



what's inside



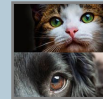
What do local vets want you to know about pet care?

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Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter

REASON for Burke

voice of REASON:
saving dogs and cats in our county

Summer 2026



state of REASON:
homeless animals?
crowded shelters?

**Don't complain.
DO something!**

If you can't TNR: Adopt
If you can't Adopt: Foster
If you can't Foster: Sponsor
If you can't Sponsor: Volunteer
If you can't Volunteer: Donate
If you can't Donate: Educate

Be part of the solution!



REASON stands for "Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter." We promote low-cost spays and neuters to prevent unwanted litters. But the truth is that our county still struggles with pet overpopulation and overcrowded shelters and rescues. It truly takes a village of concerned citizens to make a difference.

What your vets want you to know

Here at REASON, we were curious about what our local veterinarians wish you knew about responsible and sensible pet care. So we asked the vets!! Here are five things your veterinarian wants you to know.

Please spay and neuter your pets: All of them!



Those of you who read our newsletter have heard this already. There are so many benefits, including reduced risk of cancer and improved behavior.

Prevent illness: Prevention is cheaper than treatment.



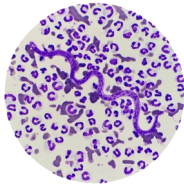
Vaccines and regular exams do more than just update your pet's records. They are very important to your pet's overall health and your bottom line!

- Rabies vaccines, aside from being the law, are super important. Rabies is a fatal viral disease that causes neurological damage and brain swelling. This leads to severe distress and suffering until death. Rabies vaccines are typically \$10 - \$15.
- Parvo, another easily preventable disease, can be fatal if not treated, and the treatments can cost several thousand dollars. Parvo causes severe vomiting and diarrhea that leads to severe dehydration. Have you had a stomach bug or food poisoning? Remember how miserable you were? Parvo vaccines, usually combined with other vaccines, can be as cheap as \$15.
- Heartworms are parasites that are spread by mosquitoes and can infect our dogs and cats. Once infected, these worms travel to the vessels around your pet's heart and cause

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damage that leads to heart failure. Monthly heartworm prevention keeps your pet from contracting heartworms and also helps with intestinal parasites. Heartworm prevention must be prescribed by your vet since the pet must test heartworm negative before taking a dose. Speak to your vet about keeping your pet current on their heartworm prevention.



Keep fleas at bay.



The life cycle of a flea is 3 months! That means three months of treating fleas before you beat them. The best

and cheapest way to treat fleas is to treat ALL animals in the household.

Open Volunteer Application

Click above or type in browser: reason-burkenc.org/volunteer/



SCAN ME



Total Spays/Neuters Supported by REASON (as of June 30, 2026)

6,794

NOTE: NEVER USE DOG PRODUCTS ON CATS AS THEY CAN BE TOXIC.

Save your money on "treatments" that don't work. Don't buy yard sprays or home bombs. Instead, buy good flea prevention/treatment that fits your pet. Specific brands that are effective for your dog or cat include Advantage/Advantix and the Seresto collar. Prescription flea pills (Nexgard, Simparica, Bravecto, etc.) are also effective.

Other tips for flea control: Vacuum floors and couches, especially under the cushions! Wash bedding. These cleaning tips help decrease the number of young fleas and larvae in your home that may have hitched a ride on your family's clothes or shoes. Also, a bath in Dawn is just as effective at killing fleas AND SAFER than some flea shampoos.

Dr. Jenni McGrady, a Burke County vet, reflects on vet care in Burke County

“As a local vet who grew up in this community, I want you all to know that we in the veterinary profession love our jobs and your pets. We would move to human health if we didn't (ew). However, we are still humans and have our limits. There is currently a veterinarian shortage and the number of pets is still increasing and your local vet is having difficulty keeping up. For my practice, this means scheduling our wellness visits several MONTHS in advance. It also means changing our schedule to provide more slots for sick patients. We're trying to keep up with the demand, but we are drowning. So please have some compassion and patience for your vet team.”



To find out if you qualify for pet spay or neuter surgery assistance, contact REASON at 828.403.3675.

Buy food that you can afford.



The pet food industry is booming with new fancy products which can be quite pricey! Ads can sometimes make us feel bad for not feeding our pets gourmet meals.

Unfortunately, the pet food prices are also increasing. With the current economy, pet food can be a big chunk of your grocery bill. So here's a tip from a vet: **Feed what you can afford and what your pet does well on.**

The AAFCO (The Association of American Feed Control Officials) statement is on all pet food to show the food is safe and balanced for your pet. AAFCO guides legislation about food safety and quality. As long as your food says it's complete and balanced for your pet's life stage (puppies, nursing moms, and adults), then you're good. Don't let the pet food marketing get you down!



Give your old pets a dignified ending.

Don't surrender your elderly pet to the animal shelter or worse, dump them out in the wild, just because they are too old or their senior care is too hard. No animal wants to be in such a high-stress environment such as a shelter during their last days.

Your vet may have some manageable and cost-effective suggestions to help your pet enjoy his/her senior years with their family. Still, if you feel that it's time to end their suffering, let your vet put them to sleep; this allows them to be with who they love and are most comfortable with.



Pets never wake up one day and decide they don't love you anymore. Your pet will never abandon you when you are old, poor, or sick. Will you treat your pet the same?

hot dogs & cool cats: summer outdoor pet safety tips



Summer is paradise for pets: endless sunshine, backyard zoomies, road trips, and enough squirrels to keep everyone emotionally invested.

But while we humans are busy slathering on sunscreen and pretending we enjoy humidity, our furry friends are facing some serious warm-weather hazards. The good news? Keeping pets safe during summer doesn't require wrapping them in bubble wrap or canceling all outdoor fun. It just takes a little awareness, a lot of water, and saying, "No, Mr. Whiskers, you may not roast yourself on the patio."

One of the biggest summer dangers for pets is heatstroke. Dogs and cats don't sweat like humans. Dogs cool themselves by panting while cats sweat through their paws. If your pet is panting excessively, drooling heavily, acting lethargic, or wobbling like they just finished a marathon, he may be overheating. Summer walks should happen during cooler parts of the day, like early morning or evening, when sidewalks are less likely to feel like frying pans. Do a quick check: If the sidewalk is too hot for your hand, it's also too hot for Fido's paws.

Hydration is another major summer must. Pets should always have access to fresh, cool water, especially during outdoor playtime. Some dogs treat hydration like it's a personal insult and would rather chase tennis balls until they collapse into the kiddie pool. Unfortunately, pets are not known for making

responsible life choices. Owners may need to step in with water breaks and shaded rest periods for their furry friends.

Cars also become dangerous shockingly fast during summer months. Even on mild days, the temperature inside a parked car can climb rapidly and become deadly within minutes. Cracking the windows is about as helpful as putting a tiny umbrella on a volcano. If pets can't come inside with you, they should stay home where it's cool and safe.



Let's not forget the hidden dangers like summer storms, toxic plants, bug bites, and barbecue foods. Corn cobs, grapes, onions, and alcohol are common cookout staples that can seriously harm pets. And while your pet may look convincing with those sad "I haven't eaten in weeks" eyes, sharing hot dogs and potato salad is rarely worth the aftermath.



The bottom line is simple: Summer should be fun for pets, not risky. With a little preparation and plenty of cool water, pet owners can make warm-weather adventures safe and memorable. After all, the only thing anyone wants overheating this summer is the grill.



Big Brown recommends teaching your pets to use the garden hose so they always have fresh water to drink.



5 ways to get information from REASON

Did you know that REASON posts valuable information on the internet? From our website to social media accounts, you can read tips or get updates on our spay/neuter schedules.

Our website

Copy and paste this web address in a browser to open our website:

<https://reason-burkenc.org/>

Our YouTube channel

Copy and paste this web address in a browser to view our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@REASON-SpayorNeuter>

Our Facebook page

Copy and paste this web address in a browser to view our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/REASON.SpayNeuter>

Our Instagram account

Copy and paste this web address in a browser to view our Instagram videos:

https://www.instagram.com/n_burkenc/

Our email address

You can contact us directly by sending an email to the REASON webmaster:

webmaster@reason-nc.org

Remember: Please like, follow, or subscribe to our social media to get the latest updates.

how dogs & cats see our world



Dogs and cats, contrary to popular belief, do not see the world like their owners do; they also do not see the world in black and white. Pet vision is actually most similar to people with red-green color blindness. This means that dogs and cats primarily see blues, muted yellows, and grays.

Both humans and their pets have two types of color receptors in their eyes: cones and rods. Cones handle daytime vision, color perception, and seeing fine details. Rods deal with peripheral vision and the ability to detect movement in low light. Dogs and cats have a high percentage of rods and fewer cones. Humans are the opposite since our retinas contain more cones and fewer rods. This is why we can see the full rainbow colors of the spectrum when there's light, but fumble around in low-light situations.

In addition to cones and rods, human and pet eyes are different in shape, size, and location on their faces. These differences affect how owners and their pets see and respond to the world around them.

The eyes of both dogs and cats have two unique features that humans don't have: a third eyelid and the *tapetum lucidum*. The third eyelid is a transparent membrane that protects your pets' eyes from dust, foreign particles, and injury while also keeping their eyes moist. The *tapetum lucidum* is a reflective layer behind each retina that acts as a mirror to reflect more light to the retina at night. This makes your pet's eyes "glow" in the dark and allows them to see better in low light.

Dogs and cats mainly see shades of blue and yellow. Red and green appear yellowish brown or gray. Cats see softer, more muted blues and yellows than a dog.

*What color of toys would be most attractive to a dog or a cat? Check the **Dog View** and **Cat View** compared to the **Human View** in the photos.*

Human vs. Dog vs. Cat Vision

Human Vision:

Humans see much better in the daytime; this is great for most of us who live and work during the day and sleep at night. We see a wide range of colors and shades, making our world brilliant and bold. Additionally, humans with normal vision can see fine details and objects clearly, even at a distance.

Dog Vision:

Dogs have a visual acuity (sharpness of vision) of 20/75 compared to a human's normal 20/20. What does this mean? A dog has to be 20 feet away to see an object as well as a person with normal vision sees at 75 feet away.

Dogs also have less depth perception than humans thanks to the placement of their eyes closer to the sides of their head. Their more widely-spaced eyes make it harder for dogs to judge distances accurately when objects are far away.

Why are dogs great hunters and trackers? Well, they have 4 times better night vision than humans, detect movement at a great distance 10 to 20 times better, and can see a wider view than their owners (it's hard to sneak up on a dog!). In addition, a dog can see a moving object at about 80 images per second compared to a human's 60 images per second which helps a dog clearly spot a running squirrel while his owner just sees a blur.

Dogs don't depend entirely on their vision. Dogs, more than humans, rely on their other senses, such as smell and hearing, to gather information about their surroundings.

Cat Vision:

Cats have a visual acuity (sharpness of vision) of 20/100 – 20/200 compared to a human's normal 20/20. This means that a cat has to be 20 feet away to see an object as clearly as a person with normal vision sees at 100 - 200 feet away. Cats are so extremely nearsighted that their owner's face likely appears as a soft blur within 10 inches of the cat's face. Without glasses, cats identify their owners primarily through scent, voice, and familiar movements. And they use their whiskers as teeny, tiny GPS navigation systems when moving around small spaces.

In addition, cats have slightly weaker depth perception than humans. They often bob their heads before pouncing to help them judge distances when stalking toys or before jumping from one perch to another. Although their depth perception of stationary objects is limited, they have excellent depth perception of moving objects such as flying wand toys or scurrying mice.

Without great strength or height, cats depend on their vision to hunt and ambush prey. They have a better field of view than humans (and slightly less than dogs), detect movement 6 times better than humans in low light, and can easily track running varmints at dawn and dusk.

Conclusion

Humans and their pets have different strengths and weaknesses when it comes to their vision. Because of the many differences, it's hard to crown one clear winner of "best eyesight." As it turns out, humans, dogs, and cats are all winners because they have the vision that works best for their own needs.



Human View



Dog View



Cat View



call us:
828-403-3675

email us:
reason.nc.org@gmail.com

write us:
PO Box 633

Rutherford College, NC 28671

REASON's mission:

To eliminate the killing of healthy and unwanted cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens.

We accomplish this by:

- ◆ providing low-cost spay/neuter surgical fee assistance through partnerships with private practice veterinarians and low-cost clinics,
- ◆ collaborating with other animal welfare groups,
- ◆ promoting education on the humane treatment of animals.

