



Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center

WARM WEATHER INCREASES RISK OF “HIGH-RISE SYNDROME” FOR PETS

Local Veterinarians Warn: Balconies, decks and open windows mean trouble for cats and dogs. Each year, dozens of pets are injured or die when they jump from open windows or off balconies and decks.

CHICAGO, ILL., April 26, 2013...Warming temperatures are already taking a toll on Chicago-area pets. Veterinarians at Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center (www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com) this week treated the first animal of the year that experienced “high-rise syndrome” when it fell out of an open third-floor window.

High-rise syndrome is when an animal (especially a cat) falls from a window, balcony or deck. Such falls can result in serious injuries including broken jaws, fractured teeth, broken bones, collapsed lungs, injured tendons and serious internal injuries. Often, hospitalization and surgery are required. Some falls, even from low-level heights, result in the pet’s death.

Each year, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center treats dozens of pets who have fallen from a balcony, deck or open window. With warmer temperatures expected the next several days, Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center encourages pet owners to be cautious with open windows and while enjoying balconies and decks.

“Many people don’t realize how curious cats and dogs can be around an open window,” said Dr. Jerry Klein, supervising veterinarian at Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center. “Pets don’t have the same sense of danger that people have and are easily enticed by things they see outside. The results can be catastrophic.”

“Chicago’s many two-, three- and four-flat buildings are especially conducive to pets falling or jumping out of windows and off decks and balconies,” said Dr. Klein. “People don’t realize the danger to pets at that height. Not only can a fall be harmful to the pets, it can also be very costly for their owners. Prevention is key. Even a fall from a first floor window can bring serious injury to a cat or dog.”

Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center encourages pet owners to take the following steps to protect their pets on warm weather days.

- Don’t leave your pet unattended in rooms with open windows.
- Don’t open windows wide enough for your pet to get through. Child safety locks can minimize how wide a window opens.
- Keep furniture that your pet may climb on, such as couches and chairs, away from open windows.
- Opening windows from the top, not from the bottom, may help protect dogs.
- Make certain that screens fit properly and are secure. However, pet owners should not rely on a screen to keep your pet safe. Both cats and dogs are known to jump through screens.
- Cats and dogs on a balcony or deck should be on a harness leash held by a responsible adult.

“While we are always prepared to treat your pet anytime of the day or night, we’d prefer that your pet stays safe during the warm weather months,” said Dr. Klein.

About Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center

www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com

Chicago’s oldest and largest pet emergency facility, the Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center provides advanced emergency, critical and specialty care for cats and dogs. Each year, the center treats more than 11,000 cats and dogs in its emergency room and thousands more are cared for by veterinary specialists.

Staffed by highly-trained specialists and equipped with the latest technology, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center is always open – 24-hours, every day of the

year. In addition to emergency veterinarians and staff, the facility offers board-certified veterinarians who specialize in cardiology, dentistry, dermatology, diagnostic imaging, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology and surgery. This state-of-the-art facility includes ultrasound and MRI equipment, specialized surgical suites, a blood bank, specialized oxygen cages, heart monitors and more. Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center has been providing emergency care for cats and dogs since 1978.

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