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PUREVAX® takes the Inflammation out of Vaccines!

Acadia is pleased to introduce and carry the PUREVAX® Felv and Rabies vaccines for cats. After the discovery of vaccine-associated fibrosarcoma cancer in 1991 at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, veterinarians questioned the safety of feline vaccines and the recommendation guidelines. As a result many veterinary task forces were formed to evaluate benefit versus risk and establish recommended vaccination guidelines. The risk for a cat to develop a vaccine-associated fibrosarcoma cancer is about 1 in 10,000. Research is underway to determine if there is a genetic link for those cats that develop the cancer and whether a screening test can be developed. The precursor to cancer development is inflammation under the skin. The PUREVAX® line of vaccines contain no adjuvant to reduce the chance of inflammation from the vaccine. In traditional vaccines, an adjuvant is added to stimulate the immune system and improve the response to the vaccine. However, the adjuvant may also cause inflammation and increase the chance for injection site reactions. Up to this point the PUREVAX® Felv and Rabies have had no incidence of vaccine-associated fibrosarcoma. However, it is still too early to tell. Vaccine-associated fibrosarcoma cancers have been seen as late as 9 to 11 years after the vaccine injection.

Both the PUREVAX® Felv and Rabies vaccines are very safe. They use new recombinant technology which means there is no live virus in the vaccine that could cause clinical symptoms. A portion of the DNA from the virus is inserted into the Canary Pox Virus, which serves as the vector. The Canary Pox Virus does not replicate in dogs and cats. And dogs and cats do not create an immune response to this virus. The Canary Pox Virus infects and inserts the recombinant DNA into infected cells, such as red blood cells. The red blood cells then produce virus proteins which the cats' immune system responds to, creating immunity. Besides safety, another advantage of using recombinant technology with the Canary Pox vector, is improved immunity. Both the cell mediated and humeral (antibody) parts of the immune system are activated. While the details of the cell mediated and humeral immune system is above the scope of this article, it is worth pointing out that the standard killed Felv and Rabies vaccines only activate the humeral immune system, creating antibodies. Both PUREVAX® Felv and Rabies protect your cat for 1 full year. The next time your cat needs vaccines, be sure to ask about the PUREVAX® alternative.

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Success Stories

Libby, a 12 year old, 17 lbs, female spayed, Beagle, had just ingested 16 ounces of See's chocolate truffles when her owner called! We directed her to bring Libby straight in for treatment. Physical examination found a normal dog. Libby was given an injection of apomorphine to induce emesis (vomiting). Soon after, large amounts of chocolate were vomited up. As a precautionary measure, a dose of activated charcoal was administered by mouth in order to help adsorb any chocolate that may still have been left in the digestive tract.



Because Libby had been treated so quickly after ingestion, she made a full recovery and was back to normal the next day. Symptoms of chocolate toxicity usually occur 6 to 12 hours after ingestion. Initially there can be increased water intake, restlessness, vomiting and diarrhea. This can progress to hyperactivity, rapid breathing, loss of balance, seizures, cardiac arrhythmias, and respiratory failure. Because of the large amount of fat in chocolate products, dogs may develop pancreatitis 1 to 3 days after ingestion. If your pet ingests chocolate, which can even be found in fertilizer mulches, call Acadia or after hours emergency ASAP.

Darla, a 5 year old, female spayed, Jack Russell-Miniature Pinscher mix got into the garbage and ingested a chicken carcass two days before presenting to Acadia. She had bloody diarrhea, was vomiting, was dehydrated, and she seemed constipated. Darla had also stopped eating. On physical exam, it was found that Darla had a painful abdomen. Abdominal radiographs showed a marked amount of boney material in the colon. Darla received an injection of fluids under the skin to help her hydration, an injection of morphine for comfort, and multiple enemas. She was able to pass most of the material. However, the compacted, boney material "upstream" was very solid and difficult to break down. Darla re-presented the following day. She had continued to strain and was passing bloody drops from her rectum the night before. Follow up radiographs revealed that all the boney material had passed and she was most likely straining from the residual inflammation in her colon and rectum. She was sent home with gastrointestinal supportive medications, including a bland diet, and she made a full recovery!



Molly, an 8 year old female spayed Labrador Retriever mix, presented to Acadia with blood in her urine. Molly had recently been treated for a urinary bladder infection so such a rapid recurrence in clinical signs was worrisome. Abdominal radiographs revealed one, very large bladder stone. Two treatment options were presented to Molly's owner: medical dissolution via a stone dissolving diet (Hill's S/D®) and antibiotics for 8-12 weeks or surgical removal. Molly's owner was advised that dissolution of the stone would only work if the stone was composed of struvite. Because we could not be 100% certain of the composition of the stone via analysis of the urine and because Molly was thought to be in great discomfort, Molly had surgery three days later and the bladder stone was removed. Molly made a smooth and complete recovery. Stone analysis revealed the stone to be composed of 100% struvite and a recurrent urinary tract infection (UTI) was treated with the appropriate antibiotic. These stones primarily form secondary to a persistent urinary tract infection. While Molly is doing great, we are keeping a vigilant lookout for recurrent bladder infections. Molly's 2 week post-surgery urine culture did not grow any bacteria. We will check again in 1 month and then every 4-6 months to ensure we catch a UTI early, if present.

The Acadia Team

ACADIA NEWS

Acadia is proud to introduce Tina and Amanda, the two newest additions to the Acadia team! Tina joined us in October after volunteering with us for her clinical rotations through Carrington College. Tina graduated from UC Davis with a degree in Psychology and minor degree in Animal Science. She currently is a full time student at Carrington College, studying animal health technology. She is expecting to be a licensed veterinary technician by June 2012. When Tina is not busy taking radiographs or running lab samples, she spends time working out, spends time with family or traveling with her boyfriend.

Amanda joined our team in November, as receptionist. She brings with her the great customer service skills she developed while working at places such as the Kitty Hotel and the Petco Grooming Salon. Amanda graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in Psychology. She is currently enrolled at UC Berkeley Extension, taking veterinary prerequisite classes. When Amanda is not busy answering phones and juggling tasks in reception, she enjoys watching movies, taking day trips with her boyfriend, spending time with her family (including 2 dogs, 2 cats and a pet ball python), and crafting and creating acrylic paintings.

Amand (left) and Tina (right):



Pet-Safe Chew Toys

What can I give my dog or cat that is safe to chew on and will help the teeth? Hill's T/D[®] dog and cat food is an easy first choice. T/D[®] can be used as a treat for all ages or as a complete diet for adult dogs and cats. The Veterinary Oral Health Council, VOHC, has given Hills T/D[®] its seal of approval for controlling tartar and plaque. Visit http://www.vohc.org/accepted_products.htm.



The challenge with finding a perfect chew toy or treat is that there is a balance between wear and tear on the food item or toy and wear and tear on the teeth. The basic rules of thumb when looking for a safe chew toy are: If you took the chew toy and did not want to hit your kneecap with it because it would hurt, then the item is not safe. Can the chew toy be indented with a fingernail? Can it be bent it at least slightly? If not, then it is not safe.

Dogs often break their large carnassial teeth when chewing on bones, rocks, or other hard chew toys, resulting in expensive dental work. What about coyotes? They chew on bones.... Veterinary studies have shown that wild canids have dental disease too and have a much reduced life expectancy of only 2-8 years.

So what is safe? Many people and animals choke on food that is otherwise considered to be safe. When giving a dog a C.E.T.[®] or other chew, the pet should be watched until the treat is completely chewed up and swallowed. And if you're having a hard time finding the perfect chew toy, don't forget that the best way to keep your pet's teeth white and gums healthy is by brushing them daily with a soft bristled tooth brush and pet toothpaste.

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