Patton Veterinary Hospital

Midnight's Mewsings

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Employee Spotlight

Name: Sharon Sieck
Imported to Pennsylvania in 1991
Adopted at PVH: 2005
Rehomed: October 2009
Growing up I wanted to be a music teacher, but about 11years ago I realized the great love I had for animals would make a good career move. I originally worked as a kennel attendant and was trained to become a nurse. My favorite part of my job now is as an orthopedic surgical nurse, helping hurting animals to become pain free. It is very gratifying to see a patient that has been limping and painful become fully functional and playful again.

Sharon, we'll miss you!

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Did You Know...

By: Brandie Scott

One of the most common and most serious emergencies that we see, which can be fatal to male cats if not recognized, is Feline Urinary Obstruction. Urinary Blockage is very common in male cats and if symptoms are recognized early, can be treated. If untreated, it can very quickly become fatal. Cats mask their symptoms because in the wild they cannot show weakness. Symptoms are:

- Bloody urine and straining to urinate (can easily be mistaken for straining to deficate)
- Urinating in unusual places
- Inability to urinate (almost exclusively a male cat problem and associated with crying.
- Licking the urinary opening (usually due to pain)

A cat with lower urinary tract disease may have some or even all of these signs.

If the blockage persists for longer than 24 hours, urinary toxins will have started to build up in the system and can possibly cause irreversible kidney damage.

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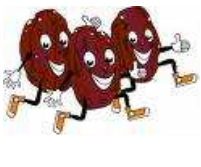

A less known toxin for pets is raisins and grapes. The ASPCA Poison Control Center indicates that raisins and grapes may be toxic to some dogs. The ASPCA Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435) managed 140 cases of raisin or grape toxicity in the last year. Over 50 of these dogs developed symptoms ranging from vomiting to kidney failure, and 7 of these dogs died. The toxic principal causing these symptoms has yet to be identified.

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Another toxin the ASPCA is cautioning owners about is xylitol. Xylitol is a sweetener found in certain sugar-free chewing gums, candies, and other products. According to the ASPCA veterinarians, dogs ingesting significant amounts of gums and candies containing xylitol may develop a sudden drop in blood glucose level resulting in depression, loss of consciousness, and seizures. After known ingestion of this chemical, it is important to get your pet to a veterinarian immediately. Although it is possible xylitol causes liver failure in dogs, this has not been proven and the mechanism of toxicity is still not known.

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Chocolate is, however, directly toxic because of the theobromine. The more chocolate liquor there is in a product, the more theobromine is present. This makes baking chocolate the worst for pets, followed by semisweet and dark chocolate, followed by milk chocolate, followed by chocolate flavored cakes or cookies. Theobromine causes:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Hyperactivity
- Tremors
- Seizures
- Racing heart rhythm progressing to abnormal rhythms
- Death in severe cases.

Unfortunately, there is no antidote.

Another problem with these sweets is the fat. A sudden high fat meal (such as demolishing a bag of chocolate bars left accessible at Halloween time) can create a lethal metabolic disease in pets called pancreatitis. Vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain are just the beginning of this disaster. Remember, in the case of pancreatitis, it is the fat that causes the problem more than the chocolate itself.

It's important to be aware that seemingly innocent treats can be dangerous or deadly to your pets. Please be sure that they are out of reach - especially if your dog is a counter-jumper!

And if your litter box is dry, or your cat is acting strangely, bring him in to see us ASAP.

Tails of Interest

Now You can Google Your Poogle
By Julie Gauldin

Does your canine have what it takes to be a star? Here at Patton Veterinary Hospital all of our patients are stars! And to prove it we recently installed a couple of web cams in our boarding facilities. We can't broadcast to millions of tv viewers, but with an internet link and a password you will be able to view your four-legged friend at any time. So if you've ever wondered what kind of trouble "Fido" gets into while you're on vacation, now you can see for yourself. Ask any Patton Veterinary team member for more details on how you can "google your poogle."

'Abbie' Miller

Online Pharmacy

By: April Lockard

The Patton Veterinary Hospital has recently upgraded our website to have an online pharmacy available for our clients. Through our pharmacy you can purchase prescription food, medication, flea and tick preventatives, and heartworm preventatives. This service may be beneficial for you if you order medication/food for your pet frequently. The medication/food can be delivered to your door. Free shipping is offered for orders above $39. Some prescription food diets have additional charges. In some cases you may be able to save a significant amount by ordering directly from our online pharmacy. If you would like to use this service for your next purchase, there is a link on our home page, www.pattonvethospital.com. Once you click on the online pharmacy link you will be asked to create a password/username. After you create an account you can browse the catalog and take a look at the products currently offered through online ordering.

Keep in mind not all online pharmacies are safe. Many are not supported by the manufacturers of the products they sell and do not follow prescription guidelines. Some online pharmacies gain access to these products through inappropriate means. The manufacturer will not support these pharmacies if there is a problem nor will these pharmacies be aware of recalls or product defect issues.

Our pharmacy is affiliated with one of our direct suppliers and is fully supported by ALL manufacturers. Therefore you can be guaranteed manufacturers' support. If you have further questions you can call our office at (717) 246-3611.

Thanks for your continued support and business.

Community Events

Bing-Oh

Written By Julie Gauldin

After several months of hard work and lots of anticipation, Patton Veterinary Hospital sponsored their first Longaberger Basket Bingo on August 30th. Since this was a new venture for Patton's we didn't know what to expect and oh were we surprised!

A beautiful Sunday afternoon brought approximately 200 basket-thirsty bingo players to the Seven Valleys fire hall, where over 30 Patton Vet staff and volunteers were waiting to hand out various Longaberger baskets filled with goodies to those with winning bingo cards. We'd like to express our sincere gratitude to the multitude of businesses in our community for the outpouring of donations that helped make this day such a success. Thanks to them, we were not only able to generously fill the baskets with goodies, we were also able to raffle off additional prizes so more patrons could leave as winners.

However, the biggest winner was Tails End Farm Animal Rescue. Located in Wrightsville, PA, they currently house various creatures great and small. At this time, almost 200 cats and kittens are waiting to be adopted. On that gorgeous Sunday, we were able to raise $4450 to benefit Tails End. So a great big thank you goes to everyone who helped put the "Oh" in our bingo!

Parvo

By: Rebecca Dougherty

Over the summer you may have heard, or read, about an "epidemic" of parvo disease. While not quite an epidemic, there was a very serious outbreak of the disease in York County. But what is parvo and how can you keep you pets safe from this deadly disease?

Parvo, as it is commonly called, is a viral infection that infests the intestinal tract of any canid, i.e. dogs (especially puppies), foxes, coyotes and wolves. The disease was not known until about 1978, and initially was a variant of the panleukopenia virus in cats (what we call distemper). The infection is very serious causing severe bloody diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy and fever. It kills rapidly, usually within 2-3 days. Most puppies will not recover without a lengthy hospital stay, with aggressive antibiotics and fluid therapy. It is also very difficult to remove from the environment; once it contaminates, it can live for nearly a year in an outdoor environment, and is tough to remove on indoor surfaces. The good news is the disease is very preventable!

The first step is to buy your puppy from a reputable breeder. A good breeder will not have multiple breeds of dogs on the property. They will also allow you to see the parents, and the facility where the puppies are kept (not a barn or outbuilding). They will also have had the puppies checked, and initially vaccinated by a veterinarian, not just numbers or stickers on a paper showing probable vaccines.

The second step is to have your puppy checked by your veterinarian soon after bringing it home, and more importantly, before you introduce the puppy to any dogs you already have. While it is uncommon for adult dogs to get the parvo virus, it is not unheard of. The antibodies a puppy gets from its mother make it difficult for vaccines to take effect. This is why your veterinarian recommends multiple vaccines until 16 weeks of age.

Next, be sure not to take your puppy to dog parks, kennels, daycares or groomers until it is fully vaccinated. This includes friends' or neighbors' dogs that may or may not be vaccinated. Be especially careful of any dogs or puppies that have vomiting or diarrhea. Practice good hygiene with your own puppy, removing any fecal matter immediately, to limit the spread of parvo or any other disease. Apartment complexes, or rural farms where multiple dogs run loose, can be especially problematic because you don't know what the vaccine status of other dogs may be. Use common sense when you are out with your puppy. While it may be cute to see puppies tumble and play with each other, it can also be very deadly.

Preventing another "epidemic" of the parvovirus may not be entirely possible, having your pet examined and vaccinated by a veterinarian regularly, and practicing good hygiene will certainly limit any future outbreaks. No one wants to lose their puppy to this deadly disease, but it is up to you to keep your puppy safe!

Cat Breeds

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

CALICO
CHARTREUX
CORNISH
KORAT
MAINECOON
MALAYAN
MANX
REX
SCOTTISH FOLD
SIAMESE
SNOWSHOE
SPHYNX
TABBY
TIFFANY
TORTOISESHELL
WIREHAIR

Did You Know?

The notion that cats and dogs are natural enemies (suggested by the phrase, "fighting like cats and dogs") is overstated, if not simply false. Generally speaking, cats and dogs get along better than cats and cats or dogs and dogs.

Patton Veterinary Hospital
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Red Lion, PA 17356
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
www.pattonvethospital.com

Lend A Paw

SPCA
3159 Susquehanna Trail North
York, PA 17406
(717) 764-6109
www.ycspca.org
Dinner at Isaac's November 12th

ASPCA Poison Control
1-888-426-4435
(there may be a fee)

Animal Rescue Inc.
2 Heritage Farm Drive
New Freedom, PA 17349
(717) 993-3232
www.animalrescueinc.org
See website for their most recent Wish List!

Tail's End
845 New Bridgeville
Wrightsville, pa 17368
(717)927-8021
See their wish list at
http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/PA73.html