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**Crest Hill**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL



## November Hospital News

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### Employee Pet Spotlight



Pictured above is Kris. She is newly adopted by our Vet Nursing student, Kailee. She was adopted last month from the JJC Vet Tech Program in which Kailee currently studies. Kris was a scared, quiet dog while in the kennel, but is now a happy, cuddle-bug safe and loved in her new home.

## Teflon Toxicity: Protect your Parrot

In this issue, we as a hospital feel that it is very important to warn pet bird owners about the potential dangers lurking in your kitchen. Teflon is a common non-stick coating used in many appliances and it can kill your bird. Teflon coatings are used on pots, pans, waffle irons, ceramic stoves, space heaters, self cleaning ovens, and even some types of hairdryers. When heated at high temperatures, Teflon releases toxic, odorless gases called PTFE's. These gases are poisonous to your pet bird. The bird does not need to be near the appliance to be affected. Signs can be subtle when your bird is first exposed, but may then appear "fluffed", weak, have difficulty breathing, and pass away within 24 hours.

### Upcoming Event:

December 2nd!!

Save the Date for our CHAH Annual "Santa Paws" event! Come join us for pictures with Santa and your pet. Vendors will be on site along with donations going to Bialy's Wellness Foundation. Details to follow in the December Newsletter.



By the time these symptoms occur, it is generally too late. Emergency treatment would include Oxygen therapy to try and flush the gases from your bird's lungs.

Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are right around the corner. Options that are safe for cooking include ceramic and stainless steel pots and pans. Always keep your bird away from the kitchen and in a well ventilated area.

**Did you know? All radiographs done at Crest Hill Animal Hospital include an assessment by a radiology specialist. Your pet's care is of utmost importance which is why we use IDEXX consultations.**



## Declawing Alternatives

Cats need to scratch; it's good for them mentally and physically. Don't take it personally. Your cat is not intentionally trying to ruin your leather couch or brand new rug. The act of scratching in a normal behavior. They are stretching their muscles as well as marking their scent glands where they scratch. This is a euphoric experience, natural for our feline friends.

The declaw procedure is one that has been controversial for decades in the veterinary profession. Some states have already outlawed it. The procedure itself is very painful for cats. It is in fact, an amputation of the first digit in their toe. If not done correctly, this can cause a lifetime of problems for your pet. At CHAH, we take this procedure very seriously. After making sure this is the best option, the procedure is done with a surgical laser. The digits are removed with the laser. This

aids in less trauma to the feet, less bleeding, and faster healing. Nerve blocks are given to numb the areas of the digits. Multiple pain medicines are administered during the surgery and to go home as well. Our technicians will also use the K laser therapy post operative to help in recovery. It generally takes several weeks for a cat to return to their normal self following a declaw procedure. This varies depending on the cat.

So what can you do to save your kitty from going through this procedure? Regular nail trimming helps cut down on damage to furniture. Synthetic nail caps can be purchased to cover the nails and typically last 4-6 weeks. Scratching posts in multiple areas of the house. Catnip can be added to these to entice scratching behavior. Couch guards are excellent barriers that have adhesive backs and can stick to most common surfaces. Another new product we are



**Feliscratch by Feliway**



excited to offer at CHAH is Feliscratch. This is a product made of pheromones and catnip to encourage healthy scratching behavior on posts in your home. As always, talk to your veterinarian about the best options.

## Pancreatitis

### The Danger of Table Scraps

Pancreatitis is a disease that affects both dogs and cats. With the holiday's right around the corner, it is important to note your pet can be at risk for the disease. Veterinarians almost always see an increase of pancreatitis around Thanksgiving and Christmas.

First of all, the pancreas is a vital organ in your pet. The pancreas is a digestive organ that is responsible for secreting enzymes into the digestive system to digest fat, carbohydrates, and proteins. During pancreatitis these enzymes can leak and cause damage to the pancreas. Pancreatitis can be caused by several factors such as obesity, various medications and toxins, and high fatty diets. Many families like to treat their pets over the holidays by sharing their special meal with their pets, and this can be a shock to the pancreas. Any sudden high fatty food content can cause acute pancreatitis. A pet that gets into a garbage left out can do the same damage to their pancreas.

Symptoms of pancreatitis include weight loss, vomiting, weakness, dehydration, abdominal pain, restlessness, and diarrhea. Immediate veterinary care is recommended if you are suspicious that your pet has pancreatitis. Treatment includes hospitalization, fluid therapy, diet change, and medications for vomiting and pain. Always try and keep the garbage in a restricted area and never feed your pet Thanksgiving dinner. Pet safe baked treats are much safer alternative to spoil your pet this season.



Special Thanks to our Veterinary Nurses here at CHAH. They had a great time celebrating National Vet Technician Week!

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