

The Creekside News



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Welcome to another edition of the Creekside News. This newsletter is brought to you by veterinarians and staff at Creekside Animal Hospital and is meant to give you the latest and greatest news and information about the clinic and treatment options for your pets.

CONTENTS

Section 1: What's new at Creekside?

Section 2: Seizures in our pets, Antifreeze Toxicity

Section 3: Feline Allergies



WHAT'S NEW AT CREEKSIDE?



Creekside Animal Hospital was voted Reader's Choice - Best Veterinarian for the THIRD year in a row by the greater Lafayette area! We are so honored to receive this award again. We wanted to thank everyone who nominated and voted for us, and we promise to continue to work hard to constantly improve the care and service we provide.

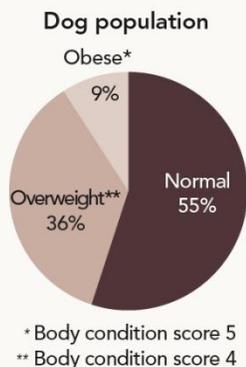
We'd also like to say HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY to Creekside Animal Hospital!! Can you believe it has been that long? We are proud to have been a part of this community for such a long time and hope for 30 more great years!



PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONTINUE HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE YEAR ROUND!

The medication used to treat heartworms is no longer available. If you have previously been using heartworm preventative seasonally for your pets, we recommend changing to year round dosing. Now, more than ever, it is extremely important that you do not skip doses. We can still PREVENT this deadly parasite infection. If you find that it has been hard for you to keep up compliance, please give us a call. If your pet doesn't like / won't eat the chewable tablets we do have topical (similar to flea control) heartworm prevention. We also have three different chewable tablets to prevent heartworms. With the choices in today's market we are sure to find something that fits your family's lifestyle.

START A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION WITH YOUR PET!



A Purina study found that 60% of US pets are overweight. What does that mean for our dogs and cats? Just like humans, it can predispose them to diabetes, heart, lung and joint issues. Obese pets also are not expected to live as long.

Obesity can be a result of many problems. First and foremost, just like us, it is a matter of diet and exercise. You simply can't eat more than you burn off each day without seeing the scale go up. When it comes to our pets' snacks, they can be so deceiving to the eye. For example - if you give your



10 pound cat just 1 ounce of cheddar cheese it would be like a person eating 3 ½ hamburgers or 4 entire chocolate bars. A small dog who is given just **one small** oatmeal cookie is like a person eating a large cheeseburger or chocolate bar. While our treats seem too small and harmless when we are giving them, we have to keep in mind just how small our pets really are. There are not many of us who have pets the same size as our human family. Try to keep it all in perspective.

Secondary to diet and exercise, certain breeds are predisposed to obesity, older pets who don't have the energy they once did, and medical problems such as hypothyroidism (most common in dogs). If you feel your pet is eating a well portioned diet and getting plenty of exercise but still seems heavy, call us and bring them in for a simple blood test that will tell us if your pet could benefit from a thyroid medication. Often times once a dog is diagnosed with hypothyroidism and started on medication we hear that they act years younger and the pounds start to become easier to remove. Cats tend to suffer from an overactive thyroid and subsequent weight loss instead.

Now is a great time to work on getting those extra pounds off your pet. Plan an exercise routine and diet plan and stick to it! Walking (weather permitting) is good for both dogs and humans. Many cats love to chase laser lights or foil balls. For weight loss in pets, you can first try reducing their food by 20-25%. If that is not working, then please call to discuss a prescription diet plan for your dog or cat, or a weight loss medication for dogs. We want you and your pet to have a happy and healthy 2012!



SEIZURES IN PETS

Although a dog or cat can live a long time with seizures, they are quite frightening to watch.

Seizures are nothing more than aberrant electrical impulses shooting through the brain. The seizure itself is not painful and short ones do not harm the pet.

Seizures can arise due to things outside or inside the brain. Outside factors include metabolic reasons such as liver or kidney failure, liver shunts, or toxins. Many of these things can be ruled out with simple blood tests. Seizures that arise from brain diseases include meningitis, encephalitis, brain tumor and epilepsy. The only way to diagnose epilepsy is to run all tests that exclude everything else.



It is important to know that epilepsy is manageable. Some pets may require anti-seizure medication to help control the number and severity of the seizures. As these medication do have adverse side effects, it is important to have blood work done as recommended by your veterinarian. Often times, however, we may recommend keeping a journal of your pet's seizure history as the adverse effects of the medication may be worse than the seizures, especially if they are mild and infrequent.

ANTIFREEZE TOXICITY

Not only can a pet get into antifreeze when it is spilled from a container, they can also get a toxic dose that has leaked out of a vehicle radiator. Be sure to keep all toxins out of reach of your pets and check under your vehicle frequently for any signs of leakage. Remember, it only takes a few teaspoons of this stuff to permanently damage our animals' kidneys and lead to their death within just a couple of days. Pet safe antifreeze is available and highly recommended.



FELINE ALLERGIES

What are allergies and how do they affect cats?

One of the most common conditions affecting cats is allergy. An allergy occurs when the cat's immune system "overreacts" to foreign substances called allergens or antigens. Those overreactions are manifested in one of three ways. The most common manifestation is itching of the skin, either localized in one area or a generalized reaction all over the cat's body. Another manifestation involves the respiratory system and may result in coughing, sneezing, and wheezing. Sometimes, there may be an associated nasal or ocular (eye) discharge. The third manifestation involves the digestive system, resulting in vomiting, flatulence or diarrhea.



How many types of allergies are there and how are they each treated? There are four known types of allergies in the cat: contact, flea, food, and inhalant. Each has common clinical signs and unique characteristics. In this edition we will discuss the first two types of allergies known to felines. Look for the second part to this article in an upcoming issues of our newsletter.

Contact Allergy

Contact allergies are the least common of the four types of allergies in cats. They result in a local reaction on the skin. Examples of contact allergy include reactions to flea collars or to types of bedding, such as wool. If the cat is allergic to such substances, there will be skin irritation and itching at the points of contact. Removal of the contact irritant solves the problem. However, identifying the allergen can be challenging in many

cases.

Flea Allergy

Flea allergy is the most common allergy in cats. A normal cat experiences only minor irritation in response to flea bites. The flea allergic cat, on the other hand, has a severe, itch-producing reaction when the flea's saliva is deposited in the skin. Just one bite causes such intense itching that the cat may severely scratch or chew itself, leading to the removal of large amounts of hair.

There will often be open sores or scabs on the skin, causing a secondary bacterial skin infection. The area most commonly involved is over the rump or base of the tail. In addition, the cat may have numerous, small scabs around the head and neck. These scabs are often referred to as miliary lesions, a term which was coined because the scabs look like millet seeds. The most important treatment for flea allergy is to eliminate all fleas. Therefore, strict flea control is the backbone of successful treatment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND “THE FINE PRINT”

We hope you have found the newsletter to be helpful and informative. If you have any questions or concerns please call our office at: (765)742-0140. Our hours of operation are Monday - Friday 7:30am - 6:00pm and Saturday 8:00am - 12:00pm.

If you do not want to receive further newsletters from Creekside please send us an email at CreeksideAH@gmail.com and let us know you want to unsubscribe from the newsletters. We will take you off the mailing list.

Please note that while we always strive to help our clients learn as much as possible to help provide them with the knowledge and tools to give their pets the best quality of life, the newsletter is not a replacement for medical attention. While our goal is to give the best possible medical treatment at a reasonable price we cannot treat your pets over the phone or via email. This newsletter is intended for informational purposes only.

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