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# Home Alone – When You go on Vacation

By Mona Miller, DVM



ication, as well as food, cat litter, hamster shavings, etc. to cover the time you'll be gone. You might want to show your pet-sitter specifically how to administer the medication if she/he is not familiar with this.

An older pet might require more care. For instance, if you have a senior large breed dog and your pet-sitter is not staying overnight, she/he might need to check on your dog three or four times during the day, to make sure that the dog has opportunity to go outside, to move around a bit and to make sure all food has been consumed.

It is a good idea to make provisions with your pet caretaker for emergency or urgent veterinary care. In a signed letter left with your pet-sitter, you should provide information such as your travel dates, your contact information, when contact may or may not be possible, your regular veterinary hospital phone number/address, and the location/phone number of the nearest veterinary emergency hospital. If you want someone other than your pet-sitter to authorize medical treatment, leave that individual's contact information as well. It is important to also include a brief statement regarding how you would like your pet-sitter to proceed with authorizing veterinary care and handling finances if you're not immediately reachable. Example statements might read: "I authorize emergency vet-

erinary care up to \$500" or "I authorize all life-saving measures to be taken, no matter the cost, in the event of emergency." Think of this a bit like an Advance Health Care Directive, in the sense that you have provided some guidelines for your pet-sitter and veterinarian to follow. A conversation with your veterinarian prior to your departure may help you clarify such statements, as well as alert your veterinarian as to your desires. I recommend leaving a copy of this Authorization to Treat letter with your veterinarian.

In emergencies, most veterinarians will provide life-saving measures without specific authorization from the owner. However, it is helpful to your pet and your pet-sitter to have outlined some guidelines in advance.



**Dr. Mona Miller** lives in Lafayette with her young son and two cats. She has worked at Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette since moving here in 2001. She attended Cal as an undergrad, and received her DVM from U.C. Davis. She can be reached at Four Seasons, 938-7700, or by email to [MonaSDVM@aol.com](mailto:MonaSDVM@aol.com).

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Summer can be a busy time of year, as are winter holidays, during which a lot of us go away for vacation. I thought I might provide some tips on how to manage your furry, feathered or scaled friend's care while you are away.

Who should take care of your pet while you're gone? There are several options including a boarding kennel, ask a family or friend to take your pet into their home or

hire a pet-sitter to come to your house. Your veterinarian will be able to provide a list of boarding facilities – some take dogs and cats, some take cats only, some cater to birds.

If your pet receives medication or requires special care, leave specific and detailed instructions regarding type of medication, dose and frequency. Make sure that you have plenty of the med-

## Jazz for Joplin

World-class lineup for Moraga Jazz Festival

By Sophie Braccini

The first annual Moraga Jazz Festival will resound within the walls of The New Rheem Theatre next month, featuring some 18 Grammy-nominated jazz professionals performing in support of tornado victims in Joplin, Missouri. The festival was conceived by local flutist Carol Alban, who brought it to fruition with support from the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA), which manages the New Rheem and Orinda theaters.

"We have a very famous guitarist, Alex De Grassi, who is considered by many to be among the most virtuosic living guitarists; jazz legend Roger Glenn who played with Dizzy Gillespie; Mark Levine on bass; keyboardist Victoria Theodore who tours the planet with Stevie Wonder; Frank Martin who performed with artists as

different as Al Jarreau and Andrea Bocelli, and many other wonderful musicians," says Alban, "I'm so happy they all agreed to come to Moraga."

The idea formed as Alban, a Moraga resident, was at the New Rheem Theatre watching a movie and noticed what a nice stage the big theater has. "I've done a lot of concerts in support of disaster victims," says Alban, "I ran the idea by the mayor and she said 'let's find Beau (Behan) and ask him.'" Behan, the manager of the New Rheem Theatre, was game and Alban started working on her lineup. "I think that this Festival will foster a lot of interest in the local performing art community and among Lamorinda youth who are interested in music," says Behan, "some of the musicians are internationally

acclaimed; it's great mix. We're impressed with what Carol (Alban) has done and we're happy to be contributing to it."

"My life would be very different without music," says Moraga mayor Karen Mendonca, who added that the presence of entertainment and cultural events in Lamorinda is something she wholeheartedly supports. "There is something fun about the idea of a Jazz Festival," says Alban, "we will add dancers, wine and food at the end, and a discussion with the musicians. People will have a wonderful time, for a great cause, and we've kept it affordable." The majority of the proceeds will go to support tornado victims in Joplin; small portions will be directed toward renovation of the theater's sound system and local emergency preparedness.

## Moraga Jazz Festival

Sunday, August 7, 2:00-5:00 p.m.  
Tickets are \$20 general and \$15 for students  
Box office: (925) 388-0751

### Scheduled to perform:

- Bammy winner Barbara Higbie
- Sax: Roger Glenn, George Brooks
- Vocals: Mary Jenson, Alvenson Moore
- Keyboard: Victoria Theodore, Frank Martin
- Bass: Kai Eckhardt (elec.), Marc Levine (upr.)
- Flute (and vocals): Carol Alban, Viviana Guzman
- Guitar: Alex Degrassi, Rafael Manriquez, Steve Sage
- Drum/Tabla: Napoleon Revels-Bey, Aushim Chaudhuri
- Piano: David Thomas Roberts
- Drummer: Bob Scott, who is originally from Joplin, Missouri

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