



Acadia Pet News

DECEMBER 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.

Holiday and Winter Pet Care!

Cold weather can be hard on pets, just like it can be hard on people. There are things you can do to keep your animal warm and safe.

- 🐾 Take your animals for a winter check-up before winter kicks in to check for any medical problems.
- 🐾 Keep your pets inside as much as you can when its cold. If you have to take them out, stay outside with them. When you're cold enough to go inside, they probably are too. If you absolutely must leave them outside for a length of time, make sure they have a warm, solid shelter against the wind, thick bedding, and plenty of non-frozen water.
- 🐾 Short-haired breeds like Dachshunds don't do well outside in cold weather.
- 🐾 Cats may curl up under the hood on the car engine to stay warm. Before you turn your engine on, check beneath the car or make a lot of noise by honking the horn or knocking on the hood.
- 🐾 If you light a fire or plug in a space heater to keep your home toasty warm, remember that the heat will be as attractive to your pets as to you. As your dog or cat snuggles up to the warmth, keep an eye out to make sure that no tails or paws come in contact with flames, heating coils, or hot surfaces. Pets can either burn themselves or knock a heat source over and put the entire household in danger.
- 🐾 Keep an eye on your pet's water. Sometimes owners don't realize that a water bowl has frozen and their pet can't get anything to drink.
- 🐾 Be particularly gentle with elderly and arthritic pets during the winter. The cold can leave their joints extremely stiff and tender, and they may become more awkward than usual.
- 🐾 Go ahead and put that sweater on Princess, but you can't depend on it entirely to keep her warm. Pets lose most of their body heat from the pads of their feet, their ears, and their respiratory tract. The best way to guard your animals against the cold is keeping a close eye on them to make sure they're comfortable.

Winter can be a beautiful time of year. If you take some precautions, you and your pet can have a fabulous time taking in winter activities and the warm, glowing fire at the end of the day.

This article was reprinted with permission from the American Animal Hospital Association and www.HealthyPet.com

Toxic and harmful items our pets need to avoid: antifreeze, mistletoe, poinsettia, hibiscus, alcoholic beverages, chocolates, foods rich in fat, ribbon/yarn, holiday decorations and bones.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/>.

Success Stories

Britta, a 7 year old female Rot-tweiler, presented to Acadia after visiting the emergency clinic the night before. She had stopped eating and was vomiting the day before. The emergency clinic's x-rays showed no abnormalities. Dr. Griesshaber examined Britta finding a sensitive stomach. Abdominal x-rays were repeated and a blood panel was performed. The x-rays showed no evidence of obstruction and stomach contents appeared to be moving through the intestinal tract. The blood panel found normal chemistry values and a normal pancreas test.



Britta improved during her stay and went home. Later in the night, she started vomiting again and presented the next morning with severe lethargy. Dr. Jones examined her and repeated the x-rays once more. Although a foreign object was not visible, this study showed the intestines were dilated, suggestive of an intestinal blockage. It was becoming apparent that something had become lodged even though it was not visible. Britta was taken to surgery and Dr. Jones removed a corn cob from her small intestines. Britta made a full recovery!



Eeva, a 1 and 1/2 year old 5.5 lbs Yorki-Poo, presented as a new patient to check on her pregnancy. The client was interested to know when Eeva would go into labor. So far she had shown no signs of labor. Dr. Griesshaber examined Eeva and found her to be near full term. Abdominal x-rays were ordered to check the size of the puppies, the approximate number, and size of her pelvis. Eeva was a high risk pregnancy due to her small size. Before Eeva left for the radiology room, she started to give birth to a puppy. Eeva was given some time and privacy to allow the delivery to proceed naturally, however it did not. Eeva showed no abdominal straining or pushing. X-rays showed three large puppies that would have had difficulty passing through the pelvic canal. Eeva was prepared for surgery and an emergency c-section was performed over the lunch hour. Three puppies were delivered successfully and Eeva made a smooth recovery. Upon examination, it was soon discovered that one of the puppies had a birth defect, that he did not nurse well and sadly he failed to thrive. The other two healthy puppies are nursing well and Eeva is a terrific new mom!



Nina, a 4 month old female kitten was presented to Acadia for defecating outside the litter box. Nina was "not working" out in her current home and the staff at Acadia offered to try to find Nina a new home. Nina adapted well to life at Acadia and began to use the litter box consistently. Three weeks later, Nina finished her vaccine series and a new home had been found! It wasn't very difficult given how cute and friendly she was. Nina returned the next month to be spayed at no cost to the new owner. Although we are not equipped for large scale adoptions, we were very glad we could help Nina find a new home.

Senior Pet Wellness

As people enter their middle years, physicians begin to recommend routine screening tests such as mammograms for women and prostate examinations for men. Our "apparently" healthy middle aged to senior pets need routine examinations and screening tests as well. Our goal is to catch problems or diseases early in the hope of curing them or giving our pets a better quality of life. So what are the common diseases our aging pets are prone to?

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Obesity Cancer Halitosis (may signify orodental disease) Lusterless hair coat and skin changes Changes in behavior Altered ability to rise or walk | Anesthesia risk Altered vision and hearing Heart murmur or heart failure Abnormal urine production or kidney failure Coughing (may signify chronic bronchial disease) Urinary or fecal incontinence |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

(Geriatrics and Gerontology of the Dog and Cat, Hoskins 2nd Edition, p. 375)

See the above table for common problems that may affect senior dogs and cats.

In order to screen for occult disease in senior pets, Acadia recommends that senior pets have a complete chemistry panel, blood cell count, and urinalysis done during the yearly wellness exam. Additional testing maybe indicated depending on what is found during the wellness visit. For pets entering the last 25% of their life span, twice yearly wellness examinations and senior blood / urine tests are strongly recommended. According to the 2005 AAHA Senior Care Guidelines for Dogs and Cats, every 6 months for these pets is equivalent to 2 to 3 human years.

Is your pet entering middle age? Use the chart to the right to see.

At your next visit please ask our doctors about senior care. We have "Senior Packages" to make it easier to give our pets the best care possible.

| age | weight | | | | |
|-----|--------|-------|-------|-----|--------------|
| | 0-20 | 20-50 | 50-90 | >90 | |
| 1 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| 2 | 13 | 14 | 16 | 18 | |
| 3 | 20 | 21 | 24 | 26 | |
| 4 | 26 | 27 | 31 | 34 | Adult |
| 5 | 33 | 34 | 38 | 41 | |
| 6 | 40 | 42 | 45 | 49 | |
| 7 | 44 | 47 | 50 | 56 | Senior |
| 8 | 48 | 51 | 55 | 64 | |
| 9 | 52 | 56 | 61 | 71 | |
| 10 | 56 | 60 | 66 | 78 | |
| 11 | 60 | 65 | 72 | 86 | |
| 12 | 64 | 69 | 77 | 93 | |
| 13 | 68 | 74 | 82 | 101 | |
| 14 | 72 | 78 | 88 | 108 | Super Senior |
| 15 | 76 | 83 | 93 | 115 | |
| 16 | 80 | 87 | 99 | 123 | |
| 17 | 84 | 92 | 104 | 131 | |
| 18 | 88 | 96 | 109 | 139 | |
| 19 | 92 | 101 | 115 | | |
| 20 | 96 | 105 | 120 | | |
| 21 | 100 | 109 | 126 | | |
| 22 | 104 | 113 | 130 | | |
| 23 | 108 | 117 | | | |
| 24 | 112 | 120 | | | |
| 25 | 116 | 124 | | | |

Chart printed with permission from Fred L. Metzger, DABVP

Acadia



Veterinary
Clinic

10012 N. Foothill Blvd.
Cupertino, CA 95014

408.996.1030

Mon - Fri
8am - 6pm
Sat
9am - 2pm

www.AcadiaVet.com

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit #2319

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



15% 15%
Acadia Veterinary Clinic
Senior Wellness Coupon
15% off
Total Invoice

(Which Includes a Healthy Pet Senior Package)

Discount cannot be combined
with any other offers.
Must present coupon at the time
services are rendered.

15% 15%
wsc Expires 4/1/2010

20% 20%
Acadia Veterinary Clinic
Dental Month February 2010
20% off Total Invoice
 (Which Includes Dental Treatment)
 Discount cannot be combined with any other
offers. Must present coupon at the time
services are rendered. 20%

wsc

Valid 2/2010 only