



Fall 2004

Victor's Mews TRURO VET'S NEWSLETTER



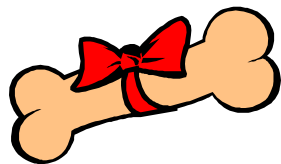
Why can't I have some milk?

Hello, Victor the Hospital Cat here. They tell me I have a food allergy. Long gone are the days when someone would slip me some coffee cream or other nice tasties. When I eat something I shouldn't, my face and ears get so very itchy that I scratch them till I have open sores. Some dogs I know will chew their feet and toes and others have almost constant ear infections. All this because of a food allergy. YIKES! I thought food was my friend.



It is now generally thought in the field of veterinary science that 1 in 4 skin and ear cases are probably a result of food allergies. The most common ingredients in our food that cause allergies are beef, soy and wheat. If we critters can be fed a food with main ingredients we have never had before, then usually we can prevent an allergy outbreak. The good news is food companies are working hard to find such ingredients. It used to be that a Lamb and Rice diet did the trick, but this combination has become so common now that it doesn't always work. Now food companies used duck and potato or even kangaroo.

A couple of years ago, the people I am forced to share my space with, started feeding me Medi-Cal's Hypoallergenic diet. Mmmm, sounds yummy doesn't it? Actually I LOVE it. Since I've started eating it, my complexion has been flawless and my coat is thick, full and glossy. The canned formula has duck liver as the protein source and I manage to make quite the pest of myself in the mornings until I get my canned food. I still breakout every now and then when milk or cream gets spilt on the floor or someone leaves their lunch unattended. I feel these are open invitations for me to help myself. I will pay the price the next day, but ... it's worth it.



Do You Celebrate Your Pet's Birthday?

According to AAHA's 2003 Pet Owner Survey, 62% of pet owners celebrate their pet's birthday. Of those 62%...

- 51% Sing "Happy Birthday To You" to their pet
- 38% Make a special pet-safe birthday cake or treat
- 33% Give wrapped gifts to their pet
- 9% Throw a pet birthday party with other pets
- 5% Give a greeting card.

Hellos and Good-byes

Anyone who has been in to see us in the last couple of months may have noticed some new faces as well as missed a few.

Heather Caseley, technician, started a 4 year Radiology Technician course at Dalhousie. Many of you know Heather from our Puppy Parties and Canine Clicker Classes. She hopes to be able to continue with instructing Clicker Class.

Nadine Maldaner, receptionist, started a 3-year course in Animal Health Technology offered at the NSAC. Nadine plans to continue with part-time reception work and grooming large dogs. We miss having both of you around and wish you the best of luck.



(Kathryn, Dr. Adva and Sheri-Lynn)

WELCOME:

Dr. Adva Barkai DVM started with us in August, helping out while Dr. Gwen was on vacation and has agreed to stay on working Mondays and Wednesday. Dr. Adva graduated from the Veterinary Faculty of Kosice in Slovakia. She lives in Dartmouth with her husband, Jude and 1 year old son, Ben.

Kathryn graduated from the NSAC in 2003 as a Registered Veterinary Technician. She has a cat, Ladybug, a DLH Grey Tabby stray rescue who lost an ear to frostbite. Kathryn started with us in August and will be our new Puppy Party hostess.

Sheri-Lynn, our newest member, started in September. The pride and joy of Sheri-Lynn and her fiancée is their 10 month old Shih Tzu, Stitch. Always ready with a picture, Sheri-Lynn will be happy to show Stitch off to anyone who asks!

Pets Make Healthy People

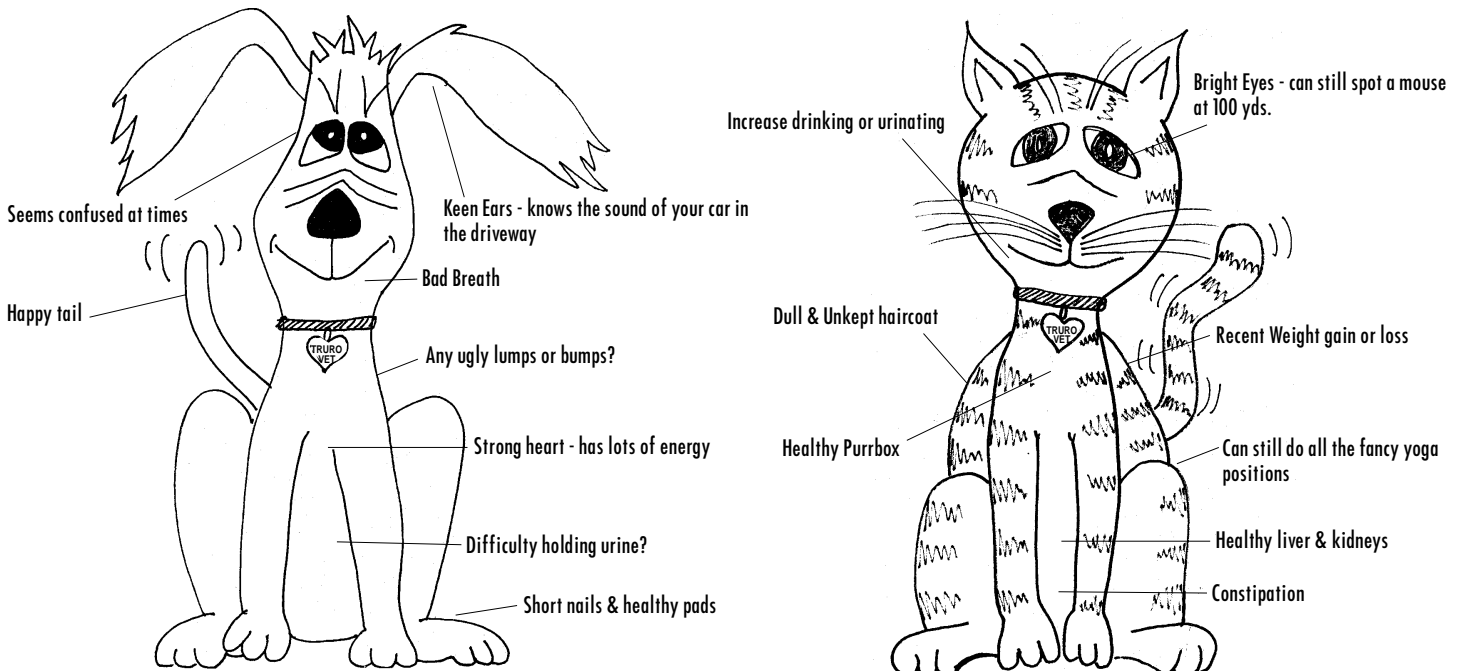
PAWSitive InterAction, a nonprofit educational organization recently published the following statistics that show pet ownership helps keep people healthy.

- Seniors who own dogs go to the doctor less often than those who don't
- Pet owners enjoy lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels and lower everyday stress.
- Pets decrease feelings of loneliness and isolation.
- People with AIDS who own pets experience less depression and reduced stress.
- Pets help people survive heart attacks.
- Children who live with dogs adjust better to the serious illness and death of a parent.
- Medication costs have dropped in nursing homes that integrate animals and plants into the environment.
- Couples who own pets have closer relationships, are more satisfied in marriage and respond better to stress.

PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS FOR THE MIDDLE AGED AND OLDER PET

"It is magnificent to grow old, if one keeps young." - Harry Emerson Fosdick. Pets age faster than people. It's a sad fact but it's true. Advances in veterinary medicine enable us to give your pet a longer, happier life.

By eight years of age your pet will start to experience the signs of aging. Older pets experience many health problems that can be controlled or cured if identified early. Early detection can be accomplished with a good thorough physical examination every six months, which is equal to 3 - 4 pet years'. Tests will help identify problems that are not apparent on a physical exam. Identify little problems before they become big problems.



SILVER WHISKERS

For The Middle Aged Pet Package Includes:

- A thorough physical examination and consultation with the veterinarian.
- Complete blood count & blood chemistry analysis
- Blood Pressure check
- Glaucoma check-
- Early Kidney disease detection test
- Complimentary bag of recommended food

Available until the end of December 2004 for \$195 + tax

For The Older Pet Package Includes:

- Complete Middle Aged Silver Whiskers Package Plus
- Additional Liver & Kidney blood chemistry tests
- Urinalysis
- Thyroid test

Available until the end of December 2004 for \$345 + tax

Early detection and treatment of disease can enable us to extend not only your pet's life but also the quality of life. Our pets give us so much joy over the years, keeping them happy and healthy in their old age allows us to show them our love.

**CALL TODAY for an Appointment
893-2341**

We Care About Pets and Their People
TRURO VETERINARY HOSPITAL



Charity's Chatter

TRURO VET'S NEWSLETTER



CRITTERS' CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST

Care should always be taken when selecting gifts for a family pet. Some animals are not accustomed to "delicate" toys and may destroy them, leading to health hazards.

The following gift ideas are safe for several pet personalities:

DOGS:

- KONGS available in several sizes
- Balls should always be 3 inches in diameter to prevent swallowing
- Squeaky squeeze toys for gentle chewers
- Sweaters for the short hair breeds
- Dental chews
- Medi-Treats

CATS:

- Cat charmers
- Cat nip twisties
- Cat grass
- Fur mice
- Bouncy balls always 1 inch in diameter for safety
- Medi-Treats

ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND, ALL PETS SHOULD BE SUPERVISED WHILE PLAYING WITH ANY NEW TOY.

Avoid gifts such as:

- Rawhide Bones
- Small balls (cats and dogs)
- Toys with small parts/pieces or several attachments (eyes/nose) that can come off and be swallowed.

CHRISTMAS CAUTIONS

During the holiday season, several new additions are made to the everyday lifestyle of our homes. Decorations are brought down from the attic, a tree is brought in from outdoors, many delectable foods are prepared in our kitchens. For some pets it can be overwhelming, for others, a chance to cash in on "people" snacks or play with something different. Here is a list of things to avoid or keep out of reach to keep your pets safe from harm during the holidays.

- Poinsettias...toxic when ingested in high amounts
- Chocolate...a tasty but toxic treat
- Christmas lights and electrical cords..."pretty" chew toy for some but very dangerous and deadly
- Turkey bones...very dangerous to all pets
- Tinsel, garland, curling ribbon, yarn, embroidery floss, and raffia cause intestinal obstruction
- Glass decorations...place these high on your tree for safety
- Raisins and grapes in high doses can cause kidney failure
- Lit candles...dangerous to any family pet
- Plastic or foil wrapped candies...also a tasty but potentially deadly treat

Anchoring your Christmas tree to prevent tipping from busy kitties and rambunctious pups is a good idea.