

<u>Prescription for Information from Your Veterinarians</u> at Blue Cross Animal Hospital

Thank you for trusting your pet to our care. We want you to be as informed as possible, so that you can make good decisions for your pet's health and wellbeing. We recommend that you begin with our website (www.bcahkitchener.com). On our home page, under the Pet Health Tab you will find Educational Articles, Educational Videos, News Articles, and FAQs that are helpful. Under the links tab you will find a multitude of reliable websites covering everything from health information to government regulations to pet insurance and other financing.

The Internet can be a great resource for learning about medical and veterinary diseases. But, as you well know, you can't always believe what you read on the World Wide Web! This is especially true when it comes to health related advice. Of the millions of pieces of information that are available on the web, a large percentage of them contain myths or half-truths that are presented as facts. Anyone can publish their opinion or individual story on the internet without anybody else 'fact-checking' what they write. As a general rule, websites that are published by a university (in the US, denoted by .edu, and in Canada denoted by .ca), or by a government agency such as Health Canada or the Centers for Disease Control, will contain reliable factual information.

So, when you are surfing the net and come across health related information, ask yourself the following questions:

- Where did this information come from?
- Are they trying to sell me something?
- How current is this information?
- Who is responsible for the content of the information?
- What are the qualifications of the individual who is providing the information?
- How often is the site updated?

To help you wade through the deluge, we have included a short list of websites that you can look to for accurate and detailed information on a variety of topics. For a more extensive list, check out the "Links" tab on our website at www.bcahkitchener.com

- http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ (Public Health Agency of Canada)
- http://www.canadianveterinarians.net/resources/default
- http://www.cathealthy.ca/cat-healthy-for-owners/
- http://www.petfoodnutrition.com/
- http://www.pethealthnetwork.com/
- https://ivapm.org/ (the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management)
- https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/resources-pets/
- https://indoorpet.osu.edu//cats/