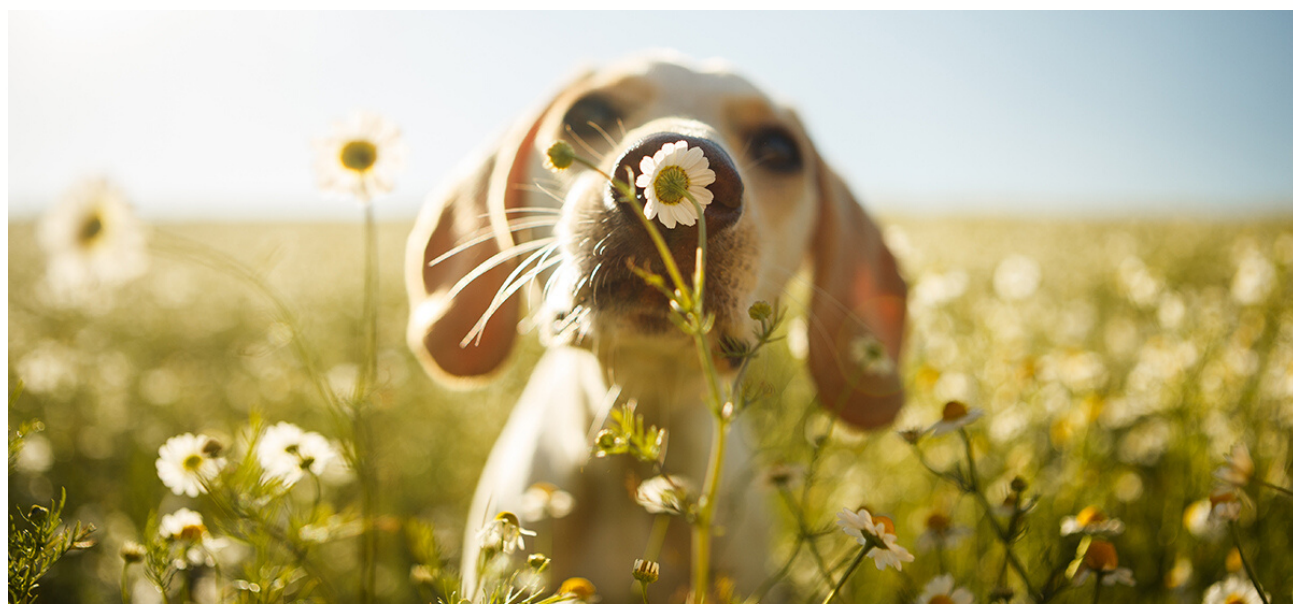
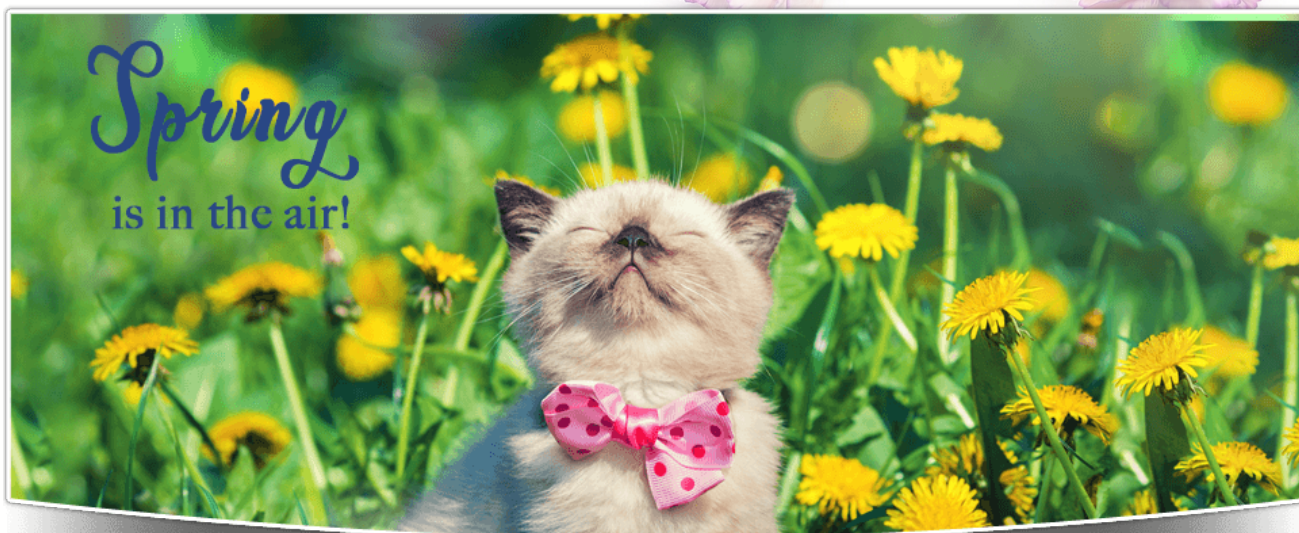


THINK SPRING!

SPRINGS FAMILY VETERINARY HOSPITAL'S
SPRING NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from Dr. Sara
Pet Brain Games & Boredom Busters
People Helping Pets During COVID-19
SFBVH Staff Pets & More (Welcome Otis!)



To all of my clients,

I truly hope that you are all remaining healthy and hopeful during these difficult times. We in the veterinary field are fortunate to be deemed an "essential" service, for which I am very grateful. This allows us to continue to see and treat all of your beloved pets. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting out of the house and interacting with all of the animals. I do, however, miss seeing all of my clients! I miss catching up with everyone and learning about what is going on in your lives. I know that we will all be able to catch up when this crisis slows down but until then, please enjoy the comfort of your pets. They provide such invaluable support and comic relief. Be well!

Sincerely, Sara Ryan, VMD



"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."

~Anatole France

🐾 *Hand Targeting* 🐾



When your dog knows how to target your hand, you can teach almost anything! Would you like your dog to heel by your side during walks? Help out in the kitchen by closing cabinet doors and drawers? Open the refrigerator and get you soda? All these behaviors start by learning targeting. And it's so simple to teach!

1. Start in a quiet place, free of distractions, and with a hungry dog.
2. Hide some small, high value treats in your fist behind you or in a treat pouch.
3. Present your flat palm an inch or so from your dog's nose. He will probably move forward to sniff it. When you feel his nose touching your hand, say "yes!" and give a treat immediately.
4. Repeat. If your dog doesn't do the behavior right away, remove your hand and try again. You can also rub a treat on your palm to encourage the behavior.
5. If your dog is hand-shy, use a target stick (a stick with a ball at the end) or toy.
6. Once your dog is doing the behavior repeatedly the moment you present your hand, add the verbal cue: "Touch!"
7. Start increasing distance and adding hand position changes very slowly. If your dog becomes confused or the behavior falls apart, back up to a previous successful step.
8. Be sure to reinforce each success with a treat. Use a variety of treats to keep your dog motivated!
9. Use the behavior to help keep your dog by your side during walks. Contact us if you want to know how to apply this skill to more advanced behaviors!

Have Fun!



PET BRAIN GAMES & BOREDOM BUSTERS



Many people sheltering in place at this time are starting simple home improvements. Why not include some kitty remodels too?



For your favorite hunter...

Cats love to 'virtual hunt' from an elevation, looking out a window. A window perch or cat tree with leaves might just enhance their experience! There are simple, do-it-yourself plans online to make trees and perches.



Some cat lovers with an extra room in their home have created an actual cat playroom. But even a little extra wall space can provide a fun area to climb, hide, tunnel and perch!



And then there's the "Catio"! A safe alternative to allowing cats to roam outside with so many options, including D.I.Y.

Write us and share how you keep your cats amused! We'd love to hear stories and see pics!
sfvhstaff@springsfamilyvet.com



PEOPLE HELPING PETS...



During this challenging time, we need more good news! If we look to people who love pets as much as we do, these stories aren't too hard to find. We want to give a BIG shout out to the tireless workers at our local shelters and rescues, who are working overtime during COVID-19 and making such a difference in the lives of our furry friends.

From our Friends at H.O.P.E.:



Homes for Orphaned Pets Exist (H.O.P.E.'s) 2020 Walk For The Animals has gone VIRTUAL!! Please join them on April 25th, and walk your dog around the neighborhood to help the orphaned pets. The first 100 walkers to register will be eligible to win some prizes and can pick them up at the H.O.P.E. Pet Adoption & Education Center when they reopen. Any donation is greatly appreciated, and you can donate via their website, or by mailing a donation to H.O.P.E. (Homes for Orphaned Pets Exist) at Wilton Mall of Saratoga Springs 3065 Route 50 Space D-1 PO Box 68 Saratoga Springs NY 12866

All pets in HOPE's custody are safe, in foster care. Questions can be directed to hope2994@outlook.com or 518-450-7013 (leave message).

H.O.P.E.'S Annual Spring Walk goes "Virtual"



Take A Walk For The Animals April 25th to help homeless pets.



Register at www.hopeanimalrescue.org
Any donation amount is appreciated.

The first 100 registered walkers will be eligible to receive great prizes at the HOPE Pet Adoption & Education Center when it reopens.

Send us your pictures or videos to enter our contests for:

- Best Human/Dog Lookalike.
- Best Doggy Smile.
- Best Trick.
- Best Dressed.
- Best Wagging Tail.



SPRINGS FAMILY VET'S PETS!

We thought it would be fun (and hopefully helpful!) to introduce our staff members' pets and share some things we are implementing into their lives to keep them happy during current restrictions. We hope you enjoy!



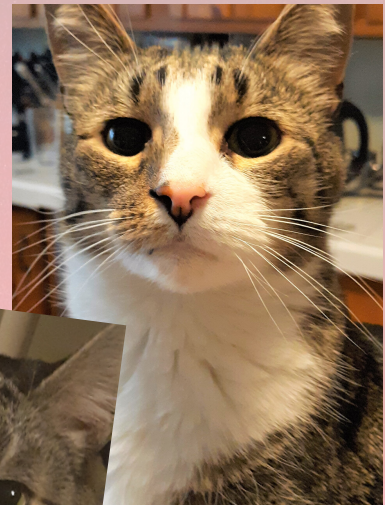
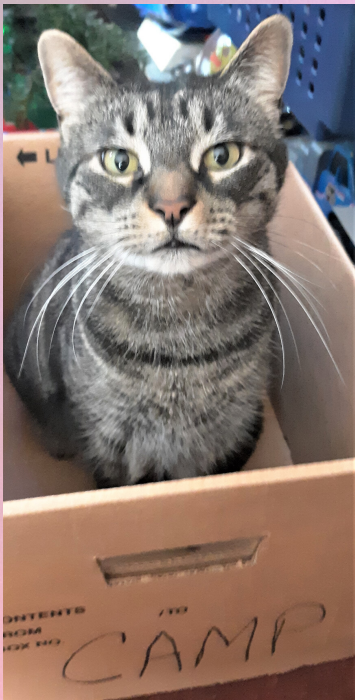
Dr. Sara E.... Introducing Otis!

It's a bit more challenging puppy-raising during a pandemic, but Dr. Ryan has been keeping Otis busy at home and in the neighborhood with essential training and socialization. Otis gets frequent, long walks, and although he is dying to say hello to everyone he sees, he's learning how to sit and behave politely on leash from afar. Very valuable behaviors to teach a puppy! He's also learning "leave it" and heeling. In the yard, Otis is getting lots of playtime with his human sisters, playing with his favorite soccer ball, and enjoying chewtoys and belly rubs! Everyone is looking forward to resuming all his fun doggy playdates soon!



Julie & Kitties... Gilbert, Sullivan & Beans!

Aren't these faces just adorable? We love Julie's sweet kitties! Julie says with her kids home from school, Beans, Gilbert and Sullivan are just loving all the extra attention they are getting, mostly in the form of extra lap time and petting! As cat owners know, our beloved felines have different needs for physical and mental stimulation than dogs do. See our Boredom Busters page for some fun ideas to keep your kitty active!



SPRINGS FAMILY VET'S PETS!



Suzie, Khaleesi, & Puppy on the way!

Don't let the photo fool you...Khaleesi is anything but a couch potato! This active gal has been loving having her family home more! Because Suzie's kids have been schooling at home, there's been so much more time to run and play with the family outside. Once Khaleesi's tongue is hanging out, she curls up with her favorite blankie. Like many others who are home more at this time, Suzie's family are opening their hearts and home up to a new member...a collie puppy is on the way! Khaleesi will soon have a new little brother and a new job to do!



Chelsea's kids: Logan & Bella!

Chelsea's pug, Bella, takes her job as a companion very seriously by being a champion snuggler! Her 2nd favorite thing to do is chew on a nylabone, as long as her favorite person is holding it! To keep Logan busy, Chelsea has revisited daily trick training. As you can see from the photo, Logan likes to spread some love! ❤️ This trick was learned as a variation of "hand targeting" (see Brain Games page for instructions!). Chelsea also provides Logan more opportunities to sniff -- one of his favorite things to do -- both on outdoor walks and with the indoor game "Find it!" using all of Logan's favorite toys for him to sniff out!





*~We are here for you
and your pets!~*

Springs Family Veterinary Hospital is open regular business hours and is committed to continuing to provide compassionate, Fear Free medical care for your furry family members.

We have protocols in place to keep our clients, patients, and staff safe.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions regarding your pet's health. Dr. Ryan and Staff can be reached at (518) 554-8484 or sfvhstaff@springsfamilyvet.com.