



QHAH Newsletter



September Focus– Senior Pet Health Month

Topics Discussed

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Special Days This Month

- Sep 4th– CLOSED Labor Day
- Sep 6th-12th– International Assistance Dog Week
- Sep 8th– Iguana Awareness Day
- Sep 10th– Pet Memorial Day
- Sep 24th-30th– Deaf Dog Awareness Week
- Sep 28th– World Rabies Awareness Day

On average, pets age seven times faster than people. This means that most dogs and cats reach adulthood by age two and middle age by four. By age seven, most dogs—particularly larger breeds—are entering their senior years!

Because dogs and cats age so rapidly, health problems tend to progress faster in pets as well. The risk of many diseases, including dental disease, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, arthritis and cancer all increase with age and have the potential to worsen within a matter of weeks. Even pets that appear normal can have an underlying problem, which is why regular visits to the veterinarian are crucial for older pets.

Some other common medical conditions affecting senior pets include periodontal disease, pneumonia, bronchitis, arthritis, diabetes, hyperthyroidism and cataracts.

Early detection can help prevent disease and minimize suffering of an older pet. Bi-annual exams and yearly wellness bloodwork are highly recommended for all pets eight years and older. So celebrate your senior pet’s health and wellbeing this September—and call QHAH to schedule their check up!

Adding To Our Team!

We would like to welcome Ms. Kelsey Shields to Quail Hollow Animal Hospital. Kelsey came to us last month and has slipped right in to her role as one of our Technicians. She is very knowledgeable in many things since she has worked in and out of animal hospitals in Pennsylvania West Virginia, and here in Florida. Kelsey even has her Bachelors degree in Animal Nutritional Science. Ironically, Kelsey is also an X-ray Technologist! Please be sure to say “Hi” to Kelsey and continue reading for her very first Tech’s Speak article!

Did You Know? Our Techs Speak

Dogs Who Are Born Deaf

By: Kelsey Shields

How can dogs be born deaf? You may be wondering how your brand- new puppy that seems perfectly healthy is unable to hear you calling its name. When an animal is born with an abnormality it is called a genetic defect. Some dogs are born with hearing loss as their genetic defect, this is known as Congenital Deafness. Dogs can also become deaf after they are born due to different causes. Some of these causes are injuries to the ears, infections, or old age. Sometimes dogs can go momentarily deaf from loud noises or after being exposed to certain drugs, but their hearing will return.

The dogs more likely to be born with this genetic defect are white dogs. Not just any white dog is born with the genetic defects, but dogs with un-pigmented skin are more likely be born with the defect. Some breeds such as the Samoyed and West Highland Terriers have white coats, but they have pigmented skin. Un-pigmented skin appears pink without black coloration. It is most easily seen around the rims of the eyes and on the dog’s nose. White fur and pink skinned dogs are more likely to be born deaf. The most common breed to be born with Congenital Deafness is the Dalmatian, with which 30 percent are born deaf. When a dog is deaf in both ears it is called Bilateral Deafness, when it is only deaf in one ear it is known as Unilateral Deafness. Dogs that are born deaf can be taught to respond to unspoken commands and give the same level of affection to their owners.

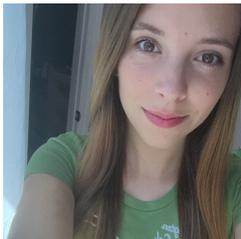
Pet of the Month



Cali Cooper

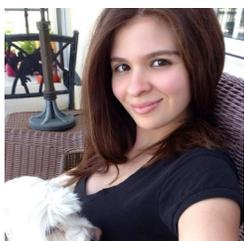
Would you like to see your pet featured?
Email a picture to
quailhollowlodging@outlook.com

Star Employee



Jaqi-

"She is always polite and caring towards clients and their pets.."



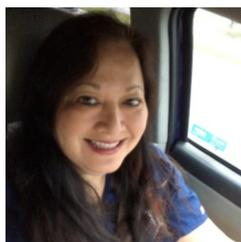
Kelly-

"She is so sweet and such a great tech!"



Lisa-

"All around good employee helps where help is needed"



Terry-

"Her cool and calm demeanor makes her easy to work with. Some of our clients come by just to chit chat with her"

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Closed- Labor Day

Our hospital will be closed to observe Labor Day September 4th. If you will be using our lodging facility please know that Sunday pick ups are between 3pm and 5pm on September 3rd. Quail Hollow Animal Hospital will reopen at 7am on September 5th for all of your needs. Our lodging department will reopen for check-in and pick-up on Tuesday September 5th at 8am.

AVMA Highlights

Advice to New Puppy and Kitten Owners

Adopting a new kitten or puppy is a wonderful and exciting experience. It is also a time where a little extra planning can help a new pet develop the calm and confident temperament that will help them enjoy life to the fullest. The basic tenets of socialization are outlined below. The AVMA will be developing tools to help veterinarians and their clients create simple and fun plans tailored to the developmental needs of puppies and kittens in their first weeks and months of life.

When adopting a puppy or kitten, ask for a pre- and post-adoption socialization plan.

Create a socialization plan specifically for your dog or cat to prepare him or her for life in your household. Plan exposures to the animals, individuals, environments, activities and objects that will be part of his or her new life.

Provide regular positive and diverse experiences to encourage your dog or cat to enjoy new experiences without becoming fearful or aggressive.

Provide praise, play and treats to reward engagement. Allow the dog or cat to withdraw if he or she is uncomfortable. Move at a pace appropriate for your pet's personality.

Well-managed puppy or kitten socialization classes are a good way to socialize your new pet within the sensitive period.

Puppies or kittens that are not fully vaccinated should not be exposed to unvaccinated animals or places they may have been (such as outdoor parks).

Continue to reward your dog or cat for calm or playful responses to social interactions throughout his or her life.

For dogs or cats with special behavioral needs, develop a plan with your veterinarian and/or another animal behavior expert.

Senior Pet Health

Thanks to the advancements in veterinary medicine, pets are living longer than ever. However with this increased lifespan comes an increase in the variety of conditions and diseases that they are susceptible to including osteoarthritis, kidney disease, heart disease, liver disease, cancer and diabetes. And because pets age faster than we do, health problems can progress much more rapidly. We pay special attention to your senior pet's comfort level and address any concerns about pain.

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According to the American Animal Hospital Association, scheduling regular veterinary examinations is one of the most important steps pet owners can take to keep their pets healthy. AAHA recommends that healthy senior dogs and cats (age 7+) visit the veterinarian every six months for a complete exam and laboratory testing.

Your senior pet's wellness exam should include the following:

- Health Consultation
- Physical Examination by a Veterinarian
- Pain Assessment
- Oral Exam
- Nutritional Counseling
- Diagnostic Tests
- Intestinal Parasite Test
- Overall Wellness Recommendation
- Vaccinations (if necessary)
- Bloodwork



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A visit to your veterinarian is imperative if you notice any of the following:

- Changes in mobility: difficulty getting up from a down position, trouble with stairs, limping, decrease in ability to jump on furniture or jump into the car, decrease in play activity
- Unexplained weight loss/gain
- Excessive drinking and/or urination
- Loss of appetite or lethargy
- Behavior changes
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Skin lumps, bumps or irritation
- Bad breath, plaque on teeth or bleeding gums
- Ear odors, redness, scratching or head shaking

Adoption Kittens

Stop in to meet her!



For just \$75 this princess can be yours!

She will be up-to-date on her yearly vaccines and spayed.

Ask The Doc!

Dear Dr. Berger,

My cat was prescribed C/D last year for crystals in his urine. He eats it but sometimes it is difficult to keep my 1 year old kitten out of his dish. Once my kitten joins the dish my older cat runs off. Will this food hurt my kitten? I am open to any pointers you might have in keeping the two of them apart.



This is an interesting situation that you describe, and there are many thoughts I can share with you to ease your concerns. Most importantly, you have taken the right steps for your furry feline friends to minimize or eliminate the symptoms of FLUTD, or feline lower urinary tract disease. The diet your cat was prescribed is uniquely formulated to manage urinary stress in cats. Feline urine is very concentrated and can easily burn your little boy's sensitive urinary tract tissues. When he eats the C/D multicare urinary stress formula, his urine will be less irritating because this diet has been clinically tested to dissolve struvite (magnesium/ammonium/phosphate) crystals, and reduce the risk of stone formation. The diet is formulated to also

Coupons

QHAH Newsletter

Continued...

revolution

Buy 6 get 2 doses
FREE, Buy 9 get 3
doses FREE

Trifexis
(spinosad+milbemycin oxime)

Buy 6 doses, Get a
\$10 mail in rebate

Buy 12 doses, Get
a \$25 mail in
rebate

sentinel
(milbemycin oxime - lufenuron)

Buy 12 doses get
\$40 mail in rebate.

Heartgard^{Plus}
(ivermectin/pyrantel)

Buy 12 doses of
Heartgard AND 6 doses
of Nexgard get a \$25
mail-in rebate AND your
choice of an R-TIC
Tumbler or Kong Toy.
(While supplies last)

NexGard[™]
(afoxolaner) Chewables

encourage drinking so that the urine will be more dilute and the urine will be flushed out of the bladder more frequently. Additionally, this diet helps manage inter-cat stress because the food contains L-tryptophan and hydrolyzed casein; both ingredients help to produce a calm state of mind for your cats.

My other thought is that you actually have two cats, not one kitten and one cat. It is so easy to think of the younger feline as the baby in the house, however, nutritionally speaking a one year old is a mature cat. This fact simplifies the problem somewhat because you can feel comfortable feeding both kids the same food. We must be careful not to feed a kitten a prescription diet that is made for adults because kittens have very specific dietary requirements that are not met by feeding adult prescription foods. In your case, both of your cats can be fed prescription foods like Hill's C/D™ multicare urinary stress formula, or Royal Canin Veterinary Diet SO™ formula. The canned formulation would be preferred over the dry formulation.

What actually concerns me the most about your situation is that the older cat may be feeling stressed around the food bowl when the younger cat approaches. The younger cat will not be harmed by eating the same food as your older cat, as I just discussed, but the older cat shouldn't feel threatened and have to leave the area without finishing his meal. That is very stressful and could lead to other unwanted behavioral problems. We want both cats to enjoy an harmonious living experience in your home. I would recommend reducing the feeding area anxiety by one of the following methods:

1. Feed both of the cats separately. If possible feed the older cat first while the younger cat is elsewhere in the house. When it is time to feed the younger cat, the older cat will no longer be interested in eating.
2. Feed both cats the same food, but in separate dishes. This will help to establish whose food bowl belongs to whom. Hopefully the younger kitten will respect the difference as he continues to grow and mature.
3. Try the Surefeed™ automated feeding system that is specific to each cat. They will each have to wear a RFID collar or an implanted microchip to have access to his feeding station.
4. Consider a novel approach to feeding cats like the No Bowl Feeding system™ (www.nobowlcat.com) that requires the cat to hunt for his food.

Finally, please be patient, this situation won't last forever. I am certain you will find success once you employ a technique that works well for your individual situation. It is my desire that your cats enjoy good physical and emotional health for as long a period of time as possible. Give this all a try and let me know how it works out for you. I would be very interested to hear about your results!

Talk to you soon!

Noel Berger DVM, MS, DABLS