



Leash on Life

October 2009

Monday - Friday 10 to 6
Saturday 9 to 4
Sunday Closed

Tis the Fall Season...

We have whatever you need when it comes to fall fashions. Come check out our great costumes so you and your dog will be the best dressed for trick or treat. For you fall football fans we have



a great selection of black and gold Hawkeye dog gear. You can pick up a jersey so everyone in your house can howl and cheer with the Hawkeyes. If something more functional is what you had in mind we have all the new fleece and sweater coats ready for you to peruse. As the days and nights get cooler the perfect coat will help make sure your best friend is nice and toasty.

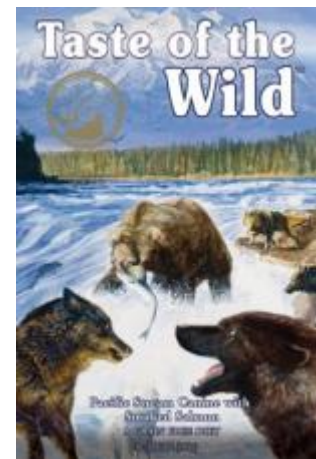


Local is best...

We have recently added two items that are made by local people. Both of these items reflect the quality of handcrafted products. For the dog in your house we have small and large fleece tug toys. For the cat in your house we have sturdy scratching posts and cat perches.

Walk on the Wild Side...

Taste of the Wild dog and cat food has been hiding on our shelves. This food is a grain free product which meets all Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) Dog Food Nutrient standards. Taste of the Wild offers three varieties for dogs. These include; High Prairie with bison and venison as the main ingredient; Pacific Stream, yummy salmon ingredients, and Wetlands which is their duck formula. The cat food is also grain free and high in protein. We have just added the Taste of the Wild canned dog and cat food to our selection. If you want more detailed information about Taste of the Wild you can visit their web site at www.tasteofthewildpetfood.com



Spooky and Fun...

Once you are all dressed up for Halloween don't forget to grab your favorite Halloween toy. We have lots of fun toys as well as ones that are little spooky. Come on in and give them a try. We also have tasty Halloween treats so you can fill your trick or treat bag.



Mark your Calendar...

Santa is coming to town again. He has requested to have his picture taken with as many pets as possible, so he can give all the proceeds to Paws and More Shelter in Washington and the Iowa City Adoption Center. Santa is a very popular guy, so please call now to set up an appointment for **November 21st or 22nd**. A donation of \$25 is requested per pet. For those of you that had your picture taken last year, we are looking to have a new 'set' for Santa so it will be a brand new picture.



Adoptable Dog of the Month, Quinn...



Quinn is a friendly and outgoing boy who loves attention. At ten months old he's quite active and curious and likes giving kisses. He might be too much for cats and obedience training is suggested to help Quinn understand manners. He is a likely a Bluetick Coonhound/Springer Spaniel mix. To learn more about Quinn or any other dog or cat at the Center you can call (319) 356-5295 or visit www.icanimalcenter.org. You can also visit at [4852 Sand Rd SE](#).

Weighty Issues...

Turn on the TV, open a magazine --obesity is a major issue in our society, including our pets. Veterinarians previously believed obesity was simply a matter of excess dietary intake or decreased energy expenditure. New research indicates other factors also have a significant role in the development of obesity. Cats are carnivores. Their "natural" food is high in protein and low in carbohydrates. Cats primarily utilize protein as an energy source, and any carbohydrate that is not used immediately is stored as fat. New studies have shown high protein (> 45%) and low carbohydrate diets can achieve weight loss and maintain lean body mass. Canned food is less caloric dense so your cat can eat more and not take in as many calories. Eating canned food is a learned behavior ideally taught to kittens. Try to feed at least 50% canned food along with the dry. Later in life if your adult cat develops health issues such as urinary tract or kidney disease, a canned food diet can be a benefit. Cats are notorious for not liking change. They may have a preference for dry food, one flavor, or even one shape of dry food. Gradually introduce a canned food. This may take months. If you are not successful with the canned, find a dry diet that is high protein and low carbohydrate. You still must pay attention to the total calories you feed your cat. In general you may follow label feeding recommendations for kittens, but all that changes when your pet matures. Recommendations on cat food is based on trials in non-neutered, young, active cats. This is 30% higher than most housecats require. No more free-choice feeding! Start your weight maintenance program by decreasing the recommendation on the commercial food label by 30%. Cats also prefer multiple meals, so divide the calculated amount into two or four meals per day. Increasing exercise is another factor you can control. Our indoor cats tend to be sedentary. Toys work for some cats, cat trees to climb and even interactive toys that reward them with food, and then they are working for their supper.

Regular visits to your veterinarian can assure that your pet maintains a healthy weight. When addressing obesity have your cat examined by a veterinarian to see if any other health issues are present. For example, a cat with chronic renal disease should be on a low protein diet. The obese cat is at increased risk for developing diabetes, hepatic lipidosis, urinary tract disease, and osteoarthritis. Change your behavior, when your cat's bowl is empty and he cries, try petting or playing with him rather than using food as love. Your pet can live longer and healthier with your attention to his waistline.

*Valerie Gaeth, DVM
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