



Acadia Pet News

SPRING 2009



To Add to Your Knowledge of and Pleasure in Your Pets' Good Health
Eric Griesshaber, D.V.M. Donald K. Jones, D.V.M. Genie Griesshaber, D.V.M.

Spring-Time Allergies

As new plants and flowers burst into life this spring, so too do the symptoms of hay fever. But humans aren't the only ones who suffer. Blooming plants, grasses and flowers can trigger allergic reactions called atopy in dogs and cats.

The allergy is similar to hay fever that humans suffer. The animal reacts to inhaled particles such as mold, pollen, and dust. But instead of sneezing, pets typically have itchy skin and will persistently scratch, lick and bite to get relief. Like in human sufferers, the allergy is an inherited predisposition.

Pets with these kinds of allergic symptoms can be pretty miserable creatures, and unfortunately they can't be cured. Allergies are life-long, chronic problems. The good news is that there's a lot you can do to help your animal "children" feel better. Treatments include antihistamines, steroids, medicated shampoos, hypoallergenic diets, and immunotherapy. In more severe cases, pets are given a skin allergy test to pinpoint what allergies the animal is sensitive to. Your veterinarian can then give injections of the allergic material in minimal doses to build up immunities in your pet's system.

Is your cat grooming half her hair off or your dog licking his paws raw? If so, please visit Acadia Veterinary Clinic to meet with our staff veterinarians.


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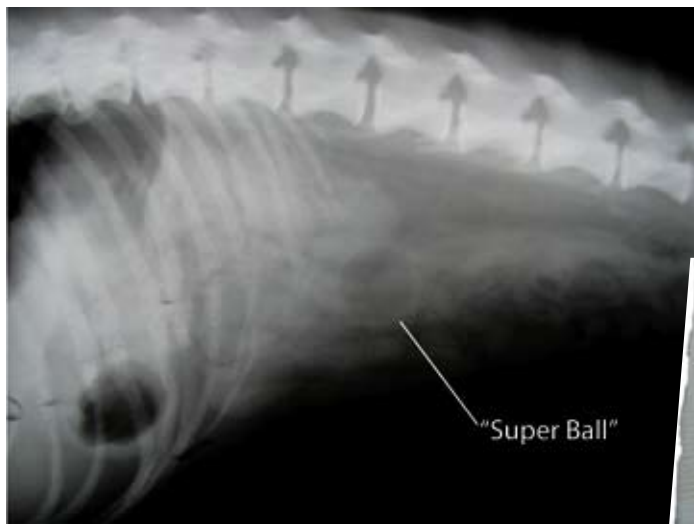
First Annual Pet Appreciation Day

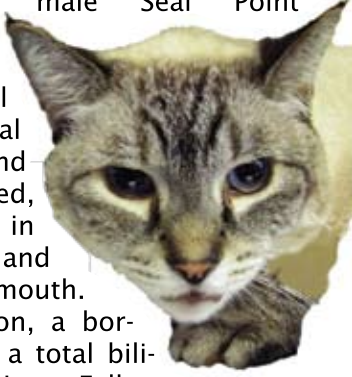
Thanks to all who attended Acadia's first annual "Pet Appreciation Day" at Las Palmas Park on Sunday, May 17th! The event brought together our existing Acadia Family with many new faces. All who attended enjoyed our great barbeque and snacks while mingling with Acadia team members, doctors and fellow pet lovers. Even though it was a hot day, people managed to stay cool in the shade and enjoyed the refreshing spray pool. Dogs played in the adjacent dog park while children played in the bounce house and parents relaxed at the picnic tables with cool drinks. In between activities all were encouraged to enter our raffle for pet gift baskets. It was a huge success in addition to being a lot of fun for everyone. We look forward to seeing you all again at our next event.



Success Stories

 Carson, an 8 year old male Pembroke Welsh Corgi, presented to Acadia for persistent vomiting and diarrhea for several days. The client was concerned Carson may have swallowed a toy or a peach pit. On physical exam, Dr. Eric Griesshaber found Carson to be dehydrated. In-house blood work showed inflammation of the pancreas and abdominal radiographs showed a round foreign body in the small intestine. Surgery was performed immediately and a superball was removed from an obstructed and very inflamed duodenum (first part of the small intestine) just "downstream" from the pancreas. Carson was discharged with antibiotics and analgesics and has made a full recovery!



 Long Fellow, a 9 year old male Seal Point domestic short hair cat, presented to Acadia for weight loss and not eating well for several weeks. On physical exam, Dr. Eric Griesshaber found Long Fellow to be dehydrated, underweight, and jaundiced in the whites of the eyes, skin, and mucous membranes of the mouth. Blood work showed dehydration, a borderline high thyroid level, and a total bilirubin that was off the charts! Long Fellow was diagnosed with hepatic lipidosis or "fatty liver". Cats that become ill and stop eating over time often develop hepatic lipidosis. During starvation, the cat's liver is susceptible to being overwhelmed by the breakdown of fat stores for energy. Bilirubin is processed and circulated through the liver and then overflows into the blood stream. In hepatic lipidosis, the high bilirubin levels in the blood lead to the yellow discoloration of all tissues in the body.

Long Fellow was hospitalized and started on IV fluids and an appetite stimulant. The following day an ultrasound study was performed which supported the diagnosis of hepatic lipidosis but found no underlying cause. On day three, Long Fellow started eating small amounts of food and after three days of hospitalization was sent home. The appetite stimulant was continued for about a month. Long Fellow did great! At his recheck, he was eating well, had gained his weight back, and his bilirubin level was back in the normal range! We will continue to monitor Long Fellow's thyroid values. We are happy he has made a full recovery!



The Acadia Team

STAFF NEWS

Chris Kurtz joined the Acadia team in January 2008 and works behind the scenes keeping our "books" balanced. Chris is a registered veterinary technician (RVT) and is a very efficient and hard worker. When she is not working on the bookkeeping, she is helping us in the treatment room by collecting blood samples or placing IV catheters. Please join us in welcoming Chris!

This has been a busy quarter for continuing education! Drs. Eric and Genie Griesshaber attended the annual AAHA conference this year in Phoenix, AZ. Lectures attended included cardiology, neurology, infectious diseases, intestinal surgery and practice management. Dr. Donald Jones attended the CVC conference

in Baltimore, MD. He spent a full day learning "hands on" about cranial cruciate ligament repair and the following day he focused on oncology and feline lower urinary problems.

Jollene has attended lectures on cardiology, surgical nursing, diabetes and staff management. Kim attended lectures on diabetes and inventory management. Joanna attended a one day conference on leptospirosis, client communication, and staff management.

Don't forget to say hello to the rest of our team when you stop by. Technicians: Charles, Kim and Jollene. Receptionists: Holly and Joanna. Doctors: Donald Jones, Genie Griesshaber and Eric Griesshaber. Hospital Mascot: Andre!

Comfortis™ Great News for Dogs! Bad News for Fleas!

Acadia Veterinary Clinic is pleased to announce the first FDA-approved, chewable, tablet that kills fleas on your dog for a full month! We all know that fleas can be a big problem. Dogs with flea allergies chew themselves raw especially on their lower backs and bases of the tail. Dogs with other allergies such as seasonal or food allergies often have flea allergies too. What is nice about Comfortis™, and what makes it different from other monthly products, is that it kills fleas and that it is taken by mouth. So frequent baths and medicated shampoos don't affect its ability to kill fleas. It works fast too! It starts working within 30 minutes and will kill fleas before they are able to lay eggs. And for most pet owners, feeding a beef-flavored chewable tablet will be much more convenient than topicals.

The active ingredient is called spinosad. What is interesting is that it is a naturally occurring chemical produced by bacteria that was first discovered in the soil on a Caribbean Island in 1982. Spinosad is considered to be environmentally friendly. A US field study found Comfortis™ to be very safe. Any reactions found were mild. The most common reaction was vomiting and occurred in less than 4% of the dogs. This percentage dropped further when dogs received their successive doses. If your dog is getting that itch, please stop to discuss Comfortis™ with an Acadia team member.

For more information, please visit comfortis4dogs.com/ and en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spinosad. Comfortis™ is a registered trademark of Eli Lilly and Company.

Acadia



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