



To Add To Your Knowledge Of And Pleasure In Your Pets Good Health  
Eric C. Griesshaber, D.V.M. Donald K. Jones, D.V.M. Genie Griesshaber, D.V.M.

## Holiday Pet Hazards

While you are busy making your festive plans for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Years Eve, please do not forget to include your pets in your planning. The holidays are a time for giving, but there are some things you should not share with your little best friends. Once you know the hazards, a little precaution and prevention will make holidays a happy time for everyone.

Some of the more common holiday hazards include:

**Bones:** The holiday turkey or chicken will leave a lot of tantalizing bones, but don't feed them to your pet. Beware of steak bones, too. Small bones or bone chips can lodge in the throat, stomach, and intestinal tract.

**Fat:** Those wonderful potato latkes (watch the hot oil!), gravies, and poultry skin can cause severe gastrointestinal upset.

**Holiday Plants:** Holly and mistletoe are extremely poisonous when eaten. The lovely poinsettia may not be truly poisonous, but its milky white sap and leaves can certainly cause severe gastric distress. With so many hybrid varieties available each year, the best approach is to keep the plants out of your pet's reach.

**Electrical Cords:** Holiday lights mean more electrical cords for kittens and puppies to chew. Be sure you have cords secured and out of the way.

**Candles:** Lighted candles should never be left unattended and that is even more important if left at kitty's eye level or within puppy's chewing zone. An exuberant tail, a swat of a paw, and candles and hot wax can quickly become disastrous. Anchor candles securely and away from curious faces and feet.

**Pine Needles:** Check around holiday trees and wreaths, ingested pine needles can puncture your pet's intestines if sharp enough.

**Holiday Tree:** Make sure your tree is well secured. If you have a tree-climber cat or large dog with a happy tail, anchor the top of the tree to the wall, using strong cord or rope. Preservatives often used in the water in a tree stand can cause gastric upsets, so be sure it is inaccessible or not used at all. Avoid sugar and aspirin additives in the water as well.

**Ornaments:** Sharp or breakable ornaments, dreidels, and even aluminum foil should be kept out of reach. String objects, especially tinsel and ribbons, are to be safeguarded at all costs. They are thin and sharp and can wrap around intestines or ball up in the stomach.

**Stress and Company:** With everyone's comings and goings, watch out for open doors and sneaky pets. Make sure your pets have collars and tags on in case of escape. Ask guests to keep an eye out for pets under foot and remind them that sometimes your normally friendly dog or cat may be less than willing to deal with enthusiastic children and rooms full of unfamiliar people. Provide a special quiet place with a blanket and fresh water for your pets to retreat to when the festivities may become too stressful.

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## Success Stories

Simba, a cute middle aged Shitz Tzu came to Acadia for a check up having diarrhea and not feeling well. He did not appear ill, however an exam revealed some unexplained bruising on his tummy. Blood tests were performed, revealing a serious disease - IMMUNE-MEDIATED THROMBOCYTOPENIA, (IMT), a deficiency of platelets in the blood, if untreated, leads to internal and under the skin bleeding, and can be serious and life threatening. A quick diagnosis and treatment led to a complete recovery for Simba.

A few months later, a normally energetic middle aged Boston terrier named Zena arrived at the clinic not eating and vomiting. After an extensive exam, we found she too had IMT, as well as severe anemia from blood loss. She received an immediate blood transfusion and was sent to intensive care at the local emergency clinic. Zena is doing well now after a difficult and intense first 24 hours.



Abby came to us because her owners noticed her limping. In the exam room, our veterinary technician's careful history taking found Abby had not been taking any heartworm prevention, such as Heartgard Plus. A quick in-house blood test found Abby positive for Heartworm disease. Within the subsequent couple of weeks, Abby visited Acadia on two separate occasions for Heartworm treatments. She is now a healthy, happy and Heartworm free dog taking Heartgard Plus heartworm prevention on a regular basis.

## Intervet Vaccinations

**The BIG news in vaccinating your pets just got smaller** - that is, smaller in the number of times you should vaccinate your pets throughout their lifetime. Dogs and cats should be vaccinated on a regular basis. Dogs routinely receive a 1 year vaccine for distemper, adenovirus (hepatitis), and parvovirus (DHP). Cats routinely receive a 1 year vaccine for rhinotracheitis (herpes), calicivirus, and panleukopenia (FVRCP).

Acadia proudly introduces, Continuum<sup>®</sup>, the only vaccine that aids in the prevention of disease for up to 3 years following initial and booster vaccinations. In recent years, the growing concern about what the appropriate vaccination schedule should be, has led Intervet to research and develop the Continuum<sup>®</sup> line of vaccines. The Continuum<sup>®</sup> vaccines are currently the *only* vaccines to undergo and pass a stringent 3 year USDA testing process. As a result, the Continuum<sup>®</sup> DHP and FVRCP vaccines are the only DHP and FVRCP vaccines proven (in written studies) to have a three year duration of immunity. The USDA tests found these vaccines to be safe and 100% effective.

In addition, while most vaccines on the market today are labeled "mega-combo" vaccines and provide little if any customized care, Continuum<sup>®</sup> offers unparalleled vaccination flexibility to help meet your pet's individual lifestyle needs and risk factors.

Less frequent vaccines mean greater safety and comfort for your pet. Ask us about Continuum<sup>®</sup> on your next office visit.

## A Warm Welcome

Acadia Veterinary Clinic would like to introduce **Dr. Eric Griesshaber**. Dr. Griesshaber has joined our staff as a full time veterinarian to work alongside Dr. Donald Jones. Partly in exchange for working one day less a week, Dr. Jones has agreed to pass the ownership "reigns" on to Dr. Griesshaber. Dr. Jones who built Acadia 25 years ago has plans to continue on with the practice in the years to come.

You may be familiar with the long German name of Griesshaber from Dr. Griesshaber's spouse, Dr. Genie Griesshaber, who has worked with us for the past 7 years. Genie is currently on maternity leave and plans to return part-time in the next few months. Aaron Stephen, their second child, was born this past July. The Griesshabers share the same Acadia vision of a family owned practice dedicated to exemplary customer service and veterinary care.

Dr. Eric Griesshaber grew up with the desire to become a veterinarian after developing a close bond with his family's German shepherd, Hilde. Hilde was coincidentally born within one week of Eric. Eric grew up in the San Jose area, attended Leigh High School, and volunteered for orphaned and injured wildlife as a teenager.

Eric attended U.C. Davis as an undergraduate in Animal Science and the U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine where love struck when he met his future wife, Genie. During his time at U.C. Davis he focused on companion animals such as dogs, cats and birds. Penny, a Husky Rottweiler cross, came into their lives during junior surgery lab. Dr. Griesshaber performed a spay procedure for the first time and Penny became a new member of the family.

After graduation from U.C. Davis, Genie and Eric were married and settled in San Jose where Eric worked for VCA Almaden Valley Animal Hospital from 1998 to 2002. In 2002, Eric purchased Portola Valley Veterinary Clinic. He practiced and managed PVVC from 2002 to 2007, where he and his team brought the practice up to the AAHA standards and gained AAHA accreditation in 2005. In March of this year, he acquired Acadia Veterinary Clinic and in June became our newest full-time veterinarian.

Please take a moment next time you're in to introduce yourself.

## The Acadia Team

Staff News



L-R Top Row: Dr. Eric Griesshaber, Dr. Donald Jones.  
L-R Front Row: Joanna Gross, Kim Gable, December Green,  
Holly Kelley, Charles Ceasar, II, and Jacqui Tanner

Acadia



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Mon-Fri  
8am - 6pm  
Sat  
9am-2pm  
(Closed Sunday)

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

### New Saturday Hours!

Starting November 1, 2007, Acadia will be open 9 am to 2 pm  
We look forward to caring for your pets' on Saturdays



15%

Acadia Veterinary Clinic Coupon

15%

Dental Coupon

15% off

Total Invoice

(Which Includes Dental Treatment)

15%

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