

November 2012 Volume 6, Issue 11



## Can I give my dog Thanksgiving scraps?

Submitted by Kristen West

We know it's tempting, but most Thanksgiving scraps are not safest treat for your pets. Cooked turkey bones are a big no-no as they can splinter and result in a trip to pet ER. Additionally, overindulging your pet in other fatty foods can lead to stomach upset, diarrhea or even life-threatening pancreatitis. Other items to avoid are onion, sage, garlic ... and please, don't ever give your pet alcohol.

If you can't turn away from those puppy-dog eyes, a bite or two of pet-safe veggies like plain broccoli, sweet potato or carrots, or a small taste of plain turkey is usually OK. Put the treats in a Kong or other puzzle toy while you sit down to eat with your family so that your furry begger is happily preoccupied!





## **Secret Santa Gift Program**

Would you like to help us make the holidays brighter for hundreds of Central Texas foster children! Secret Santa is a special holiday gift program of the Adoption Coalition of Texas (ACT) helping Child Protective Services and foster families provide gifts and spread holiday cheer to Central Texas foster children through the generosity of community donors.

If you would like to be a Secret Santa this year and purchase holiday gifts for a Central Texas foster child, please email your name, email address and contact phone number to ACTSecretSanta@gmail. com. The gift drop-off days will be at several Austin-area locations on Wednesday through Saturday, December 5 – 8, and caseworkers will be picking up the gifts the following week. Once you sign up to be a donor, we'll send you all the details. Last year, thanks to the kindness of people like you, we brought smiles to the faces of more than 350 foster children!

The Adoption Coalition is a partnership of nonprofit adoption agencies and Child Protective Services working together to find forever families for abused and neglected children waiting for adoption. These are usually older children, sibling groups and children with special needs. For information about ACT and adoption, visit www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org.

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The Forum - November 2012 1

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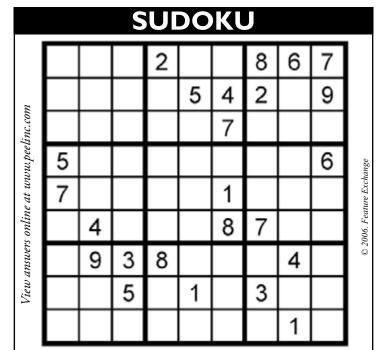
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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.



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# Tennis Tips

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional Fernando Velasco

#### **HOW TO HIT A ONE-HANDED BACKHAND**

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a Forehand and a Two-Handed Backhand. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a one-handed backhand for a right hander. This stroke is still used by many league and tournament players since it gives players a wider range of reach and flexibility to hit slices and drop shots.

**Step 1: Ready position:** The body is facing the net. The right hand is holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is on the throat of the racket. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are shoulder width apart and the body in is good balance.

**Step 2: Back swing:** When the opponent's ball is headed to the backhand side, the left hand takes the racket back and the right hand changes the grip with one quarter turn placing the index knuckle at the upper ridge of the handle. The body should start taking the racket back before the ball bounces. Notice the turn of the upper body and the right foot leading the left foot. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

**Step 3: Point of Contact:** The eyes now shift toward the point of contact which should be about 12-18 inches in front of the right foot.









The right hand is holding the racket tight. The racket has made contact with the ball and weight of the player has shifted toward the point of contact. It is important to keep the right shoulder closed and not open the left hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility and power on the ball.

**Step 4: Follow Through:** Once the racket has made contact with the ball, both of the arms need to be extended for better balance. The right arm should be straight and the follow through upwards above the head. *Look for next Issue: The Forehand Volley* 

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# Why Knowing About Kilowatt-Hours Can Help You Save Money

By Chris Lee

Let's all admit it - we've all taken electricity for granted. As soon as we were young enough to reach the light switch to turn on the lights, we've never thought about electricity since it's been integrated into our lives as a basic necessity. By understanding a little bit about a Kilowatt-Hour (kWh) of electricity use, you'll more easily measure and compare the costs to operate your appliances in order to figure out how you can save some money.

The concept of kWh is difficult to visualize since most of us have forgotten the details of our high-school physics class (for those of us that actually took high school physics). Power, energy, time?...how can we define kWh? If you turned on twenty 100-watt lightbulbs in your house and left them on for 1 hour, you would have used 2 kWh (20 lightbulbs x 100w x 1 hour = 2000 watt-hours). And if you used your clothes dryer for an hour and your dryer is rated at 5000 watts, then you used 5 kWh (5000w x 1 hour). While each family uses electricity differently based on their living habits, here's a website that will give you an idea on

energy use of common household appliances. Caution: the dollar figures used in this chart are based on \$0.07 per kWh instead of they typical \$0.10 per kWh in Texas:

www.glendalewaterandpower.com/rates/appliance\_operating\_costs.
aspx (Shortened: http://goo.gl/kCelA)

So if you looked at your energy bill, you'll see that you're paying for the amount of Kwh's that you and your family use. By knowing the concept of kWh you'll be able to more easily correlate your energy use to your energy bill and therefore be able to do more to save money. To help you save energy and therefore more money, here are some resources with helpful energy saving tips:

www.takealoadofftexas.com/index.aspx?id=energy-efficiency-tips (http://goo.gl/meydE)

http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/energy\_savers.pdf (http://goo.gl/u3fuE) I hope you've understood the basics of a Kilowatt-Hour and how it's measured to help you see your energy usage. If you have any questions about this, please ping me at leec89@gmail.com.



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## STAY Sun SMART

### Skin Cancer Screenings, Prevention Tips

By Adam J.Mamelak MD, FRCPC, FAAD

Skin cancer is on the rise, affecting more Americans over the past three decades than all other cancers combined, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation. The good news is that you can do much to prevent it.

"The danger in skin cancer is gravest when it goes undetected," says Dr. Adam Mamelak of Sanova Dermatology in Austin. "It is extremely treatable, and in a large sense preventable when caught early."

To help reduce your risk, follow these sun-smart practices.

7 WAYS TO REDUCE SKIN CANCER RISK:

- 1. See your physician every year for a professional skin exam. Regular total-body checkups are the best way to make sure your skin is healthy and stays that way. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends annual skin exams. You can receive a FREE skin cancer screening through 2012 at Sanova Dermatology, 12319 N. Mopac in Austin. To schedule your free screening, call (512) 837-3376; no purchase or insurance coverage is necessary.
- 2. Avoid tanning and UV tanning booths. Even occasional sunbed use almost triples your chances of developing melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. Young people including teenagers are especially sensitive to the ultraviolet radiation from tanning booths.
- 3. Seek the shade and do not burn. Stay in the shade especially between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun's

rays are often strongest. Avoid getting burned; even a single sunburn increases your risk of developing melanoma.

4. Cover up with clothing and UV-blocking sunglasses. Protect your skin with densely woven and bright- or dark-colored fabrics, which offer the best defense. Wear a hat with a brim of 3" or greater to protect the face. Use wraparound sunglasses that block 99-100% of the sun's UV rays, which helps prevent cataracts and melanomas of the eye.

5. Use a broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen. Every day, year-round, use abroad spectrum sunscreen with UVA and UVB protection and an SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of 15 or higher. For extended outdoor activity, use a water-resistant broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or more. Apply 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply every 40-80 minutes or immediately after swimming or excessive sweating.

- 6. Help protect children from sun damage. Keep newborns out of the sun, since their skin possesses little melanin, the pigment that provides some sun protection. Sunscreen should be used on babies over the age of six months. Make sure your children are well-protected with clothing, hats, sunscreen and sunglasses. Ask the pediatrician to examine your child's skin thoroughly as part of a yearly check-up especially important for those with fair skin, light eyes and hair, and those with a family history of skin cancer.
- 7. Examine your skin head-to-toe each month. Look for skin changes and let your doctor know about any sore that does not heal or spot that changes in size, texture or color.

Adapted from the Skin Cancer Foundation



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### Paul & Jan Gillia



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