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## Video of the month



## Upcoming events

*Ruff Wear demo day and fitting*  
*Westside 11am-3pm 10/6*

*Rabbit Adoption & info booth*  
*eastside 10:30am-3:30pm 10/23*

*Halloween Puppy Party!*  
*Treats, games, costume party*  
*East & Westside 2-4pm 10/31*



## Hot Spots and Oozings – Perfect Topics for Halloween

When October rolls around, thoughts turn to all things ghoulish and scary. Our topic for this month is certainly scary, and throws in a bit of icky and gross to get us really in the mood. We're talking hot spots. Unfortunately, not to be confused with the best places for happy hours and people watching, these hot spots occur on your pet's skin and can become quite troublesome.



Hot spots are areas on the skin that have become inflamed from either an allergy, tangled or matted hair, or repeated scratching, licking, biting due to behavioral problems (see additional possibilities below). Left untreated, they can become extremely sensitive, begin to ooze and even attract parasites. Sometimes, hot spots are hard to locate, especially when the animal has a lot of thick, long fur.

### What to watch for:

If your pet is constantly licking or scratching one or more specific areas (the usual [hot spots](#) are where licking or scratching can most easily occur), take the time to get a good look at the skin surface. They can appear very quickly – even just while you're away for the day. Suspect a [hot spot](#) if the area is experiencing hair loss, looks [inflamed](#) or is oozing pus. Catching a hot spot early can make the treatment go much more quickly.

### Treatment:

If the hot spot is still relatively mild, home treatment can include carefully cutting the hair away from the area, and a regular gentle washing with a mild water-based antiseptic. For more serious hot spots, a visit to your veterinarian is in order, where you may be prescribed an antibiotic or cortisone and a lovely [Elizabethan collar](#). Keeping the area cleared and dry is key to successful treatment. The second most important thing is to treat the underlying cause.

### Possible causes:

Food allergies. Did you recently switch foods?

Environmental allergies: Pollutants, pollens, fleas, other biting insects

Boredom and other behavioral issues: How's the exercise and social time schedule going?

Pain reactions: Your pet may begin licking as a comfort

Matted fur: When fur becomes matted it can begin to pull away from the skin and cause discomfort that encourages licking and scratching

Some of these causes are more easily detected than others. Try looking for the easiest first – matted fur or food allergies (not always easy unless you've just changed foods). Behavioral issues are the most difficult to remedy, so be prepared to put in some time and effort on that one.

View this helpful [video](#) to learn more. And, keep reading to see how Kate from our Westside store has helped her dog, Jersey, get through some skin issues.

## COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### *Cat Rescue Adoption and Foster Team*

The comprehensive program offered by CRAFT has saved thousands of cats in Central Oregon, placing them in loving homes and ensuring success through their foster care period. We are proud to be supporting CRAFT through our Bag Donation program



Contact them at (541) 389-8420 or 65480 78th St. , Bend, OR 97701 Open Saturday & Sunday 1-5pm



## Dog trick survey

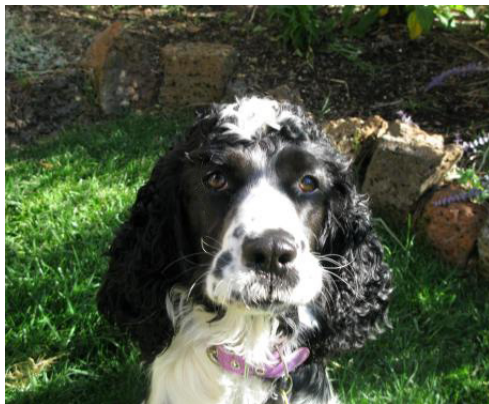
### The Zoo!

How much of a zoo is your house?

How many pets are you living with?

- One (That's all?)
- Two (Getting better)
- Three (Now your talking!)
- More than Four (Our Favorite!)

## Up for Adoption



### Mollie w/All for Dogs Rescue

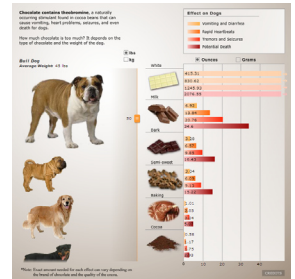
Mollie's a sweet cute little thing with a nubbin' of a tail that never seems to stop wagging! Her favorite things to do include: 1) following her human around the house 2) going for walks 3) playing with her friends at the dog park. Mollie really is the full package! She's sweet to humans, big and small, loves other dogs, is crate trained, potty trained and snuggle trained!

Check out her full profile [here](#).

## THE HALLOWEEN CHOCOLATE GUIDE

Chocolate can be harmful – even fatal – to your pets. The danger comes from an alkaloid in the cacao plant called **theobromine**. The more cacao in the chocolate, or darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is to your pet.

The first signs of **theobromine poisoning** are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and increased urination. These signs, along with a tell-tale leftover candy wrapper or several, should alert you to get veterinary help immediately. These can progress to cardiac arrhythmias, epileptic seizures, internal bleeding, heart attacks, and eventually death.



There are many variables other than just weight or your pet, such as age and overall health, so always call your vet if you suspect your pet has ingested any amount of chocolate.

For more detail check out this [interactive graphic](#) to see the danger levels for each type of chocolate based on your pets weight. Just adjust the slider in the center of the graphic. Also, Read more at a fairly thorough and well-cited entry on Wikipedia: [Theobromine Toxicity](#)

Theobromine is toxic to dogs, cats, horses, and parrots, but is most frequently a problem for dogs, as they are the ones most likely to eat chocolate. However, due to their smaller size, cats and birds are more likely to have serious reactions to smaller amounts.

**Important:** Do NOT leave Halloween candy bags where your pets can access them. Keep all chocolate in a cupboard or pantry, ideally beyond standing-on-hind-leg reach of your dog.

## STAFF FAVORITES

Kate, from our Westside store, has been diligently looking for solutions to her Pit Bull Jersey's persistent itchy skin. She has suspected either food or environmental allergies, yet, until recently, hadn't really found anything conclusive. Over time, she has used some products she's found to be helpful, including, [Back to Basics Skin Remedy Shampoo](#), [Vetericyn Hot Spot Spray](#) and what seems to be the magic ticket for Jersey, switching to a [Acana](#) grain-free diet.

Kate is a wealth of information about skin issues, having done a lot of research to help Jersey. Pop in to the Westside store and ask her for more tips!

