

The Creekside News



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WHAT'S NEW AT CREEKSIDE?

Can you believe we are almost ready to say goodbye to 2011? We'd like to take a moment to thank all of our amazing clients for another great year. We are so fortunate to have the BEST clients in Tippecanoe and the surrounding counties. You all make our job so much fun and we really look forward to seeing each and every one of you. Best wishes for a safe and fun holiday season and we look forward to serving you again in 2012!

The Almost Home Humane Society's Tails -n- Trails event was a success! Over \$7,000 was raised to help the homeless animals in our area. It was a beautiful day, and we had a great time visiting with everyone who came. If you have not been to the event, you have to join us next year.



Don't forget to check out our website, each week we are going to be educating the public on a different topic about pet care, illnesses in pets, and what you can do to keep your pets as healthy as possible. We hope you find this section of our website fun and informative!

ALERT UPDATE ON HEARTWORM TREATMENT MEDICATIONS

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.



CANINE INFLUENZA - THE VIRUS AND THE VACCINE

What is Canine Influenza?

It is one of several viruses and bacteria that can cause upper respiratory infections more commonly known as “kennel cough”.

Who can get it?

It is contagious for dogs only. Cats and humans are not known to be affected by the virus. It is also not a seasonal flu like we get. Dogs can get it at anytime of the year.

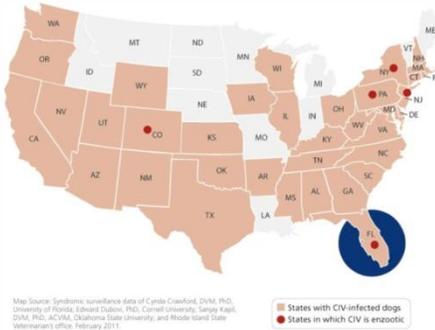


Where is it?

Thirty states have reported cases and is more prevalent in Florida, Colorado, New York, and Pennsylvania. Currently all the states surrounding IN have reported cases so it is only a matter of time before we see it here.

How is it spread?

Since dogs don't cover their mouth when they cough or sneeze, the virus becomes airborne in droplets. The droplets can land on dishes, beds, flooring, clothing, leashes, and hands. From there it can be transmitted to another dog.



Where can my dog get it?

Dogs are at risk whenever they go places where other dogs are together such as boarding kennels, grooming parlors, dog parks, pet stores, and adoption shelters.

What are the symptoms of Canine Influenza?

Most dogs get a mild form which is coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, and low grade fever. However some pets can get a secondary bacterial pneumonia. This can be serious to life-threatening and require hospitalization for treatment.

How long might my pet be ill?

It depends on the severity of the illness but for the mild form a pet may cough up to two weeks.

How is it diagnosed?

It can be difficult to diagnose by symptoms alone because other respiratory illnesses can look like canine influenza. Testing can be done but either has to be done within the first 4 days of illness via a nasal swab or comparing antibody levels with a blood sample 10-14 days after the first symptoms.

How can I prevent it? Is there a vaccine?

Yes, there is a vaccine! It is given as an injection underneath the skin in a series of two vaccines 2-4 weeks apart. After that it is given annually just like your pet's other vaccinations.

Why should I have my pet vaccinated?

Since this is a relatively new virus to dogs there is virtually no immunity to it. About 80% of dogs exposed to the virus will develop symptoms. We also do not know which dogs may just get the mild form or the more serious illness.

Any other questions?

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have by calling Creekside Animal Hospital or you can visit www.doginfluenza.com

SEASONAL RISKS



Fleas and Ticks: The fall months bring a second surge of the parasite population. These days there is no need to fret about fleas, as we have something that is sure to fit every lifestyle. From topical monthly applications to chewable tablets, let the staff at Creekside help you find what will work best for your pet. Many animals are allergic to fleas which makes this time of year even harder. Pets who are allergic to fleas react to them in a similar way that mosquito bites react on humans. One tiny bite can cause itching and agony for days. This is called flea bite dermatitis. You will usually notice an area of irritation near the base of the tail of the affected animal. Also, did you know that if your pet is allergic to fleas that you are not as likely to be able to find a live flea on them? This is because those tiny critters irritate your pet so badly that they will not allow them to live on their body. Dogs and cats who are allergic to fleas will obsessively search to find any flea on their body and destroy it.

Fall Fun: Costumes, chocolate, and xylitol are all dangers we need to be aware of as we celebrate Halloween. Costumes can be fun, but we have to remember that our furry friends are not always as aware of our traditions as we would like for them to be.

Remember to keep your pets in a safe place this Halloween as you are handing out candy to your local trick-or-treaters. If you are going to dress your pet up, please make sure you are with them when they have their costume on. Many pets will try to “escape” their costume and become entangled in it. Remember, an open door is an invitation to dart when they are afraid.



Keep candy bowls out of reach and pay attention to children who might want to “share” with their pets. Chocolate sure is delicious, but can also be dangerous to our furry friends.

Why is chocolate poisonous?



The cocoa tree contains two naturally occurring substances - theobromine and caffeine - both of which are toxic to dogs. Cocoa beans contain theobromine at a higher concentration than caffeine.

Dogs metabolize theobromine very slowly - it can stay in your dog's bloodstream for up to 20 hours. During that time it interferes with the body's functioning mainly stimulating the central nervous system and affecting the heart and kidneys.

How much theobromine and caffeine is there in chocolate?

The level of theobromine and caffeine in chocolate varies between the type of chocolate, the brand and the fact that the natural occurrence of these substances in cocoa beans is variable. The table below shows the average amount of theobromine in the different types of chocolate:

White Chocolate – 1.1 mg
Milk Chocolate – 64 mg
Dark Sweet Chocolate – 150 mg

Instant Cocoa Powder – 151 mg
Unsweet baking chocolate – 440 mg
Dry Cocoa Powder – 808 mg

What are the signs of poisoning?

The symptoms of theobromine poisoning generally show within four to twenty four hours of your dog having eaten the chocolate. The early symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, increased urination and restlessness.

What do I do if my dog's eaten chocolate?

The first thing you should do is to call us and describe the symptoms your dog is showing (if any) and the type and quantity of chocolate your dog has, or you think he has, eaten.

The doctors at Creekside will need to treat your dog, but may advise you to make your dog vomit before bringing him to the hospital. Most dogs recover within 24 to 72 hours of treatment by their vet.

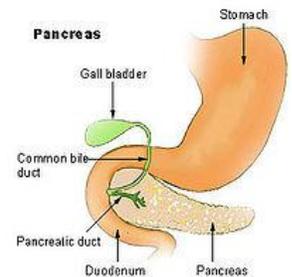
TIPS FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

Whether your family celebrates Christmas, Yule, Hanukah, Ramadan, Kwanza or a combination of them; there is sure to be plenty of food around this Holiday season. While our human family is enjoying the feast please remember that a friendly "meal" of table scraps can bring some very unwanted illness to our furry family members. The top two illnesses we treat pets for around the holidays are, pancreatitis and foreign body ingestion (think.... The dog ATE my new toy dinosaur!) Below is some information on both of these illnesses.

Pancreatitis can be caused by a few things, for the purpose of this newsletter we will talk about one of the main causes.... A fatty meal! Most of us see no harm in sharing our feast with the furry ones that bring so much joy to our lives, after all, they deserve a treat too! Before you start making a plate of turkey and dressing for Fluffy please read on.

Pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas. The signs can vary from mild gastrointestinal upset to collapse and death. Most animals present with common gastrointestinal signs of upset, such as:

- Vomiting
- Not eating
- Painful abdomen, hunched appearance
- Fever or below-normal body temperature
- Diarrhea
- Depression
- Dehydration, dry mouth, and increased skin turgor (skin tents if pinched)

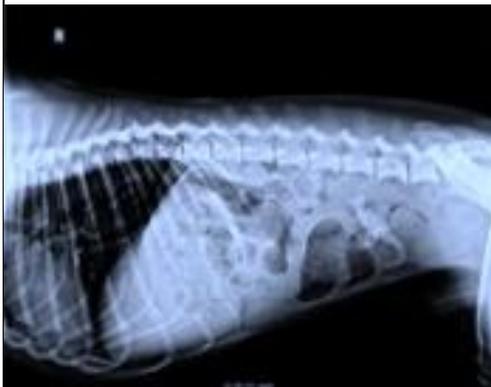


Treatment for this disease is supportive, meaning that there isn't usually a direct cause and cure, but supporting the animal while allowing healing. The veterinary team will take care of the animal's fluid needs via IV, pain management, and will address any other disease processes (infection, diabetes, etc.) while letting the pancreas heal on its own. Resting the pancreas and gastrointestinal system is key, and this means no food or water by mouth for 1 to 5 or more days while on IV fluids. This is dependent on the severity of each case, and the animal must be on fluids and other support to survive and heal the pancreas while off of oral food and water.

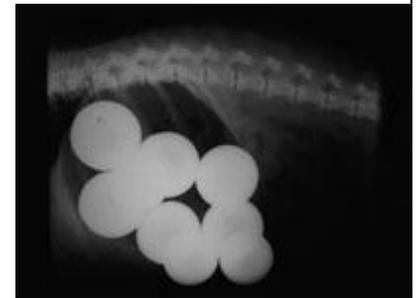
YOUR PET ATE WHAT?



Just what IS a foreign body? This is a term we use when there is an unknown object in the stomach or intestines of an animal that will not pass on its own. Most commonly these items are socks, hair ties, sewing supplies, and of course.... Toys!



How can you tell your pet ate something that it shouldn't have? Sometimes we are lucky enough to witness the crime and we can watch our pets closely for signs that the object is stuck and will not pass on its own. Other times we have no idea what happened and we find ourselves with a pet that can't keep food down, is vomiting, has diarrhea; or both. If you find that your pet has these symptoms for more than 24 hours, it's time to call us!

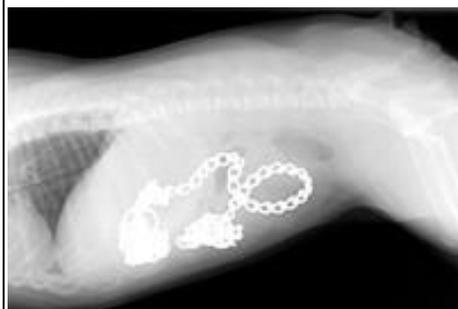
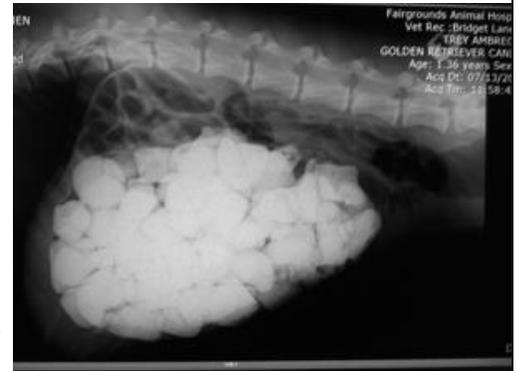


Sometimes the doctor can feel it when they palpate (squeeze the belly to feel the organs for abnormality) the abdomen.

You would be shocked at what experienced hands can feel! Our doctors are also trained to view radiographs and can see when something isn't right, since most of our radiographs are not as obvious as the ones we've included for you to view. Items like socks, string and hair



bands will not be visible on x-ray. No matter what your pet might have gotten into, one thing most all foreign bodies have in common; they require a skilled hand to retrieve them. Thankfully, all of our doctors are experienced at foreign body retrievals!



For fun, look at the images and see if you can find the object(s) that should not be there. Can you guess what these items are? We have included the answers on the back page.



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.

****Radiographs A: Spoon & ring from a collar, B: Fishing Hook, C: Dentures, D: Toy Dinosaur,
E: 9 Handballs, F: 6 bras, G: Hundreds of rocks, H: 2 Choker Chains, I: 12 pacifiers ****