



NVH Pawprints

Newtown Veterinary
Hospital

August 2007

Pain Management-Standard of Care, Not an Option by: Dr. Ireland VMD

The information available to veterinarians continues to increase at a staggering rate. They say the volume of information in human medicine doubles about every 7 years. Most say in veterinary medicine that it doubles about every 2 or 3 years! One field where information has exploded in the past 10 years is in the field of pain management. There was a time when veterinarians believed that if we treat post operative pain that the patients would move around too much and injure themselves. Guess what... if we treat post op pain, PATIENTS SLEEP COMFORTABLY!

While I was president of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, I had

the opportunity to sit in on some of the hearings held by the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. The Board is charged with setting and upholding the standard of care in PA. The State Board system in PA is a complaint driven process so veterinarians who come before the board have already been investigated and charged with something. What I found was that no matter what the doctor had been charged with, even if it had nothing to do with a medical case or surgical procedure, the first question the Board asked them was, "What is your pain management protocol." Pain management IS standard of care.

I am distressed at the num-

ber of veterinarians who offer little or nothing in the way of pain management and who still feel pain is an appropriate way to keep post op patients from moving around too much. Some offer pain management as an option and have the owner decide. Some still use or offer butorphenol which has long been known to have primarily sedative effects and very little pain control. Controlling pain has been scientifically proven to shorten recovery, decrease the dose of general anesthetic and speed healing. It IS good medicine, it is humane and it is the standard of care. I assume there are veterinarians who feel their

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Staff Training

Our patients are the most important part of our work. Because of this, we want to make sure that you and your four-legged friends receive the best care and help from all our staff. As owners, you have many concerns about your pets, and we as the staff at Newtown Veterinary Hospital want to make sure that all your questions and concerns are being answered correctly and in a timely manner.

The staff has grown by leaps and bounds over the past few years. Our computer system has expanded. We now perform digital ra-

diographs and digital dental radiographs, and our in-house policies continually change. New employees need guidance and training so that they are prepared to help every client and patient that walks in our doors. Existing employees need reviews and updates on any changes.

Due to the number of staff we employ and the hours we are open during the course of the week, we had to create a time for our training programs that allow all staff to attend and get the full impact of our training topics. So on the

second Wednesday of every month from 12pm to 4pm we will be **CLOSED** and will be dedicating that time to training. We want to nurture our growing staff and guide them in every aspect of their jobs, so that they will have the ability to reach their full potential and give you the best service.

However, **ALL** emergency cases will still be seen, as all of the doctors and staff will be in the building and able to assist your pet if the need arises.

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Funny Animal Facts from the Net

- Carnivorous animals will not eat another animal that has been hit by a lightning strike.
- Human birth control pills work on gorillas.
- Rabbits love licorice.
- When a giraffe's baby is born it falls from a height of six feet, normally without being hurt.
- The leg bones of a bat are so thin that no bat can walk.
- Spider Monkeys like banana daiquiris.

180 Amazing Cat Facts by: American Media Mini Mags, Inc



- Some believe that cats have the ability to see human auras - the energy field many psychics believe surrounds the body. And cats may also see the spectre of death. A woman reported that when her husband was ill, "Our cat never left his side. But one day, she leapt from the bed with her hair standing on end. She lashed in the air with her naked claws as if fighting off an invisible intruder. In horror, I turned to my husband. I was just in time to take him in my arms as he died."
- There's no question that Americans love their cats - but they come in second to the Australians as the world's greatest cat lovers! More than 33% of families down under own kitties, followed by only 30% in the U.S.
- A black cat named Mercedes used eight of her nine lives when she survived a 17,000-mile voyage in a shipping container - without food or water! The 50-day journey started in England and ended in Australia. The veterinarian who examined her called Mercedes' survival "nothing short of a miracle."

News from the Net by: Ananova

Cat survives 35 days in crate

"The dog was created especially for children. He is the God of frolic."
- Henry Ward Beecher

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."
- Mahatma Gandhi

A cat trapped in a cargo crate without food or water has survived a 35-day sea voyage from China to the US. The owner of a North Carolina shop was amazed to find the animal, weak but still alive, when he took delivery of a consignment of motorcycle helmets, reports the BBC. It is thought the cat, now named China, chewed its way into a cardboard box which was then loaded into a crate on a ship that left Shanghai on April 3. A local vet suggested cats coped well with shortages of food and water. "Usually we say that animals can only survive a few weeks without food and only a few days without water," said Michelle Misavage. "The theory is that cats have such good kidneys their bodies adjust to the lack of water and somehow they received small amounts of moisture from condensation." Eric Congdon, owner of Olympia Moto Sports, said he and a colleague called animal services when they discovered the frightened animal. Another colleague plans to adopt the cat, once it has been vaccinated and quarantined.

Albino Wallaby Spotted in Bucks, England



A rare albino wallaby has been spotted living in the relative wild of the Buckinghamshire countryside. The marsupial appears to be living near Olney, Milton Keynes, where its unusual color has caught the eye of locals. Wildlife experts put the odds of a wallaby being born albino at 100,000-1, reports the Daily Mail. IT trainer Stacey Purdy first saw the bright white animal while walking her dog. The 28-year-old saw a pair of pink eyes peeping out of the undergrowth as she strolled through the countryside. When it hopped fully into view she recognized it as a wallaby as she had recently returned from a trip to Australia where she fed them at a zoo in Queensland. She used her digital camera to capture some photographs and video footage, which she then posted on YouTube. "I just saw it pop its head up," she said. "I had fed them at Australia Zoo so I knew what it was but I was thinking how strange it was." A spokeswoman for nearby Woburn Safari Park said: "There are quite a few wallabies living in the wild in England, having escaped or been released from various places over the years. But it would be incredible if this albino wallaby has been born in the wild and it will be much more difficult for it to survive."

Websites and Links for Pet Lovers

Hot Weather Tips for Pets.

If you want to know more about hot weather and your pet you can go to the following site on the net. <http://www.vet.upenn.edu/newsandevents/news/HotWeatherTips2007.com>

Dogchannel.com or Catchannel.com

The website for dog or cat lovers.

This site gives information on all different topics from different breeds to training and what to do in case of emergency. It has many fun items, photos and a store.

Informational sites:

www.rabies.com - information on rabies

www.gentleleader.com - info on gentle leaders

www.cetdental.com - C.E.T. chews for pets

www.avidmicrochip.com - Avid Microchips

www.homeagain.com - HomeAgain microchips



What to Put in a Pet Emergency Survival Kit by: CatFancy June 2007

Pet Emergency Survival Kits are available for purchase in stores and through many online retailers, however, some items will still need to be added. Whether you buy a survival kit or make one yourself, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals suggests including the following items:

FOOD: At least three-days' worth of food in an airtight container. Also, include a few of your pets' favorite treats to comfort them or in case you need to coax them out of hiding places. If you are storing canned food use pop-top cans or include a can opener in your kit.

WATER: Include a three-day supply of water for your pet in case sanitary water is unavailable.

MEDICATIONS: A supply of your pets' medications for at least three days

is very important, since veterinary offices may be closed in an emergency.

RECORDS: Keep a copy of your pets' medical records in a plastic bag in the kit.

COLLARS/LEASHES/ETC: It will be vitally important to keep your pet with you and possibly restrained, so your kit should include leashes, collars, harnesses and possibly muzzles (if your pet becomes aggressive when under extreme stress). Make sure to have a few collars, as cats often lose their collars or slip them off.

FIRST AID KIT: Your pets' first aid kit should include bandages and medical tape, antibiotic ointment, scissors, alcohol, gloves and a pet first aid reference book.

BLANKET: It may be very cold and/or heat may not be available. A blanket will

not only keep the animal warm but may comfort it as well.

SOMETHING FAMILIAR: During the chaos of a disaster, pets will be disoriented and alarmed. Include something that is familiar to them to help calm them, such as a favorite toy, pillow or blanket.

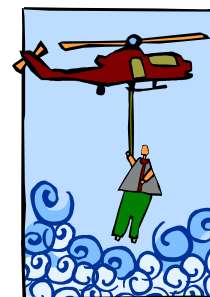
SANITATION: Include a portable litter box and litter for cats. Baggies for dogs. Consider including a small amount of bleach, with which to sanitize the area (nine parts water to one part bleach) or purify water (16 drops of bleach per gallon of water).

Change out these items every two months to ensure freshness.

For more information on pet disaster preparedness, visit www.asPCA.org

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."
-Roger Caras

"If I have any beliefs about immortality it is that certain dogs I know will go to heaven, and very very few people."
- James Thurber





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Pain Management continued

clients can not afford pain management. While it can get expensive to keep the newest, high tech drugs on hand all the time, others are safe and quite inexpensive, AND, since the board considers pain management to be the standard of care, they may be in violation of the state veterinary regulations if they are not doing something.

Animals, like humans, perceive pain. They EXPRESS pain differently but they FEEL pain the same.

Nerve endings transmit pain to the brain and the area that was traumatized (cutting with a scalpel is still trauma) releases local inflammatory chemicals which causes more pain and changes the blood flow to the area. In a perfect situation where we know in advance that a trauma is going to occur (elective surgery) we can pretreat with drugs that dull the brains perception of the pain, use drugs locally to block the nerve impulses from being sent to the brain and use anti inflammatory drugs to reduce the swelling and local changes that follow the trauma. When this approach is taken, less general anesthesia is required, patients wake up faster, they recover faster and they heal faster! Please discuss the safety, feasibility and cost of this approach with your veterinarian. And remember, if they are not doing pain management or if they are only using butorphenol, they may not be practicing at the current standard of care.

** Butorphenol - trade name Torbugesic is labeled for the treatment of pain. It was approved for this use by the FDA over a decade ago and continues to be marketed by the manufacturer as a pain medication but science does not support its claims. It has been proven to have almost no effect on pain when used orally and very short (20 minutes to just a few hours) activity when given as an injection. The veterinarians across the country who specialize in pain management do not recommend its use for pain.**

Frequently Asked Questions about Heartworm Prevention by: www.heartwormsociety.org

Why do dogs need to be blood tested before starting heartworm medication?

Before starting a preventive program, all dogs that could possibly be infected with mature heartworms should be tested. Giving heartworm preventives to dogs having heartworms can lead to severe reactions that could be harmful or even fatal to the dog. Depending on how heavy the infection is and which preventive is being used would determine the severity of the

reaction. The rapid kill off of large numbers of microfilaria in the blood stream is what can cause this type of serious reaction. Puppies under seven months of age can be started on heartworm preventives without first testing. That is because it can take up to 6 1/2 months after being bitten by infected mosquitoes before the dog will test positive. The puppy should be tested four to seven months after starting heartworm preventive to detect any infection acquired during the first few

Our four-legged friends who have passed away

Hunter Sondermeyer, Stripe Gummere Jr., Sergio Damiano, Yanny Fishman, Dakota Young, Pepper Houmas, Puffy Egnoto, Bentley Williams, Mollie Fine, Wrigley Benner, Gracie Bancroft, Maggie

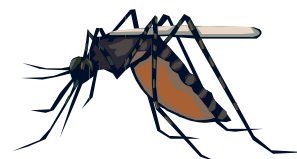


Brown, Trint Ogletree, Celia Commodaro, Barney Russo, Hope Godwin, Bootsie Haussler, Brittany Van Strat, Rudi Meltzer, Reece Yenchik, Cara Lowright, Kailey McDade.

We Will Miss Them All

CALENDAR

- August 4th - Crystal's 5th Anniversary
- August 8th - 12pm-4pm CLOSED for training
- August 20th - Dr Palm's 9th Anniversary, Heather's 6th Anniversary (PT), Staff Meeting 1pm-3pm
- September 1st-3rd - CLOSED Labor Day Weekend
- September 12th - 12pm-4pm CLOSED for training
- September 15th - PET FAIR 10am to 4pm



months of life.

Are heartworms more common in certain areas of the United States?

Heartworms have been found in dogs native to all 50 states. The highest infection rates in dogs are observed within 150 miles of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and along the Mississippi River and its major tributaries.

Is there an effective natural prevention for heartworm?

No, there is no natural prevention for heartworms.

Is there a vaccine for heartworm disease?

At this point in time, there is not a commercially available vaccine for the prevention for heartworm disease in dogs or cats. However, there are research scientists looking at this possibility. There are a variety of pharmaceutical products administered either orally or topically that effectively prevent the development of heartworm disease in dogs and cats.