks of unregulated medication.

Compounded drugs are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration and can vary in potency, stability, purity and effectiveness. And because these products are unregulated by the government, compounded drugs have the potential to pose serious safety risks to horses.

Compounded drugs are not generic drugs.

Because compounded drugs are generally cheaper than FDA-approved medications, horse owners often confuse compounded drugs with generic drugs. Generic drugs are biologically equivalent to a brand-name drug. Unlike compounded drugs, generic drugs go through an FDA approval process and are manufactured in an FDA-approved facility.

Don't skimp on quality medication.

A compounded drug should never be requested, used or prescribed as a cost-saving measure. Putting your horse's health at risk with a "knock off" drug could end up costing your horse's life. Stay on the safe side and request FDA-approved medications.



In the interest of the welfare of your horse, the American Association of Equine Practitioners advises the use of legal, FDA-approved medications when such a drug exists. FDA-approved medications undergo years of testing and are closely monitored by the government to ensure a consistent, safe performance.

"As a horse owner, your primary concern is the health and welfare of your horse. Because compounded products have no regulatory requirements for potency, safety, stability or production testing, they are to be used only as a last resort when there are no approved products available," says Dr. Kenton Morgan, chairman of the AAEP Biological and Therapeutic Agents Committee.

"It is appropriate to request that your veterinarian inform you any time he or she will be using a compounded product to treat your horse." It's important for horse owners to communicate openly with their veterinarians about the use of compounded drugs. Though your vet should always notify you when a compounded drug is being prescribed, be sure to request FDA-approved treatment options for your horse. If your veterinarian recommends a compounded drug, ask why the compounded drug recommended is the best treatment option for your horse. Understanding the potential risks and benefits of your horse's medication is part of your role as a responsible horse owner.

To view the AAEP's position statement on drug compounding, visit www.aaep.org.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners, headquartered in Lexington, Ky., was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. Currently, the AAEP reaches more than 5 million horse owners through its nearly 10,000 members worldwide and is actively involved in ethics issues, practice management, research and continuing education in the equine veterinary profession and horse industry.

Tips for Horse Owners:

- Communicate openly with your veterinarian about his or her practice's use of compounded drugs.

- Request FDA-approved medication.
- When a compounded drug is recommended, ask your veterinarian to explain why it's the best treatment option.
- Don't skimp on cost: Compounded drugs should never be selected to save money.
- Make sure your prescription is clearly marked and labeled.
- Don't confuse generic drugs with compounded drugs.

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