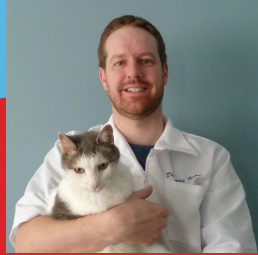


Kennel cough and parvovirus (among others) are easily transmitted from dog to dog. If your pet is around other dogs, it is advised to have them fully vaccinated.

Heat Stress: In warm weather, the inside of a car can quickly reach deadly temperatures, even on relatively mild days with the car parked in the shade and the windows cracked. Dogs have a limited ability to sweat, so even a short time in a hot environment can be life threatening. Please leave your pet at home if you may need to make stops on warmer days.

Aggressive Dog Behavior: It is important to be able to recognize aggressive dog behavior. Warning signs to look for with an aggressive, dominant dog are: erect and stiff tail, hackles raised, and ears forward. Other forms of aggression can occur such as fear aggression, where the dog has its tail between its legs, ears are back, body is lowered, and the lips are curled. Be cautious of any of these signs and do not approach the dog.

Dr. Foster has over 16 years of experience practicing Veterinary Medicine and is the owner of MacTaggart Veterinary Clinic in southwest Edmonton.



At MacTaggart Veterinary Clinic, we are here for the long term health care of your pet. We provide puppy and kitten vaccines, annual health exams, spay and neuter surgery, senior care, and everything in between.

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WILDLIFE
HEAT STRESS
AGGRESSIVE
BEHAVIOUR

WILDLIFE



Although rare, wildlife encounters may occur when walking your dog in a natural area. Here are a few tips if your pet does run into any.

→ **Vaccinations:** Make sure your pet's **vaccinations** are up to date! Wildlife can carry and transmit diseases such as distemper and rabies.

→ **Porcupine quills:** Quills are painful and even more painful when removed. If your pet has an unfortunate run in with a porcupine, seek assistance from your veterinarian. They are able to sedate your pet to remove the quills, reducing discomfort and also enabling them to find quills in the mouth and under the tongue that you may not be able to see. As quills are barbed, they have the ability to migrate, causing illness due to embedding themselves in organs or other soft tissue. Do not cut the quills, this makes it more difficult to pull out.

→ **Skunks:** If your pet gets sprayed by a skunk, good old tomato juice is still a go-to remedy. Veterinary clinics and pet stores also carry shampoos that will help get rid of that horrible skunky odor!

→ **Coyotes:** Coyotes usually do not bother people and their pets, however it is not unheard of that a pack of coyotes, if hungry enough, may decide to try for an easy target. In areas that are not frequented, it is recommended to keep small dogs on leash.

→ **Beavers:** Beavers tend to stick to themselves, however will defend their territory if they feel a predator or competitor is a threat, and they do happen to have some large front teeth! Dogs who go near beaver lodges or dams may have an unpleasant encounter with a beaver. If you see a beaver, a lodge or dam, it is best to leash your dog until you pass by the area.

→ **Mice:** Mice may carry parasites that, when eaten, may pass to your pet. If your pet eats a mouse, it is recommended to have them dewormed. In addition, deer mice feces can be infected with Hantavirus, which can cause severe illness in humans. If you encounter mice droppings, do not disturb the droppings as the virus can become airborne.

→ **Birds:** Some birds will nest in tall grasses or along water bodies (e.g. beside a pond or a river). Please be on the lookout for chicks and nests. If you encounter these, please leash your pet until you have passed the area.

