

PET TALK TUESDAYS – 2/5/2020

Nick Rusch:

Joining us in the studio, Dr. Marty Greer from Veterinary Village of Lomira. Here we go, Pet Talk Tuesday. Doc, nice to see you again, happy February.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Thanks, it's been beautiful, hasn't it?

Nick Rusch:

Yeah, it's getting better, it's getting better. We're getting somewhere, we're getting somewhere.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, so at least we have daylight at five o'clock.

Nick Rusch:

That makes a big difference. I know it makes a difference to a lot of folks out walking their pets as well.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Absolutely.

Nick Rusch:

Makes a big difference. When I talked to you off the air just briefly what we were going to talk about today, and this is certainly in the news a lot. So many times we talk about diseases or conditions that affect both humans and their pets as well. So you brought up Coronavirus.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Right. And we've had a lot of questions at the office and at Revival Animal Health about it, so I just thought we'd briefly address it. And the bottom line is there are Coronaviruses that cats get and that dogs get, but we apparently at this point are not sharing the new novel Coronavirus 2019 version. It looks like it started in a seafood and live animal market in Wuhan, China. And it looks like it probably is either come from snakes or from the horseshoe bat, and it's mutated into something that people get. Initially they thought only people that had direct contact with those animals were going to become ill, but now they've determined there are human to human transmissions as well, including the husband and wife that got sick in Chicago.

So that has changed up a little bit, but I was surprised about the number of live animal and wild animal markets that there are in China, and that their residents still consume a lot of wild animals that they purchase live at the market. That just doesn't fit into my grocery shopping paradigm.

Nick Rusch:

No, and I'm sure when we think of China now, we think of them as such an economic power and how many strides they've made over the last 20 or 30 years technologically that you just wouldn't really think ... I guess with a country that big, there's still a big enough segment where that sort of system still exists.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, so that's what it looks like. We thought it's not just mammals, it's not just the bats, but it's snakes as well. So it's just a little bit of trivia, but at this point, there's no indication that the Coronavirus that this is being caused by is going to affect our pets. So cats get two forms of Coronavirus, they're both in the intestinal tract, or called interact, one causes just some diarrhea not anything too serious, the other one can form into a disease called FIP, Feline Infectious

Peritonitis. Which has both a wet form, which means that there's fluid that accumulates in the body cavities, the chest and the abdomen, or the dry form, which would usually affect the kidneys and the liver.

That form doesn't seem to be going back and forth between people and animals. And then dogs have a Coronavirus as well. It's much milder than what cats have and it just causes a little bit of diarrhea in young dogs. We typically don't vaccinate for either of those unless the pets are in a particularly high risk situation. Many people have heard of it, they may Google it, they may look it up, and they may be concerned about it, but it doesn't appear that this Coronavirus is going to affect our pets, and hopefully it won't affect us either, as long as travel is managed well. In and out of China and some of the other countries.

Nick Rusch:

Have they figured out yet, and I'll display my ignorance here. I have been paying attention and I do sit right here and listen to CBS news every day, any portion of this virus airborne?

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, it appears to be, but it takes a special mask, it takes a 95 version of a mask or higher to prevent the transmission, because it is a pretty small particle. So yes, they do think the transmission from human to human is probably airborne.

Nick Rusch:

Wow.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So it's pretty scary.

Nick Rusch:

That's scary.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. I was watching video of people deplaning in Indonesia. Either coming from Indonesia, I'm not sure what the direction of the plane was, but they were spraying them. As people were coming off the airplane, they were heavily hosing them down with guys wearing hazmat suits and some of solution. It's disturbing.

Nick Rusch:

Maybe we should just do that anyway, just as a general ...

Dr. Marty Greer:

It might keep some people from flying.

Nick Rusch:

Just a thought.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, but.

Nick Rusch:

Trying to be thorough, trying to stay healthy.

Dr. Marty Greer:

It looked a little scary. These people were coming off the planes wearing masks already and then they were literally hosing them down through their over clothing, their suit cases, everything they had, they were just hosing them down. It's a little crazy what's going on right now. I don't know what the solution was, I would have wanted to know before they doused me in it, but I don't think you get a choice.

Nick Rusch:

No, I don't think there are options. They're going to get you.

Dr. Marty Greer:

No it's like you can't stay on the plane, so they are going to get you.

Nick Rusch:

Wow. Well, you understand why people get a little bit scared.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Oh yeah.

Nick Rusch:

The CDC they're on it, but man it just seems like we've always got a fresh disease. And who named this Coronavirus, because to me Corona's usually a positive thing.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Well, Corona describes the description of the viral particles under the microscope use in electromicroscopy, they look like they have little crowns. So that's why it's Coronavirus. It has nothing to do with Corona beer.

Nick Rusch:

No, I wasn't thinking about that.

Dr. Marty Greer:

But people have been making that correlation too.

Nick Rusch:

They have been making that correlation and I'll just bet you it's affected their sales.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Probably. But it shouldn't.

Nick Rusch:

It shouldn't, they have nothing to do with it.

Dr. Marty Greer:

No, there's no virus in your beer.

Nick Rusch:

Let's talk about the new wellness center.

Dr. Marty Greer:

That would be more fun.

Nick Rusch:

Let's get something positive going on here.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, so coming up in March, we're going to be opening a wellness center at the veterinary clinic in Lomira. We moved the building ... We built a building in 1987 in Lomira, and we were in there for 20 years and then 10 years after we moved into the new building in Lomira the one at Columbia Drive, we actually moved the old building to the new site, a couple of years ago and we're going to open that as a wellness center coming up in March.

The advantage of that is there will be a cat only room. So a cat entrance and exit for the people who have cats, and a room that only allows cats in it, so cats that might be a little bit anxious about going to the veterinarian or aren't good around dogs are not going to have to smell them, see them, think about them, they'll be in their own room with their own in and out door. The other two rooms will be used as canine, as dog exam rooms and all we'll do in that center will be wellness. So vaccinations, heartworm tests, fecals, just routine very simple care.

Nick Rusch:

Very basic stuff.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. So instead of having to come to the big building and be put in a room down the hall and all the other hoopla that goes with it, kind of feel like you're shuffled around a bit. If you have a dog or little kids or whatever that makes it kind of challenging, it's like herding cats, shuffled everybody in the door, in the right place and quiet. It should be quieter, it should be faster, and it's going to be really cool because clients will be able to use an iPad and invoice themselves, so before they technician and the doctor come into the exam room, the client can already look at their invoice, know what the cost will be, select what services for products, and services that they want, so which vaccinations they're ready for that day. They'll know from their reminders what their pet is due for, but they can help be more involved in the selection, we'll have descriptions of all the products and all the services, so they'll be able to go through the iPad, figure out what they want, look at the invoice total, take things off put things on, get their heartworm preventive, get their flea and tick meds and do all of that in a quiet comfortable setting. So we've got the building all spiffed up, and it's almost ready to go.

Nick Rusch:

That's very exciting for you guys.

Dr. Marty Greer:

It is.

Nick Rusch:

And I would guess that this is going to introduce a little bit more calmness, a little bit less chaos into the equation. Not only for you guys, which is vital.

Dr. Marty Greer:

It's very important.

Nick Rusch:

But also for the animals.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yes.

Nick Rusch:

Which is the neat part.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, so there's a whole fear free movement taking place right now in veterinary medicine. It involves a program that I have done the education for, so I am fear free certified officially with the program, so we're going to be able to like you said, tone things down a little bit, so there's not the commotion and the chaos. If you have a dog that's nervous a little dog, a big dog, they don't really like the slippery floors and the smells and all those things. It can be a lot less stressful for them, and they'll of course be fabulous treats. We're in the process of developing a whole menu of these really fun things so the dogs can come in and have their own menu selection and the cats as well. So we'll have baby food and anchovy paste and tuna for the cats and we'll have cream cheese cups and peanut butter cups and pretzels and all kinds of fun stuff for the dogs, so it can be a lot more fun, and yes you're right it will be nice for my staff too, because they'll have a day that they can kickback and not worry about ... I mean we'll rotate through the wellness center so that each of us has a chance.

And then clients can select the doctor, the location that they want to go to and it's right across the parking lot, so if it does turn into something more significant, then we can always go across if we need to.

Nick Rusch:

The facilities are right there.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Exactly. If they need an xray we can go do it. The grooming is downstairs, so we can also combine that with a grooming visit if your pet needs grooming. We mostly do dogs, but we'll do some cats as well. It's a whole ... I'm just so excited about reinvigorating this building and this idea. It's going to be really fun.

Nick Rusch:

It's a huge undertaking for you guys.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Well, the building move was more than we expected. It's kind of a big deal to put a building on a truck and drive it up the road. We of course didn't move the building. Ice building movers from Appleton moved it, but it's still a lot of orchestration of moving wires, and cable and the people in the neighborhood were down with their cable for about 30 minutes when they had to put the cable lines down and move the building through that. It didn't make the neighbors very happy.

Nick Rusch:

I'm sure.

Dr. Marty Greer:

30 minutes without cable, that's terrible.

Nick Rusch:

That will happen.

Dr. Marty Greer:

But we did it a couple years ago, the building moved unscathed. I just had it repainted on the inside. The painter said there's some kind of weird cracks in the walls. And I said, "We moved the building." And he goes, "Oh this looks really good." So my 30 year old building that my fabulous Valle Construction team built just picked it up, moved it, put it back down on a new foundation and we're good to go.

Nick Rusch:

Wow, that's incredible.

Dr. Marty Greer:

It is, we didn't even take the pictures off the wall and the books off the shelves.

Nick Rusch:

Oh you're kidding me.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Because I thought I'd have to unload the building. They're like, "Nah, we just put it on the truck." Okay.

Nick Rusch:

Okay.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Whatever you say, you're the building guy.

Nick Rusch:

That's tremendous. And good for you guys. I think it will be a great thing not only for you and your staff, but for the patients as well.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Right, so it will expand our exam room capacity from 11 rooms to 14. And of course we're still a family owned, locally owned business, which is different than some of the associated clinics around us. Some are still privately owned, some are starting to become corporate owned. If you're looking for a quiet place, a place that's convenient, a place that your pet is going to feel comfortable, and you're going to have nice cushy seats, and it's owned by the people who started it. We started the practice in 1982 and we still own it. Clients are like, "Why haven't you retired yet?" I'm like, "No, I have no interest in doing that."

Nick Rusch:

I get that question all the time too. I think it just means they're sick of listening to me.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Well, that may be.

Nick Rusch:

Which is very possible.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Or it might just mean I look old. I don't know.

Nick Rusch:

You never know, do you.

Dr. Marty Greer:

I don't ask.

Nick Rusch:

Is it out of concern for welfare. I always say, "Do you have a gig for me? Are you making an offer?"

Dr. Marty Greer:

Exactly, you got a better idea?

Nick Rusch:

What about this time of the year as we enter into I guess we'll call it mid to late winter before we get into spring here, this time of year, anything with our pets we should be concerned about?

Dr. Marty Greer:

A little bit. When the weather gets at the slushy just kind of freezing, not quite frozen temperatures, that's when we actually see some of the frostbite. So if you go out to shovel some ice or snow, or whatever slushy stuff is on your sidewalk, it's that right at freezing temperature that we see feet and undersides of dogs that get too cold, because they go out and hang out with you while you're doing it. It seems nice. It's 30, 31 degrees the sun might be out. So that's when we tend to see the most frostbite, not when it's really cold.

Nick Rusch:

I never would have guessed that.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, because I think it's that wet combination.

Nick Rusch:

Well, plus they're with you and they don't want to go in.

Dr. Marty Greer:

No, of course.

Nick Rusch:

They're having fun. They're supervising. You're doing the work, and they're doing their job, they're making sure you're working.

Dr. Marty Greer:

But they're not wearing shoes, and they're not wearing gloves, so it can affect them. So I really think that's probably the biggest concern. We're also already seeing fleas and ticks moving so don't make the assumption that-

Nick Rusch:

Really?

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. I had a dog in two days ago and she said, "You know she's kind of scratching and she likes to lay next to the heat vent. Do you think it's the heat?" And I said, "No, I think it might be these fleas that are walking around on her." So yes, even this time of year you can have fleas and ticks. Ticks actually move the most. The deer tick that affects us with Lyme disease is actually moving from November to March, so this is not the time of year to let down your flea and tick protection for you and your pets. So be aware of that, because of course Lyme disease is a concern this time of year.

Nick Rusch:

Yeah, nothing we want to mess with.

Dr. Marty Greer:

No, and we do see dogs every month that are sick with something associated with a tickborne disease, whether it's Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, or Ehrlichia. Of course we can vaccinate for Lyme disease, but not for the other two, so make sure that you're flea and tick protection is still active. There are the medications that last three months, the Bravecto, and then there's the other meds that last a month. So don't let your guard down and assume that just because we've got snow on the ground that the critters aren't moving.

I have a big bug splat on my windshield from Sunday when I drove home. I was driving home between the first and second quarters of the Superbowl, and there's this big yellow bug. I'm like how is there even a bug out, but I guess it was just warm enough.

Nick Rusch:

Yeah, it was mild on Sunday.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yes.

Nick Rusch:

Yeah. I know we talked last time you were here about the not only the pet safe rock salt, but we also discussed a little bit the fact that if there's an antifreeze puddle or anything like that, that they can get into.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, so be careful with that. This is the time of year your car might be parked someplace on the driveway or in the garage and if it overheats or drips some of the antifreeze because you have a leak in your radiator or your hoses, that can drip right onto the ground. And it's sweet, and it's appealing. Cats and dogs will lick that up, and it takes a very small dose of antifreeze to cause a toxicity. It causes kidney failure. So it's pretty serious. I haven't treated one in a long time, fortunately, but they do actually make antifreeze that's safe for pets too in case you have-

Nick Rusch:

They do?

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, they do.

Nick Rusch:

Well, that's a new one on me.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, so if you have a leaky car, and you don't want to get it fixed, or can't fix it, it's one of those cars that you probably should get rid of, but it still drives so...

Nick Rusch:

Sometimes you got to have what you got to have, and you got to get to work.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Exactly. So if you have one, just take that precaution, because you don't want your dog to go out or your cat to go out and ingest anything. They get into all kinds of things.

Nick Rusch:

Is that something that's commonly available? We can find that if we go into the local home improvement store?

Dr. Marty Greer:

Well, I don't know which stores will carry it, but I know you can purchase it. You can buy anything online.

Nick Rusch:

Online, yeah.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, so you just want to be careful with that. Of course it's kind of heavy to ship. People ship dog food, so why wouldn't you ship antifreeze?

Nick Rusch:

We ship everything now.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Oh yeah. You know it's gotten crazy. Amazon is expanding again in Wisconsin.

Nick Rusch:

They ship everything.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, it's amazing. My kids don't even go to the store.

Nick Rusch:

Well, that's not good. I need to have a talk with your kids.

Dr. Marty Greer:

I don't get that.

Nick Rusch:

We have local advertisers we're depending on, so we're going to have to have a chat.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Well, yeah. Yeah, I think so.

Nick Rusch:

And then the rock salt too. That's pretty commonly available. I see that just about everywhere.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yes, that's easy to find. And that's what we of course use on our sidewalks at the veterinary clinic, because there's a lot of traffic in and out of our place.

Nick Rusch:

Right. A lot of foot traffic.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, yeah, so we don't want tracking it in. Even if it's tracked into your house, your pets can still step in it. It depends on how much tracking there is. So cat litter can be a substitute as well if you don't want to use the salt.

Nick Rusch:

They always say that, and they say that when you're stuck as well, you should keep cat litter in the car, if there's a danger of being stuck, obviously. You wouldn't know when you left the house that was going to happen. Unless you can see into the future.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Right, but it is safe to use, it's just a little bit messy, it tracks in, it's a little sticky on your shoes.

Nick Rusch:

It's kind of grainy.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, it leaves puddles. You know. You got to clean the floor every now and then anyway.

Nick Rusch:

You would think.

Dr. Marty Greer:

If you have a dog, they're going to shed, it's inevitable.

Nick Rusch:

They do that.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. But now you've got those little Roomba things and all that. There's a floor mop that does the dry floors as well as the carpeting. Housekeeping has changed considerably.

Nick Rusch:

That one guy on the Swiffer commercial, way too happy to have a very fluffy kitty and to be doing his floor. He's way too excited about it for me.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. I'm not into cleaning.

Nick Rusch:

Not that as excited about it as he is.

Dr. Marty Greer:

No.

Nick Rusch:

But good for him.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, well, if I got paid what he got paid, I could probably be excited about it.

Nick Rusch:

And he certainly has a beautiful kitty.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Well, there you go.

Nick Rusch:

I did want to share with you too, I think of you all the time when this happens because we see the ASPCA ads on TV and they're all three and four minutes long now instead of just being 60 seconds, and they seem to be on during January, February, and the sad dogs, I can't take them, I can't take it.

Dr. Marty Greer:

I know.

Nick Rusch:

And then Sarah McLachlan sings and God bless her, but there was, I don't know if I ever told you this, but my wife and I were talking about it, Sarah McLachlan who's so incredibly talented, but when they were doing the take for it and whatever song they're using, they said to her, "Can you sing it a little sadder?" And she said to the guy, "Sing it a little sadder?"

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, how could that even be?

Nick Rusch:

This is about as sad as I've got. This is about it. And I thought I read that, and I just thought that was hysterical, because-

Dr. Marty Greer:

That is pretty good.

Nick Rusch:

Because those ads, oh my God, do they tug at your heart strings.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yes, oh yeah. But I hope everybody saw the Superbowl ad during the second quarter with the golden retriever from Chicago. The weather tech.

Nick Rusch:

Sure.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, that's a real dog.

Nick Rusch:

That's a real dog, and he actually had the doggy cancer.

Dr. Marty Greer:

He did. He had a form of Hemangiosarcoma in his heart, and the last picture on the video where the woman is hugging him, that's Ruthanne Chun, the head of clinics from the University of Wisconsin, those are real doctors and real students from the university. What an inspiring commercial.

Nick Rusch:

Yeah, really.

Dr. Marty Greer:

And what a great way for people to know about what kind of treatments are available and where they can make donations. Of course our local shelter and the humane society can always use donations as well, but you want to be careful that you're donating to the right people. So the local shelters, the local veterinary school, those are the people that you know are going to be able to use their donations locally and be put to good purpose. Some of the ASPCA and HSUS and some of the others, they're more about promoting their own agendas, and not about the animal welfare itself. Pay attention to where you make your donations, take a look at the websites that tell you which ones are accurate, and okay.

Nick Rusch:

And to bring the whole thing back full circle, the folks at university hospitals, they're working on things for the animals and for the humans. So right back. Just how we began the day.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Exactly, because any of those treatments that they can come up to treat a dog with a form of cancer in his heart, they're going to be able to use that on people too. It is incredible how those two ... There's actually one health, which is organization that looks at animal wellness, animal care and human healthcare and how those blend together, because it is a lot of overlap.

Nick Rusch:

Okay. And contact information.

Dr. Marty Greer:

You can reach us at 920-269-4000. You can find us on the web at smallanimalclinic.com or veterinaryvillage.com. We're at the corner of Highway 41 and 49 across from Quad Graphics. And we're open seven days a week. Sunday afternoons, all day Saturday, and four nights a week. We are very available for anybody's needs.

Nick Rusch:

Stop on out and check out the new wellness center.

Dr. Marty Greer:

That's right, it will be very cool.

Nick Rusch:

Outstanding. Doc, it's always a pleasure. Thanks so much.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Thank you.