



# Midnight's Mewsings



Winter 2012

Vol. 7 Issue 3



## PROTECT YOUR PET FROM WINTER HAZARDS

by Carrie McCloskey

If you are too cold to be outside without a coat, your dog probably is too. If your cat eats just one of your acetaminophen cold and flu tablets, it could be fatal.....

Those are just two of the many precautions that should be taken to assure your pet's safety in the winter. Here are some other basic cold-weather precautions experts offer to keep pets safe this winter.



- Keep your dog's coat longer for warmth. If you have a short-haired pet, get a coat or sweater that covers it from neck to base of tail.

- Keep your dog leashed in the snow and make sure it has an ID tag. Dogs can lose scents in snow and get lost.
- Never leave a pet unattended in a car. The vehicle will act like a refrigerator, holding in the cold and freezing your pet.
- Make sure your pet has a warm place to sleep, away from drafts and if possible, off the floor.
- Outdoor cats and wildlife will often sleep under hoods of cars. Bang on the hood before starting the car to give the animal a chance to escape.



- Pets, like people, are vulnerable to hypothermia and frostbite. Get your pet to a vet if it is shivering, disoriented and lethargic or if its hair is puffed out and standing on end. Frostbite can turn skin bright red, pale or black. Skin at the tips of ears and on extremities, including reproductive organs, are particularly at risk.



- Dogs kept outdoors should have a dry, draft-free doghouse big enough for the dog to sit and lie down in comfortably but small enough to hold its body heat. The floor should be a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The house should face away from wind and the doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- Use plastic food and water bowls outside instead of metal because your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.
- Use pet-friendly versions of products that melt ice on steps, driveways and sidewalks. Products like Safe Paw and Safe-T-Pet avoid chemicals that irritate pets' paws (and their stomachs, if they lick their paws).
- Keep pets away from medication commonly used during cold and flu season. Many human medications can cause a severe health risk if ingested by pets.
- Keep pets away from heating pads. They can get a shock from chewing on electric cords and can be poisoned by chewing on iron oxide pads.

- Watch where you place baits and poison to kill rodents that find their way into homes to get warm in winter. If your pet ingests rodent poison you must contact your veterinarian immediately and save the package to show them



Burning candles, fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, and space heaters create the potential for burns and smoke inhalation for pets. When these items are in use, monitor your pet at all times to keep him or her from getting burned or possibly starting a house fire.

We all want our pets to enjoy the winter with us. By taking a few precautions and preventive measures against winter hazards, we can have a happy, health winter together.

## Employee Spotlight



**Krista Harbold**

**Started at PVH:**  
May 2009

**Pets:** 3 dogs and 1 cat

**Hobbies:** Hiking, Working Out, Letterboxing

**Why did you choose this profession?**

I received my bachelors degree in biology from Millersville University. I have always had a variety of animals growing up and decided to go the route of animal care rather than people since I was very passionate about animal related work.

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# What Are We Really Feeding Our Pets?

By: Krista Harbold



What are we really feeding our pets? Dog food, of course, would be the first response, usually followed by their favorite treat, and what people food they are “allowed” to have. I’m not writing this article to scold anyone; I merely want to open your eyes to your dog’s needs. Let’s face it, we as human beings can make the conscious decision to eat junk food if we choose to, however, our pets cannot understand the health risks associated with that choice in the long-term. Studies show that keeping your pet at an ideal body weight can add years to their life and we all want our pets to be around as long as possible. About 50% of the dogs and cats in the United States are considered overweight.



Many times in exam rooms, clients tell us that they will try to get their overweight pet to lose the weight necessary to be healthy. More often than not, at the following year’s check up, the pet not only didn’t lose weight but actually gained 2 additional pounds. So let’s discuss how to make smart choices regarding a healthy future for your pet.

The first step is finding a high quality dog food and understanding your pet’s food intake requirement. That means that each pet needs a specific amount of food to meet their daily energy requirements. Any additional food or treats in excess of their energy requirement are stored as fat in your pet’s body. Once you determine how much your pet needs, feeding that amount and nothing more is imperative to successful weight loss.



You should also be aware that food labels often overestimate the amount of food that you should be feeding your pet. The breed and size of your dog, and whether he/she is neutered, plays a large part in your pet’s energy requirements. Neutering animals does not make them fat, as many people believe; however, it does lower their metabolic energy requirements, meaning that they need less food. There are many websites out there to help you calculate your cat or dog’s energy requirements, or you can give us a call and we can calculate it for you. This helps to determine if you are giving the correct amount of food for your dog’s needs. The next step is to measure the food; yup I said it, an actual measuring cup. The next step to consider in your pet’s weight loss program is treats, treats, treats.

We love giving treats and think that our four legged friends like receiving them, but many times they love the attention that comes with the treat just as much, if not more. If you are going to feed treats you need to know exactly how many calories are in the treats. Most commercial dog treats are high in calories and are not needed. If you feel the need to give your dog these treats think about cutting down on the amount and actually cutting the treats into smaller pieces with a limit on how many the pet can have per day. I like putting them in a container so everyone in the family knows when the amount has run out for the day. Next newsletter we will talk about giving pets “people” food or table scraps.



# PVH Kids Club

Written by: Shawn Downs –Client Relations Specialist



The fall meeting of the PVH Kids Club took a seasonal turn as our young members came face to face with creepy critters and restless reptiles. A group of about forty children and their parents attended the event on Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup>. Dr Sabrina Walters and Dr Kevin Schmidt were on hand to introduce the kids to a variety of unique animals.

Several of our staff members brought their own pets to show. Office manager Julie Good brought Olive, who taught the kids what it's like to live the life of a gorgeous green iguana. Receptionist Shawn Downs came with his cat Quentin, who did his best to put an end to the rumor that black cats bring bad luck. Nurse Crystal

Little showcased her red-eared slider turtle, and nurse Tabitha Clark brought her tree frog and leopard gecko. Dr Walters also brought her own trick-or-treater Stanley, the Jack Russell, who accepted love, treats and belly rubs for the duration of the event.



Staff members from the Pets 'N' You pet store on Lombard Rd stopped by with several very special guests. The Kids Club members were thrilled to meet Tripper, a North African sulcata tortoise who weighs in at over fifty pounds! Also a hit were Tyson, the ball python, and Dude, a very large black-throat monitor lizard.



After learning lots of new and interesting animal facts, the children satisfied their sweet tooth in the PVH kitchen with cupcakes, cookies, and what else?—trick or treat candy! They also dipped their hands in paint to create a colorful banner for the PVH Kids Club which is being displayed at the check-in desk at the client reception area.



Great job, Kids Club, and thank you for being here. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

## Check us out on Facebook!

The Patton Veterinary Hospital invites you to join our growing family on Facebook! Check out fun features like animal facts, pet health and behavior tips, and a variety of cute and unusual photos. Also come back often to read about upcoming events, food recalls, and pet hazards. All content is contributed by our doctors and staff, who welcome your comments and hope that you "Like" us! Visit our page by following the link at [pattonvethospital.com](http://pattonvethospital.com) or go directly to

[facebook.com/patton.hospital](https://www.facebook.com/patton.hospital)



## Diabetes And Your Family Pet

By: Tammy Rineer



Your grandmother may have had it. Your neighbor may have it. But your beloved pet?? DIABETES??! NOW WHAT?! Can it be managed? Is it a death sentence?

Finding out your cat or dog has diabetes can be scary. The most common cause of death for diabetic pets is euthanasia. Periodic testing, monitoring and treatment can appear to be consuming and costly. This does not have to be the case. With early detection and proper monitoring and treatment, your pet can lead a long and healthy life. In some cases, feline patients can even go into diabetic remission.

Diabetes Mellitus occurs when the body does not produce or use insulin properly. The body needs insulin to regulate energy in the body. When there is not enough insulin, the liver has to break down fat into ketones for the body to use as fuel instead. Excess ketones in the urine indicate a serious condition that needs immediate veterinarian attention.

Knowing what the symptoms of diabetes are is important for early detection and proper treatment. Excessive drinking and urination are common signs. Also, your pet may be eating more but losing weight. Since symptoms of diabetes are similar to other illnesses, it is important to have your pet evaluated by your veterinarian, who will assess clinical signs and perform bloodwork to get an accurate diagnosis. Periodic bloodwork will need to be done to monitor your pet's glucose levels, but often this can even be done in the comfort of your own home!

Overweight pets, pets suffering from conditions such as pancreatitis or Cushings, and pets on long-term meds such as prednisone, are at a greater risk for developing diabetes. Certain breeds of dogs, such as Keeshonds, Samoyeds, Beagles and Dachshunds, are also at a greater risk. For cats, statistics vary according to areas studied; however, they show that diabetes occurs more frequently in neutered male cats, and indoor/inactive cats, and overweight/obese cats.

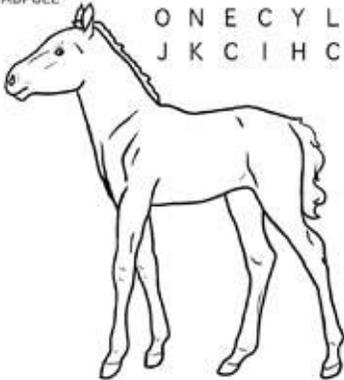
Diabetes is a serious condition, but need not result in the loss of your friend. Watching your pet's diet, providing plenty of exercise, and knowing what the risk factors are will help your pet live a happy life. Our veterinarians will also work out a health plan and guide you through all your pet's needs. With proper management, and working closely with our veterinarians, you and your pet will still have many good times ahead!

# Kids Korner

## BABY ANIMALS

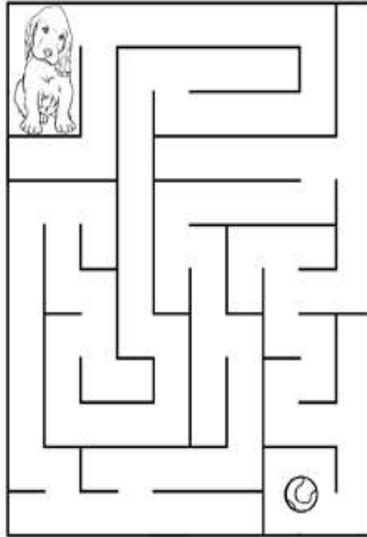
PUPPY  
KITTEN  
FOAL  
CALF  
JOEY  
CUB  
KID  
PIGLET  
CHICK  
TADPOLE

V G P A C A L F  
B K Y P P U P O  
O I T T G T R A  
T T X U F K M L  
Y T E L G I P M  
E E L O P D A T  
O N E C Y L F Q  
J K C I H C U B



## A-MAZE-ING ANIMALS

Help the puppy find the ball.



## Local Shelters

York County SPCA

(717) 764-6109

[www.ycspca.org](http://www.ycspca.org)

Santa Pet Photos-December 8th and 15th

10am to 4 pm

Animal Rescue Inc.

(717) 993-3232

[www.animalrescueinc.org](http://www.animalrescueinc.org)

Pictures with Santa-November 18

5pm-6:30 pm

York Galleria Mall

Pictures with Santa-December 2

York Petsmart

(check website for times)

See websites for wish lists

Animal Poison Control

1-888-426-4435

[www.petpoisonhelpline.com](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com)

## Did You Know.....



Reindeer eat moss because it contains a chemical that stops their body from freezing.



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Or "LIKE" us on Facebook at

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