

Spring 2025



Paw Prints



Spring has sprung here at PAWS! As we welcome the warmth of spring, it's the perfect time to give your furry friends a little extra care. Whether you're heading out for a desert adventure or enjoying some backyard sunshine, we're here to ensure your pets stay healthy, hydrated, and protected from the Arizona elements. From seasonal allergies to sun safety, our team is ready to help your cats and dogs thrive this spring. Check out the latest updates, tips, and upcoming events we've got in store for you and your four-legged family members! Let's crack into it!

BUZZ BUZZ!



Along with warmer weather, allergy season is upon us! Seasonal allergies can affect both cats and dogs, just like they do with humans. During spring, allergens like pollen from trees, grasses, and flowers become more prevalent in the air, causing pets to experience symptoms like sneezing, itching, watery eyes, and even ear infections. Dogs may also develop skin rashes or hot spots due to allergic reactions. Cats might show signs of respiratory issues or excessive grooming.



Here are a few things you can do to help!



- **Regular Cleaning:** Keep your home clean by vacuuming often and washing your pet's bedding to reduce allergens in their environment.
- **Frequent Bathing:** Bathing your pet with a gentle, hypoallergenic shampoo can help remove pollen and other allergens from their coat and skin.
- **Wipe Their Paws:** After walks, wipe your pet's paws and face to remove pollen and dirt before they have a chance to lick or scratch it off.
- **Air Purifiers:** Use air purifiers in your home to filter out allergens in the air, providing relief for both you and your pets.
- **Omega-3 Fatty Acids:** These healthy fats, found in fish oil supplements, can help reduce inflammation and support skin health. Talk to your vet about adding omega-3s to your pet's diet to help with allergy-related skin irritation.



Home remedies not working? Here's some info on Cytopoint! (Available for dogs only)



Cytopoint is a medication commonly used to help manage allergic skin conditions in dogs, particularly atopic dermatitis. It is a monoclonal antibody injection that targets and neutralizes a specific protein involved in the allergic reaction process. Here's how it works: Cytopoint specifically targets Interleukin-31 (IL-31), a protein that plays a significant role in causing itching (pruritus) and inflammation in allergic reactions. IL-31 is produced when a dog's immune system reacts to allergens (such as pollen, dust mites, or certain foods). The medication contains a monoclonal antibody that binds to IL-31 and neutralizes it, preventing it from attaching to receptors on cells that would typically trigger the itch and inflammation response. By inhibiting IL-31, Cytopoint reduces the urge to scratch and the inflammation associated with allergic reactions. This provides relief from the intense itching and irritation that many dogs experience due to allergies.



THE CRITTERS ARE COMING...

As desert temperatures rise and spring blooms, so do the risks from pesky parasites! We want to keep your furry family members safe from heartworms, fleas, ticks, and other critters that thrive this time of year.

🐾 Heartworms:

Transmitted by mosquitoes (yes, even in the desert!), heartworms can cause serious heart and lung issues in both dogs and cats. Prevention is much easier—and safer—than treatment, so make sure your pet is on a year-round preventative.

🐾 Fleas:

These tiny pests can cause itching, allergic reactions, and even transmit tapeworms. They're more than a nuisance, and they love the warm spring temps!

🐾 Ticks:

While less common in the city, ticks are still a risk—especially if your dog hikes with you or you live near washes or grassy areas. Ticks can carry serious diseases like Ehrlichiosis and Lyme disease.

🐾 Other Critters:

Watch for bees, scorpions, and snakes as your pets spend more time outdoors. Curious noses and paws can easily find trouble!



Prevention is key, and we're happy to help you choose the best products for your pet's lifestyle.



BE WARY OF FOXTAILS AND GRASS AWNS!

Foxtails and grass awns may look harmless, but they can pose serious dangers to pets, especially dogs. In Tucson and other dry, desert areas, these barbed seed heads are common in spring and early summer and can be more than just an itchy annoyance—they can be downright dangerous. They can cause serious damage to your pet's nose, ears, eyes, paws/toes, lungs, and other internal organs! These are the seed heads of certain types of grasses, especially wild barley and other weedy grasses. As they dry out, they become hard and sharply pointed, with tiny barbs that help them travel in one direction—into your pet's body. Prevention tips: Avoid tall, weedy grasses during walks or hikes. Check your pet thoroughly after outdoor play—especially ears, paws, armpits, and between toes. Consider trimming long hair in vulnerable areas during foxtail season. If your pet is suddenly limping, sneezing, or obsessively licking one area, get them checked out—early treatment prevents big problems!

We hope our wonderful clients have a flourishing and safe spring season! And just a friendly reminder: ALL cat appointments are seen at our Feline Focus department directly next to PAWS. Along with all rehab appointments, see at our Canine Colab department. Official address is 360 E River Road. Until next time!