

DEER-GROVE VETERINARY CLINIC FALL/WINTER 2010

THE PAWPRINT

Does Your Dog Suffer From Motion Sickness?

By Alisa Homung, CVT

Motion sickness is most common in puppies and young dogs. Many dogs do outgrow motion sickness but for others it can be a lifelong problem. Most common signs of motion sickness are nausea and discomfort. Evident signs of motion sickness include: excessive drooling, pacing, panting, swallowing and lip licking which can lead to vomiting.

The cause of motion sickness is not fully understood; it is thought that motion sickness is caused by an inner-ear disturbance after repeated motion. The most popular hypothesis is that humans and animals become motion sick when the eyes tell the brain that the body is not moving, but the inner ear senses motion, resulting in the transmission of mixed signals to the brain. There



has been little research done on motion sickness in dogs. Some behavioral problems are due to motion sickness. Some dogs can anticipate nausea related to motion sickness and can vomit before the car ride even begins. This is a learned response—the dog may stop experiencing motion sickness but will continue to vomit due to the anticipation or frightening situation of the car ride.

This is why it is important to desensitize your puppy to car rides. If you think your puppy may have motion sickness, start out with just spending time in the car for fun with

their favorite toy. The next step would be to have the vehicle turned on and offer positive reinforcement. Then drive short distances, each ride should slowly get longer. If at any time during the desensitization process your puppy shows signs of nausea or fear, stop immediately and resume at a later time.

Any dog suspected of having motion sickness should not be fed for at least three hours before a trip. Motion sickness can also be caused by certain factors in some dogs. Simply allowing them to stand or breathe fresh air can alleviate motion sickness. When dealing with a motion-sick dog, owners can use pharmaceuticals or alternative medicine. If you are concerned that your dog has motion sickness, please contact one of our doctors.

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Children and Pet Loss

By Amie Zimmerman

When a pet passes away it not only affects us, but also the children in our lives. Your child may experience many emotions, from sadness to guilt, or even anger.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has a Pet Loss Hotline available for support dealing with a loss of a pet, and advice on dealing with children who are facing a death of their pet. The hotline phone number is (877) GRIEF-10. The ASPCA also recommends a few activities that may help your child with their grief:

- It may help some children to draw a picture of their pet, or write a letter to their pet.
- Sometimes it can help to have a memorial service, including the entire family and friends who knew your pet. If you have a backyard, you can plant a tree or flowers in your pet's honor. Your children may want to help you plan this.
- It may make some children feel better to keep something that their pet really loved—such as a collar, tag or favorite toy.
- You and your child can gather up photographs of your pet to make into a photo album. This can be arranged chronologically, starting with pictures of

when the animal was a baby. Your child can also include information about your pet's favorite toys, treats and things to do.

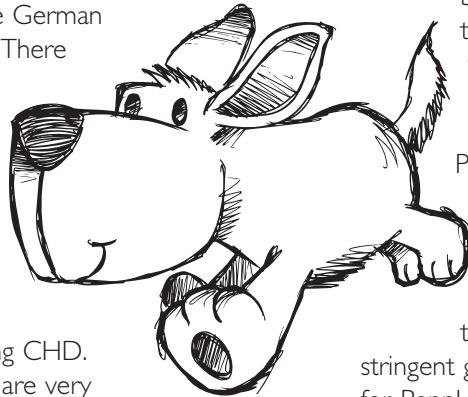
- Sitting down with the family and sharing memories of your pet can make your children sad—but it can make them laugh, too, and will help your child understand that everyone is feeling the loss as well.
- Although your child may not feel like it, it can help to engage in his or her regular activities—such as going to practice or rehearsal after school, playing outside, or going for a bike ride.

We offer a selection of children books from our library regarding pet loss, located in the comfort room available for check out. Plus, the ASPCA also has a wonderful site geared for children, called ASPCA Animaland. You can Google to get to this site, or you can access it from the ASPCA site. The ASPCA Animaland is written to kids in a language geared to them—for them. Besides an abundance of fun information, you can go to Real Issues, and click on When a Pet Dies... Hopefully your child will find guidance and help healing from their loss of their furry best friend.

Canine Hip Dysplasia

By Steve Frame, DVM

Canine Hip Dysplasia (CHD) is a painful crippling condition that affects many dogs. While all breeds of dogs may develop hip dysplasia, it is much more common in the larger breeds of dogs. Some breeds of dogs e.g., Greyhounds and Borzois have virtually no CHD at all, while others breeds like German Shepherds have it fairly commonly. There are many factors that combine to cause a dog to develop CHD. First and foremost is the role of genetics, all other influences that contribute to CHD are secondary as they either encourage or discourage the genetic trait to develop. There is a wide range of genetic predisposition for developing CHD. Some dogs are born with hips that are very abnormal and will develop CHD despite the best efforts of their owners to prevent it. Others are born with excellent hips that may never develop dysplasia. Most dogs are found somewhere in between these two extremes and can be greatly influenced in developing (or



not) by how they are cared for.

Careful evaluation of potential breeding stock can decrease the chance of future generations developing CHD, but for this to work the testing methods must be as accurate as possible. There are currently two accepted methods used in this country to evaluate dogs for CHD, they are OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) and PennHIP (Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program). OFA can be influenced tremendously by the methods used when taking the radiographs and therefore may not give the most accurate evaluation of the dogs likelihood of developing CHD or passing the trait on to its offspring. There are much more stringent guidelines used to take and evaluate radiographs for PennHIP certification, which makes it more difficult for the results to be manipulated. Unfortunately OFA is the current standard applied to most breeding operations.

Body condition and therefore feeding can have a major

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influence on the development of CHD. Dogs that are overweight put increased stress on their hip joints. This extra weight combined with poorly formed hips makes the development of clinical signs much more likely. Two 10 year studies by Purina showed that thin dogs are 60% less likely to develop clinical signs of hip dysplasia even if they are genetically predisposed to have it.

Another factor that will influence whether a dog develops clinical signs of CHD is exercise. A muscular, athletic dog may have a lower chance of developing symptoms of hip dysplasia due to good conditioning.

Symptoms include to varying degrees: difficulty rising, soreness and stiffness after rising which may improve after some warming activity, this usually becomes more severe over time and eventually they do not "warm out of it"

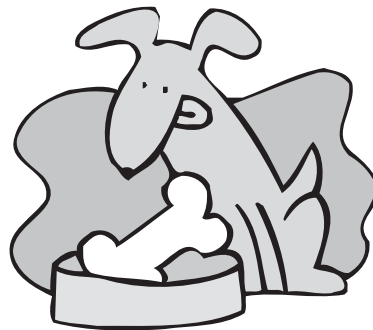
as well as they used to. Sometimes they will develop a "bunny hop" gait when running to avoid fully flexing and extending their hips. If symptoms do appear it will be necessary to radiograph your dog's hips to confirm the presence of CHD. When confirmed, we can discuss an array of options to help you and your dog cope with the condition. These options range from pain relievers to surgery, the decision of what to use will depend on your treatment goals, age of your pet, and how severely they are affected.

Canine Hip Dysplasia is a disease that some veterinarians have spent their entire lives studying, classifying and treating. It is not possible to cover the scope of this disease process in this publication. If you have concerns or questions about CHD, you may call our office to discuss it further.

If It Smells Bad, It's Not Clean: The Gold Standard Is Brushing

By Jenna Steiner, CVT

This rule of thumb should be considered when it comes to your pet's dental health. You may be thinking: it's an animal, we've accepted the stinky breath and that's the way it is. This doesn't have to be the accepted way anymore. Veterinary medicine is following the footsteps of human medicine more and more each day. How often do you brush your teeth? How often do you brush your pet's teeth? How often do you get a professional teeth cleaning? How often does your pet get a professional teeth cleaning? Think about what your mouth would smell and feel like if you never brushed your teeth...this is what's happening in your pet's mouth.



plaque and tartar build up; unfortunately, this is not true.

Do not let your pet chew on items that can be harmful to their teeth. A way to know if a toy or treat is too hard, use your fingernail and try to make an indentation in it. If you are unable to make an indentation, this toy/treat is not a good idea.

Look for the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) Seal of Acceptance; check out the dental products we carry at Deer Grove Veterinary Clinic. These products have been proven to avert plaque and tartar build up. Visit www.vohc.org for more information.

Know the facts:

80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by age three according to the American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS).

Cats can develop painful tooth lesions called resorptive lesions. Studies show that about 28 percent of domestic cats develop at least one of these lesions during their lifetime.

The inflammation and infection associated with diseased/broken teeth can enter the blood stream through the infected pulp of the tooth and may damage other organs such as the heart, liver, and kidneys, or lead to other serious health problems.

Feeding dry kibble isn't enough. Many people falsely believe that the kibble creates enough exfoliation to rid

Along with brushing your pet's teeth, a Dental Prophylaxis performed under anesthesia is another key component to their dental health. This allows for thorough subgingival scaling of the teeth (under the gums) where brushing can't reach, allows us to polish the teeth and take x-rays of tooth root structures.

Full mouth x-rays are ideal as the majority of decay/infection is below the gumline that the human eye cannot see.

How do I begin to brush my pet's teeth!? It's easier than it sounds. Just like a puppy that learns to sit, repetition and positive reinforcement is the key, along with gradual steps that will ease you and your pet into achieving a healthier mouth. It may not be easy at first but it's important to be patient while your pet is transitioning through this new "trick." With positive reinforcement, repetition and

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patience = it can be done, just make it fun!

- 1.) Start with touching your pet's face/mouth for a few minutes each day, do this for seven days with positive reinforcement
- 2.) Move on to inserting a finger into the mouth for a few minutes each day, do this for a week as well. You could dip your finger into low sodium beef/chicken broth, peanut butter or canned food to make this step a little more appealing.
- 3.) Then add toothpaste (specially formulated for pets) to your finger and use brushing strokes for a few minutes, for seven days. Note: human toothpaste is harmful to pets, we are able to spit it back out, pets cannot.
- 4.) Lastly, change out a soft bristled brush for your finger. You can find specially designed pet-friendly toothbrushes at Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic or most pet stores.

Try to reach all surfaces of the tooth, but at the very least, the outside of teeth is an area of high concern where excessive plaque and tartar will build up.

Not enough time in the day you say? For most pet owners, lack of time is where we fall short when it comes to dental home-care, especially for households with multiple pets. Please do not get discouraged; once your pet is acclimated to brushings it becomes a quick and easy process that will have endless benefits. Think long term! It has been reported that if you brush your pet's teeth three times a week you will reduce plaque by 90%, and if you can only

manage once a week by 75%. Anything is better than nothing.

Formulate a game plan. One that suits your capabilities, lifestyle and commitment. If brushing isn't in the cards for you right now there are some other ways to help tackle plaque and tartar prevention. Try chewing treats and toys like DentalKong® and Greenies®. You can also try products that contain Chlorhexidine which deter plaque formation. Products like C.E.T.® rinses, water additives, gels and chews. You can find many of these products at Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic.

Take a peek in your pet's mouth today. If you see anything suspicious, set up an appointment soon with your veterinarian. Some signs of dental disease that you should watch for:

- Bad breath
- Yellow/brown crust on teeth
- Excessive drooling
- Red, swollen, bleeding gums
- Changes in chewing or eating habits
- Going to the food bowl but not eating
- Swallowing whole food without chewing
- Dropping food out of mouth
- Tooth loss

Please Keep Your Pets on Leash

By Stacey Batz

We would like to remind our clients that the veterinary clinic is not a good place to socialize your dogs. When here, dogs are often stressed out, and don't act like they normally would at home or other familiar places. Please keep your pets on leash for their own safety, by keeping them apart, you could prevent them from possibly getting sick or even bitten.

We know most of you have wonderful dogs that wouldn't dream of biting, but what about the other dog? Keeping them leashed will keep them safe.

Also, please keep your children away from dogs they don't know. Again, a stressful environment may cause dogs to react differently. Always ask before petting someone else's dog.

Thank you!

Dog Quotes

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself. -Josh Billings

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole. -Roger Caras

A house is not a home until it has a dog. -Gerald Durrell

Dogs love company. They place it first on their short list of needs. -J.R. Ackerley

A person who has never owned a dog has missed a wonderful part of life. -Bob Barker

Dogs never lie about love. -Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson

Fun Facts about Cats

By Krista Wilke

- If your cat is near you, and her tail is quivering, this is the greatest expression of love your cat can give you.
- Never feed your cat dog food. Cats need much more protein than dogs do.
- You can calm a frightened cat by letting him bury his head in your armpit or by putting your hand over his eyes and forehead.
- Cats rub up against other cats, and people, in an attempt to “mark” them with their scent glands. They most often use the scent glands between their eye and ear (near the temple area) or their scent glands near the base of their tail.
- The easiest way to pick up cat hair is to spray an anti-static spray on the area you want to clean. Wait one minute, then wipe up the hair with a six inch brush.



- Signs that your cat trusts you include snoring and rolling over on his back to expose his belly like my cat, Boomer, in this picture.

- The domestic cat is the only cat species able to hold its tail vertically while walking. All wild cats hold their tails horizontally or tucked between their legs while walking.
- A falling cat will always right itself in a precise order. First the head will rotate, then the spine will twist and the rear legs will align, then the cat will arch its back to lessen the impact of the landing.
- A cat will almost never meow at another cat. This sound is reserved for humans.

Holiday Pet Safety

By Ashlee Endres

The holidays can be a dangerous time for your pets. With Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas approaching, we would like to inform you of the precautions you can take in order to keep them safe.

- * If you have a black pet, be extra cautious during the month of October. It is a common time for people to pull pranks on them. Keep them indoors or watch over them when taken outside.
- * On the night of Halloween keep your pets in a secluded room. It is common for pets to get anxious when trick-or-treaters come to the door. Many dogs are unsure of people in costume and they will sometimes run after them.
- * Advise children not to leave candy and candy wrappers in an area where pets could reach. The wrappers can cause choking and even internal injuries. Some candy can be dangerous to pets.
- * Xylitol is a sugar substitute in some candy, breath mints and gum. When consumed by pets it causes a substantial drop in blood sugar causing the animal to go into a state of shock. Watch for the following indicators:
 - Lethargy
 - Vomiting
 - Pale gums

- Body tremors
- Seizures
- Liver failure
- * Chocolate contains theobromine. Darker chocolate is more harmful to pets than lighter chocolate. The more ingested, the more risk of toxicity. Keep an eye out for the symptoms below:
 - Drooling
 - Unnecessary urination
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Agitation
 - Muscle spasms
 - Seizures
 - Unconsciousness
- * Don't feed your pet a large amount of cooked turkey or ham. Human food, in large quantity, is harmful for pets and can cause problems for their health.
- * Poultry bones are very dangerous to pets because they splinter easily. They can get stuck in or damage the



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- digestive tract. It causes them a lot of pain and may even cause death.
- * Don't feed your pets anything with grapes or raisins. It can cause kidney failure.
 - * Watch cats around open oven doors. They like to hide in compact warm places.
 - * Make sure your trash is put in a spot where they are not able reach it. They could make a mess or eat something that is fatal to them.
 - * When putting up your Christmas tree, make sure to hang ornaments higher so that pets can't get to them. Ingestion of ornaments can be unsafe to pets and may cause life-threatening situations.
 - * Tinsel can be very dangerous. It may cause choking and obstruct intestines.
 - * Be cautious with snow globes. Some contain anti-freeze, which is poisonous to pets.
 - * Keep your pets away from pine needles. They can cause puncture holes in intestines if swallowed.
 - * A few pets will nibble or eat plants. A few holiday plants are very hazardous for pets. The top three plants to be aware of are Poinsettia, Mistletoe and Holly. If any of these plants are consumed by your pet, call a veterinarian as soon as possible. Know the name of the plant, how long it's been since the animal ate the plant, how much they ate and the pet's vital signs.
- * Poinsettias are dangerous because of their sap. If any part of the plant is eaten, the pet may show symptoms or oral troubles. Some indications to watch for are:
 - Shaking head
 - Excessive drooling
 - Pawing at head/mouth
 - Vomiting
 - Inflamed eyes
 - * The berries on Mistletoe are very dangerous to pets. In severe cases they may go into shock or even die. Watch for the following signs:
 - Unnecessary slobbering
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Unusual urinating
 - * Holly is another popular Christmas plant. The red berries are dangerous when consumed in large amounts. Some symptoms are as follows:
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea

Seeing What's Beneath That Smile

By Logan Miller, CVT

Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic is devoted to providing the best quality of medicine to our patients and educating our clients. Dentistry has become an extremely important part of veterinary medicine. What is the first diagnostic tool you choose when presented with an animal that has broken a leg? You would take a radiograph (x-ray). Why? To see what is hidden underneath the skin. The same argument must hold true for veterinary dentistry. In order to diagnose and create a patient's dental treatment plan, the complete extent of existing pathology* must be known. John Lewis, VMD, FAVD, Dipl. AVDC, assistant professor of dentistry and oral surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, says multiple studies have shown that dental x-rays reveal significantly more pathology than thorough oral exams



alone. Radiology is essential in accessing this information. Veterinary dentistry is currently undergoing a tremendous modernization. The days of having a technician clean tartar visible above the gum line, and “pull the loose teeth” are gone. Veterinary practice standards dictate a higher level of oral care for our patients, and dental radiology is a vital part of those standards. In fact, it is not possible to provide good quality dental care without utilizing radiographs. Most dental pathology lies underneath the gum line, and cannot be visualized—with more than 50% of anatomical structures and associated pathologies located below the gingivae and unseen to the eye, that's the reality without the use of high quality, accurately interpreted radiographs. Without radiographs, you will miss most of the oral problems (infections) present in your pets, possibly leaving them in discomfort

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for years. Digital dental radiology is an important tool in diagnosing and treating oral and dental disease. Dr. Beckman, who sees cases at Georgia Veterinary Specialists in Atlanta, Affiliated Veterinary Specialists in Orlando and Florida Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery in Punta Gorda, notes, "A study at the University of California at Davis demonstrated clinically significant radiographic lesions in 28 percent of dogs and 41 percent of cats whose mouths looked absolutely normal." Dental radiographs help aid in diagnosis, treatment planning, monitoring treatment and post-operative treatment success. Digital dental radiographs are used to view the dental tissues and supporting structures for the teeth as well. They are also used to identify problems with the crowns of the teeth, facial and jaw bones along with the nasal cavity. Brett Beckman, DVM, FAVD, Dipl. AVDC, Dipl. AAPM, president of the American Veterinary Dental Society, notes that radiography is a relatively inexpensive diagnostic medium that yields tremendous results. High definition intra oral digital radiographs provide exceptionally clear pictures for better diagnosis and use approximately 90% less than the usual dosage of radiation. Further advantages of digital radiographs, Dr. Bellows says, digital systems enable veterinarians to manipulate images on the screen. Thus, specific portions of an x-ray can be enhanced or enlarged to get a better look at areas of concern.

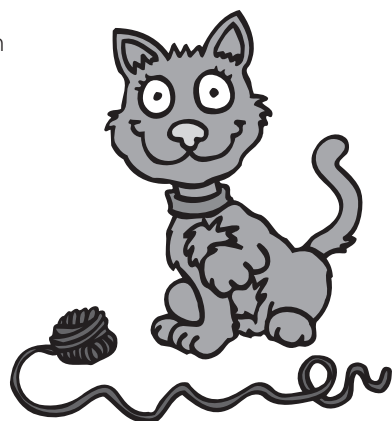
Additionally, intra oral digital radiographs require less time to produce quality films, thus decreasing the time that your pet is under anesthesia. Digital systems use either a wired sensor or a phosphor screen instead of film. At Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic, we are fortunate to be using a mobile digital dental wired sensor radiograph machine. The wired sensor models allow an image to be viewed within seconds on a computer screen. Image quality depends a great deal on the software used to process the image. Most available software allows for the manipulation and enhancement of the image, which decreases re-takes. As digital communication becomes the standard, digital imagery will become the norm in clinical practice. In cases where patients' x-rays don't reveal any underlying problems, it is a great basis to have those set of radiographs to which they can compare future x-rays to ensure any developing problems are spotted early. Now, with the advent of digital dental x-ray machines, veterinarians and special veterinary dentists can more accurately determine the health of the pet's mouth and tailor a solution to save the pet's teeth. The patient, the owner and the practice all benefit from providing a higher level of dental care.

**Pathology: the branch of medical science that studies the causes and nature and effects of diseases.*

The Feline Perspective

By Amy Mueller, DVM

While dogs have earned the title of Man's Best Friend, cats have become the more popular pet in America. Cats are a very unique species and understanding their instincts and natural tendencies can help us provide them with a very happy and healthy lifestyle. Many frustrations with our cats stem from behaviors that don't make sense to us. Dr. Tony Buffington at Ohio State University created a program called the Indoor Cat Initiative. This group focuses on seeing life from a cat's perspective. They have developed a wonderful website filled with information on how we can enrich the lives of our feline friends. They can also be found on Facebook.



Indoor cats have six basic needs:

- **Food and water**—Food choices need to be based on your cats specific condition and can be discussed on an individual basis.

- **Litter boxes**—There should be one litter box for every cat in the house plus one more. Boxes need to be big enough for the cat to easily move around in. Boxes should be chosen based on your cat's specific needs (low edges for older cats with difficulty moving around). Most cats prefer unscented, clumping litter. Location is very important. The litter box should be in a place where the cat has some privacy and feels safe. Most importantly, the boxes need to be kept very clean if we expect our meticulously clean cats to use them.
- **Resting areas or refuges**—Our cats need a special place in the house just for them. It should be in an out-of-the-way portion of the house. The refuge should contain all of the other necessities listed in this article. It is important to have a safe place for your cat to escape to in times of stress.
- **Scratching posts**—Scratching is normal feline behavior. In order to preserve our furniture, it's a good idea to provide them with a place to scratch as much as they wish. Try to pick a material similar to things you have seen your cat scratch in the house. Scratching is a way to mark territory so it's best to place them in commonly traveled areas such as

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doorways, sleeping, and eating areas.

- **Perches**—Cats are most comfortable when they can assess their surroundings from above. Perches offer a safe place for them to rest. Perches also provide entertainment for our cats. If placed by a window, they can keep tabs on the neighborhood. This makes cats feel more secure because they can see what they have been hearing and smelling.
- **Toys**—Cats are hunters. Their ancestors had to hunt multiple times per day to survive. Indoor cats no longer need to hunt, but they still like to stalk and

pounce. In general, cats like toys that move or make noise. Frequently, cats will play with things around the house such as crumpled paper or aluminum foil. Just be sure they don't eat their toys!

The Indoor Cat Initiative provides a wealth of information to help improve the lives of our cats and our relationships with them. Visit the website at indoorpet.osu.edu for useful tips on choosing your cat's favorite toy preferences, dealing with litter box problems, and helping your cat in stressful situations. In fact, there is even a section devoted to making your cat more comfortable at the veterinary clinic!

Leptospirosis: Disease That Can Affect Dogs (and Humans, too)

By Diana Nelson, CVT



WHAT IS IT?

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that's located throughout the world. It's found in deer, foxes, squirrels, raccoons, opossums, rats, skunks, cattle, pigs and sheep. It is commonly found in water sources (puddles, lakes, streams, moist soil, etc.). The bacteria is shed through urine and thrives in moist areas.

IS IT CONTAGIOUS TO HUMANS?

YES! Up to 200 human cases of leptospirosis are reported according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Although rarely fatal in humans, it can cause severe illness.

HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?

Leptospirosis is transmitted in several ways.

1. Drinking contaminated water.
2. Walking on moist area where leptospirosis is present.

3. Through an open cut/wound.

4. Through mucous membranes (eyes, nose or mouth).

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?

Fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, weakness, depression, and lethargy. In severe cases, it can cause kidney and liver failure (jaundice).

HOW DO YOU TREAT LEPTOSPIROSIS?

This includes hospitalization with intravenous fluids and antibiotics and other supportive care for your dog.

HOW DO YOU PROTECT YOUR PET?

Vaccinate your dog for leptospirosis annually.

Wash your hands often, especially after petting your dog or other dogs.

Avoid having you or your dog walk in standing water.

It's Back to School Time! Does Your Dog's Food Make the Grade?

By Lyn Empey, DVM

Think you are feeding a premium dog food? You may want to think again. Over the last few years an influx of dog food with less preservatives and higher quality ingredients has raised the bar, and foods that were once considered premium are now receiving failing grades. Put your dog food to the test and see how it matches up.

START WITH A GRADE OF 100:

1. For every listing of "by-product," subtract 10 points
2. For every non-specific animal source ("meat" or "poultry," "meat meal" or "fat") reference, subtract 10 points

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3. If the food contains BHA, BHT, or ethoxyquin, subtract 10 points
4. For every grain "mill run" or non-specific grain source, subtract 5 points
5. If the same grain ingredient is used two or more times in the first five ingredients (e.g., "ground brown rice," "brewers rice", "rice flour" are all the same grain), subtract 5 points
6. If the protein sources are not meat meal and there are less than two meats in the top three ingredients, subtract 3 points
7. If it contains any artificial colorants, subtract 3 points
8. If it contains ground corn or whole grain corn, subtract 3 points
9. If corn is listed in the top five ingredients, subtract 2 points
10. If the food contains any animal fat other than fish oil, subtract 2 points
11. If lamb is the only animal protein source (unless your dog is allergic to other protein sources), subtract 2 points
12. If it contains soy or soybeans, subtract 2 points
13. If it contains wheat (unless you know that your dog is not allergic to wheat), subtract 2 points
14. If it contains beef (unless you know your dog is not allergic to beef), subtract 1 point
15. If it contains salt, subtract 1 point

EXTRA CREDIT:

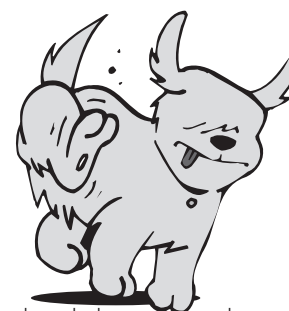
1. If any of the meat sources are organic, add 5 points
2. If the food is endorsed by any major breed group or nutritionist, add 5 points
3. If the food is baked not extruded, add 5 points
4. If the food contains probiotics, add 3 points
5. If the food contains fruit, add 3 points
6. If the food contains vegetables (NOT corn or other grains), add 3 points
7. If the animal sources are hormone-free and antibiotic-free, add 2 points
8. If the food contains barley, add 2 points
9. If the food contains flax seed oil (not just the seeds),

add 2 points

10. If the food contains oats or oatmeal, add 1 point
11. If the food contains sunflower oil, add 1 point
12. For every different specific animal protein source (other than the first one, count "chicken" and "chicken meal" as only one protein source) add 1 point
13. If it contains glucosamine and chondroitin, add 1 point
14. If the vegetables have been tested for pesticides and are pesticide-free, add 1 point

SCORE:

- 94-100+=A
- 86-93=B
- 78-85=C
- 70-77=D
- 69 or below=F



Here are some food that have already been scored:

- Canidae 112 A+
- Chicken Soup Senior 115 A+
- Iams Lamb Meal & Rice Formula 73 D
- Nutro Natural Choice Large Breed Puppy 87 B
- ProPlan Natural Turkey and Barley 103 A+
- Purina Beneful 17 F
- Purina Dog Chow 62 F
- Science Diet for Large Breed Puppies 69 F
- Wellness Super Mix Chicken 110 A+

Think feeding a dog food that gets an A+ rating is not worth the money? What if we told you better food means less vet bills? Better food also means more energy, shinier coat, less stool to pick up in the yard, and an overall happier dog. Try one of the premium foods for four to six weeks and you will notice a difference. Stop in to the clinic today for a free sample of Wellness dog food which we carry and feed our own pets! Feeding a food that gets an A+ rating is the easiest thing you can do to make sure your best friend is healthy and happy!

Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic Is Now on Facebook

By Brooke Davidson

Why you might ask? Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic feels it is important to interact with our clients. We update the page regularly with special offers, coupons, lost pet updates in the area, upcoming events, and so much more!

Recently, Merial (makers of Frontline and Heartgard) came out with a wonderful promotion that we added to our Facebook page right away! Much quicker than our mass e-mails. In June we raffled off an extremely generous gift basket at DogFest, which was highly publicized on our Facebook page.

We often post articles pertaining to changes in Veterinary

Medicine that Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic is taking part in. Also, in our discussions portion we ask for your input in various topics.

There are several pet pictures on our Facebook page. Please feel free to submit your own pictures of your furry pet children. The staff loves seeing pictures of patients in their regular surroundings.

Please, join us on Facebook and see what is new at Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic. Don't forget to leave us a review and let us know how we can further assist you.

Winterizing Your Pet and Their Environment

By Dalton Schreiber

As we move into the fall and winter months, there are many precautions that need to be taken to ensure your pet has a safe environment in which to thrive. If you maintain an outdoor pet, please keep in mind that some pets are better suited than others for living outdoors. There is a common misconception that dogs will be "fine" if left outside. This is not true! All pets need adequate shelter from the elements and insulation against cold weather. Pets should not be left outside for long periods in freezing weather—like humans, they can suffer from hypothermia and frostbite. The young and senior pets are especially at risk.

Indoor accommodations are best during extreme temperature drops, but if that is not possible, set up a suitable house in an area protected from wind, rain and snow. Insulation, such as straw or blankets will help keep in body heat. If your animal is prone to chewing, do not use blankets or material that can be ingested. Cedar shavings can be irritating to the skin, so use with caution depending on your pet's hair coat.

Caution—do not use a heat lamp, space heater, or other device not approved for use with animals. This is a burn hazard for your pet and a fire hazard. Pet supply vendors sell heated mats for pets to sleep on or to be placed under a dog house but read and follow directions carefully before use.

Fresh water is a must at all times! Pets are not able to get enough water from licking ice or eating snow. A heated dish is a wonderful tool for cold climates. The water stays cold, but doesn't freeze. Caution is needed for animals that may chew. Outdoor pets require additional food for energy and maintaining body heat in harsh climates.

STAYING FIT

As always, exercise is important! If there is snow on the ground, check your pet's paws for ice balls or injuries. Dogs walking in snowy areas may get large ice balls between their pads, causing the dog to limp. Be sure to keep ice clear from this area. For dogs that have a lot of hair between the pads, keeping it clipped shorter will help with ice ball formation. Dog boots offer protection to those dogs that will tolerate wearing them.

Rinse feet off if your pet has walked where de-icers have been used. Some de-icers are toxic when ingested (when your pet licks its paws). Pets who walk on sidewalks that have been "de-iced" are prone to dry, chapped, and potentially painful paws. This will encourage the pet to lick their paws, and ingestion may cause gastrointestinal irritation and upset. Wash off your pets feet after an outing with a warm wet cloth or footbath. If your pet is having difficulty exercising due to depth of snow, slick icy surfaces or appears to be winded, shorten the usual exercise times and monitor for any unusual signs

FROZEN LAKES AND PONDS

Animals don't realize what "thin ice" is. This is especially hazardous in the late fall and early winter as ponds and stream begin to crust over. Once they fall in, it is very difficult for them to climb out and hypothermia is a very real and life-threatening danger. "Ice skating" dogs are prone to injuries such as cruciate tears if allowed to "skate" with their humans. This is also true of icy walks.

ARTHRITIS AND WINTER

Arthritis is worse during cold and damp weather. Take special care to handle your pet gently, watch out for icy

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walks, provide soft (and possibly heated) bedding, and administer any necessary medications. See your veterinarian if your pet is arthritic or you suspect arthritis.

GARAGE DANGERS!!

I. Antifreeze (Ethylene Glycol)

This is actually a winter and summer potential problem. Cats and dogs are attracted to the sweet smell and taste of antifreeze, and will often sample some if left out in a container or spilled on the garage floor. Be on the alert for any antifreeze leakage or antifreeze containers left out where they could spill or be chewed on. Antifreeze is highly toxic—it is rapidly absorbed (initial signs appear approximately one hour post-ingestion), and there is a high mortality rate. Other sources of this deadly chemical are: heat exchange fluids (sometimes used in solar collectors), some brake and transmissions fluids as well as diethylene glycol used in color film processing. Acute cases (within 12 hours of ingestion) often present as if the animal was intoxicated with alcohol: stumbling, vomiting

and depression are common signs. The kidneys are most severely affected, and even if the animal seems to improve initially with treatment, they may succumb shortly after to kidney failure. The kidneys shut down, and the animal is unable to produce urine. This type of kidney failure usually happens 12–24 hours after ingestion in cats, and 36–72 hours post ingestion in dogs. Success of treatment is dependent upon quick treatment. If you suspect that your animal has come into contact with antifreeze, contact your veterinarian immediately.

2. Heat-seekers beware!

Cats will seek warmth where they can get it, and that may be the warm engine of a car just parked. Before starting your car, knock on the hood or honk the horn to scare off any cats and prevent tragedy. Also, do NOT start the car in a closed garage—for your safety and your pet's safety—carbon monoxide poisoning is a silent killer.

Following a few common sense guidelines can ensure that your pet is comfortable and safe this winter.

Superstar

By Kristin Jack

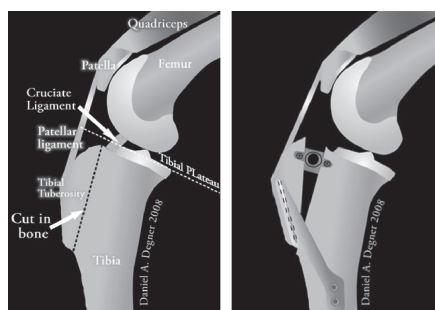
Meet Bella, a very energetic Labrador retriever living in a foster home through L.E.A.R.N. (Labrador Education And Rescue Network). She was surrendered to L.E.A.R.N. by her previous family when they learned that both of Bella's knees suffered a cruciate tear that would need expensive surgeries to fix them. An anterior cruciate ligament tear (ACL) or cranial cruciate ligament tear (CCL) is a very common injury in dogs. It is usually caused by shear force on the joint causing the ligament to rupture. The only way to fix this injury is with surgery. Dr. Frame recommended the Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA) procedure. The TTA surgery is designed to change the forces that occur where the femur meets the tibia (at the knee).

Bella first visited the Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic when she was about eight months old. She had an appointment with Dr. Frame for a second opinion regarding her knees. An exam and radiographs (x-rays) were completed and Dr. Frame confirmed that Bella's knees needed surgery to repair them. But it wasn't time for Bella to have surgery just yet, her x-rays also showed that her growth plates were still growing and she would have to wait to have surgery.

About two months had passed and Bella came to visit us again to see if her growth plates were done growing. She was in luck; Dr. Frame said Bella was good to proceed with surgery on her right knee. Bella can only have one knee operated on at a time because of the intense post surgical

care required for proper healing.

Bella's surgery day was finally here. She was admitted early in the morning and prepped for surgery. While under anesthesia, she then received an epidural to help control pain. Dr. Frame made a cut in bone (see illustration) to advance part of the tibia. A metal plate and cage are screwed into the bone to hold the bone in place. Bone grafting material is placed in the now existing gap between the two bone pieces. Bella's incision was sutured closed and Dr. Frame placed a cast on her leg to limit the chance of damaging the surgical implants he had placed.



Bella wasn't done visiting with us just yet; she would have future recheck appointments with Dr. Frame to make sure she was healing properly. Bella's post surgical visits included an inspection of the incision and bandage change in three days, suture removal at two weeks, cast removal and recheck x-ray at four weeks. The recheck x-ray is used to see how the bone grafting material is progressing. If all goes as planned, by this time there should be some bone growth and if so, Bella's cast can be removed permanently.

Bella and her foster mom, Lisa, did a great job with Bella's recovery process. As soon as she was completely healed (about two months later), Bella had surgery scheduled on her left knee. She completed her final recheck exam, and is looking great. L.E.A.R.N. has Bella on a medical hold until she is healed and ready to find her forever home.

Office Hours

Deer-Grove Veterinary Clinic
535 Southing Grange • Suite 200 • Cottage Grove, WI 53527

Phone: 608.839.5323 • Fax: 608.839.3943

Email: deergrovevet@deergrovevet.com

Hours: Monday–Thursday: 7:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sat. 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Website: www.deergrovevet.com



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