

Wounded Warrior Project Donation



During a special assembly held Wednesday, Dec. 23, the Corey Briest family accepted a donation in their honor to the Wounded Warrior Project. Funds were collected during the month of November from coins students and staff members placed in a large jar on their way to the cafeteria each day. The gesture was done to honor Corey, his family, all veterans and their families for their service to our country.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Second-Hand Smoke Harms Pets As Well

BY JAKE GEIS, DVM
Tyndall

We all know how second-hand smoke affects people. There have been public service announcements for decades now warning against smoking around children or in your home. However, an often missed fact is second-hand smoke is just as dangerous to pets as it is to people. Exposure to second-hand smoke can lead to a host of health problems for dogs and cats, and unfortunately the vast majority of them have no cure.

Exposure to tobacco smoke causes immediate changes in an animal's body that, over time, have long term ramifications. When a pet inhales tobacco smoke, the toxins in the smoke cause the pet's airways to become irritated. With repeated exposure, this irritation causes the airways of the lungs to become inflamed and damaged. This cycle of irritation and damage leads to the walls of the airways to lose their elasticity and become thicker. Because of this, pets are more likely to develop allergies and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD). The repeated inflammation from this damage also predisposes an animal to develop cancer.

The symptoms associated with second-hand smoke in pets are a bit similar to what is seen in humans. Allergic or COPD pets will exhibit sneezing, coughing and breathing trouble. It is possible if these symptoms are accompanied by vomiting, nasal bleeding and weight loss that lung or nasal cancer has developed. A study done by Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine revealed that cats are more likely than dogs to be affected with these issues. Tufts also found cats exposed to second-hand smoke can develop malignant lymphoma, another type of cancer.

Second-hand smoke isn't the only way cigarettes can harm pets. If pets happen to eat cigarettes, which is common considering their curious nature, they can have problems. This is because the nicotine in the cigarette acts like acetylcholine, a

chemical the pet's body naturally makes, to cause depressed breathing. If enough cigarettes are consumed, the breathing can slow down to a complete stop and your pet can die. According to Kirk's Veterinary Therapy, eating one cigarette can cause symptoms in a 40 pound dog, while eleven would potentially be fatal.

When it comes to treating pets that have exposed to cigarettes, it is easier to treat pets that have eaten them than those that have inhaled second-hand smoke. If it is quickly discovered that a pet has ate cigarettes, the pet can be induced to vomit to get rid of the toxins before they are taken up into the blood stream. Your veterinarian may also give intravenous fluids, activated charcoal and medication such as atropine.

Second-hand smoke cases are more difficult, since they are due to long-term exposure. The most important component of therapy is to remove the source of second-hand smoke in order to stop further damage from occurring. Any other types of treatment will have a minimal effect if the inciting cause remains present.

In addition to removing the smoke, medications can be given for conditions such as allergies or COPD.

Frequently the steroids prednisone or prednisolone are used to decrease the inflammation present in the pet's lungs. However, damage done by second-hand smoke is permanent. Therefore our treatments will not cure the problem, but rather make the pet more comfortable and decrease symptoms.

Trying to quit smoking is extremely difficult. There is no denying that. But when there are pets that live with us, those pets will be directly affected by the environment we create. If that environment is filled with second-hand smoke, undoubtedly the dogs and cats that live in the house will eventually develop health issues. If making things better for Fluffy or Fido can give you the will-power to quit, then it is worth the effort for both you and your pet.



Jake GEIS

Car Talk

Gas Stations Don't Add Water To Gasoline Tanks

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Car Talk:
I was wondering if there is a way for gas stations to add water to their tanks to make the gas stretch farther. I heard differing points of view about this when I posted this question on a popular social-media Q-and-A forum. Some say gas and water don't mix, so it would be impossible; others say it would destroy the machinery involved, as it wasn't made to handle water; others say it's very possible. What do you say?

—Julie
It's possible. And it's also impossible, Julie. More to the point, it's possible for gasoline and water to mix temporarily.

If you shake up a container of gas and gasoline, the water will be briefly suspended in the gasoline, but will



Ray MAGLIOZZI

quickly separate back out, with the water going to the bottom and the gasoline staying on top.

That's why this trick is popular right now only with gas stations in Oklahoma, where they have about 5,000 earthquakes a month, thanks to fracking. That keeps those underground

storage tanks shaken up nicely. So the overall answer is no, it does not make sense for gas stations to do this, Julie. The water would sink to the bottom of their storage tanks, taking up space, and reducing the amount of gasoline they could store and sell.

And since the water would separate out, some customers would get only water, which would leave the gas station with a lot of 'splainin' to do.

Wait! Don't buy another car without the mechanic's checklist that's included in Click and Clack's pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." It will help you get a good used car and avoid the clunkers. Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Car Talk/Used Car, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk in care of this newspaper, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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IRS: 'How Do I Get My Tax Transcript?'

The IRS reminds taxpayers to plan ahead and take advantage of other options to obtain a tax transcript while work continues to bring the viewable/printable functionality of the Get Transcript application back online in the near future with enhanced identity protection security features.

In the meantime, taxpayers don't have to wait. They can order their transcript online, over the phone or by mail — the quickest options available. If they plan ahead, they should receive their transcript within five to 10 days from the time the IRS receives the request online.

Here are some tips for fast service:

- To order a transcript online and have it delivered by mail, go to IRS.gov and use the Get Transcript tool. Simply click the "Get Transcript by Mail" button.

- To order by phone, call 800-908-9946 and follow the prompts.

- To request an individual tax return transcript by mail or fax, complete Form 4506T-EZ, Short Form Request for Individual Tax Return Transcript. Businesses and individuals who need a tax account transcript should use Form 4506-T, Request for Transcript of Tax Return.

- Keep in mind that the current year's transcript availability is affected by the method used to file the return and whether the return includes a refund or balance

due. Taxpayers should use this chart to determine when they can order a transcript.

- A tax return transcript shows most line items from the tax return that the taxpayer filed as well as changes that were made during processing, such as math error corrections. It also includes items from any accompanying forms and schedules filed with the tax return. It doesn't reflect any amended returns or adjustments to tax made after the taxpayer filed their original return.

- A tax account transcript includes marital status, the type of return filed, adjusted gross income and taxable income. It also includes a record of tax payments, refunds, penalty and interest charges and adjustments to tax made after the original return was filed.

- If the taxpayer needs an exact copy of their original or amended tax return, there is a charge of \$50 for each return/year requested. They should complete Form 4506, Request for Copy of Tax Return, to make the request. Mail it to the IRS address listed on the form for their area. Copies are generally available for the current year and past six years. Taxpayers should allow 75 days for delivery.

- The IRS will mail the transcript to the address of record entered on the prior year's tax return. The mailed transcript is an official

document. It does not need to be a "certified" copy as is the case with some other documents. If a taxpayer has moved since they last filed a tax return with the IRS, they need to first submit a Form 8822, the Change of Address form, to ensure that the transcript is mailed to the correct address. Allowing time for the Form 8822 is another reason for taxpayers to plan ahead for their transcript needs.

MORTGAGE APPLICANTS

If you are applying for a mortgage, most mortgage companies only require a tax return transcript for income verification purposes. Most of these companies participate in our IVES (Income Verification Express Service) program and can request (with your consent) to have a transcript sent directly to the financial institution. If you need to order a transcript, please follow the process described above and have it mailed to the address we have on file for you. Please plan accordingly and allow for time for delivery.

DISASTER VICTIMS

If you live in a federally declared disaster area, you can get a free copy of your tax return. Visit IRS.gov for more disaster relief information.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICANTS

If you are applying for financial aid, you can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on

the FAFSA website to import your tax return information to your financial aid application. The temporary shutdown of the Get Transcript tool does not affect the Data Retrieval Tool. You may also click on the FAFSA help page for more information.

If you need a copy of your transcript you should follow the information above to request it as soon as possible. It takes five to ten days for transcripts to arrive at the address the IRS has on file for you.

IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS

Did you receive a notice from the IRS about a suspicious return? Has the IRS notified you that it did not accept your e-filed return because of a duplicate Social Security Number? If you answered yes to either question, then you may be a victim of tax-related identity theft. If you are a tax-related identity theft victim you first need to file the Identity Theft Affidavit. If you are waiting for the IRS to resolve your case but need a transcript, you will need to call our Identity Protection Specialized Unit line to process your request. You can call the Unit at 800-908-4490. For more information review the Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft.

Remember, ordering a transcript online is the quickest option. Just go to IRS.gov and use the Get Transcript tool.

Protect Your Health With A Flu Shot

You've seen the message everywhere: Get your flu shot. It only takes a few minutes and maybe a pinch, but receiving the influenza vaccination every year is still the best way to prevent the flu.

With the peak months being between October and May, it's not too late to get vaccinated. Options include:

- The general flu shot contains inactivated, or killed, traces of the virus.
- The nasal spray vaccine consists of live viruses. Therefore, this option is NOT recommended for those with compromised immune systems.
- The high-dose flu shot is specially formulated for people at higher risk of complications from the flu, especially those age 65 and older.

Besides older adults, people most

at risk for flu complications include children younger than age 5, pregnant women and long-term care residents. However, anyone can experience flu complications. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention describes pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections and ear infections as examples of serious complications that can result in hospitalization or even death.

"Vaccines in general are so important because they can protect you from illnesses that can be life threatening or cause health-related problems down the road," said Jan Johnson, Infection Control Coordinator at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton. "Just imagine having a loved one pass away from an illness that could have been so easily prevented."

Among Avera Sacred Heart staff, 99 percent of employees received their flu shots this year to protect patients, families and the community from the spread of influenza. The compares with 75 percent flu vaccine compliance among health care workers nationwide in 2013-14.

Flu symptoms include a rapid onset high fever, body aches, feeling tired and miserable, and possibly a sore throat, cough or runny nose. Vomiting and diarrhea are more common in children than adults. Get medical attention immediately in case of:

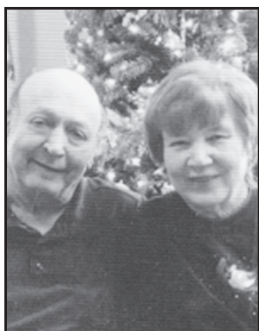
- High or prolonged fever
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest



Schutt - Christensen

Susan Lynn Schutt and Paul Andrew Christensen will be married Saturday, May 28, 2016, at Elmwood Park in Omaha, NE. Parents are Richard Schutt (and the late Darlene Schutt) of Papillion, NE, and Randy and Joanne Christensen of Yankton, SD. Susan is employed by Daltile in Omaha, NE. Paul is employed by Amber Pharmacy in Omaha, NE.

50th Anniversary Celebration



Mr. and Mrs. Girard

Roger and Karen Girard will celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 28, 2015.

Greetings may be sent to:
1206 W 16th Street
Yankton, SD 57078

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Local News: The P&D!

I know his illness is not his fault, but I did not expect our future to be like this. I don't know how to handle this. He did everything. I need help.



I think I will call CAREgivers and speak to the Caregiver Case Manager. 800-360-6161

It is a free and confidential service.

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