

Independence Veterinary Clinic



Quarterly Newsletter Volume 7



What We've Been Up To

- **Megan got engaged on December 2nd—be sure to congratulate her when you see her.**
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We are closed for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, and New Years Day to celebrate the holidays with our families.**
- **On November 8th we held our annual Client Referral Appreciation dinner at Romano's Macaroni Grill.**

Omega 3 Fatty Acids

We now carry 3V Snip Tip Caps and 3V Free Form Liquid Omega 3 Fatty Acids at Independence Veterinary Clinic. Omega 3 fatty acids can be very beneficial to your pet in many ways. 3V caps help ensure your pet is getting the maximum benefit from the omega 3's. Not all fatty acids are the same—some are absorbed differently by the body. 3V caps have maximum bioavailability by using free form fatty acids. Free form fatty acids eliminate all non-beneficial components of the fish oil which results in the body absorbing more of the essential components. Other forms require metabolism by the pancreas

which results in some nutrients being lost. 3V caps have very high potency, so fewer product has to be given to your pet to achieve the desired results. The use of anchovies as a source of omegas 3's as opposed to the larger fish some other brands use decreases the risk of having heavy metals and other contaminants.

Omega 3 fatty acids have many health benefits. They support immune and joint health by helping to reduce inflammation caused by every day activities. They also contain a very potent antioxidant form of vitamin E. DHA contained in the caps helps to improve and enhance neurological development as well as cognitive ability. Other benefits include promoting a healthy skin and coat, cardiovascular health, and they help maintain normal kidney function. If you think your pet is showing signs of arthritis, ask us about the use of omega 3's in conjunction with Dasuquin—a joint supplement containing glucosamine and chondroitin. The use of these two supplements together may help to eliminate the need for non-steroidal medications such as Rimadyl or Metacam.

The free form liquid comes in a convenient pump bottle and can be given over your pets' food. If you prefer a capsule form, the unique snip tip allows for minimal mess and can also be given over food. Even if your pet has no obvious health problems, 3V caps can help maintain your pet's health.

Client Referral Dinner

On November 8th IVC hosted our 2nd annual Client Referral Appreciation Dinner. This event is an opportunity for our doctors and staff to show our top referring clients that we appreciate all they do to help make our clinic the wonderful, growing practice it is today. Guests gathered at Romano's Macaroni Grill to share great food, stories, and laughs. A good time was had by all!

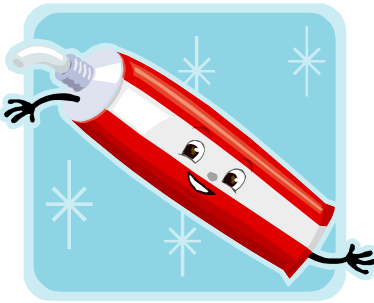
Want to come to next year's dinner? Becoming a top referring client is easy to do. Simply tell all your fur loving family and friends about our practice! We even have handy Client Referral Cards that you can pick up next time you come by and hand out to all the pet lovers you know. This card gives your friends all the information they need to contact us to set up an appointment. In addition, it entitles them to a free pedicure for their pet!

Our receptionists keep track of all your referrals so they we can send you great gifts of appreciation! These include free pedicures, baths, gift certificates for sweet treats, and more. We thank our loyal clients who help to keep our practice growing! The best compliment you can give is the trust of sending a loved one to our clinic!

February is Pet Dental Month!

Like us, dogs and cats suffer from dental disease. Their teeth are constantly under attack from bacteria responsible for periodontal disease. These germs can, in some cases, enter the blood stream and may contribute to heart, kidney, and liver disease. About 85% of dogs over 3 years of age suffer from some degree of dental disease. Such statistics should alert owners to the importance of good oral hygiene.

Dental disease is caused by the accumulation of bacterial plaque along the surface of the tooth and gum line. Over time, the plaque hardens into tartar and accumulates under your pet's gumline. The accumulation of bacteria reaches the connective tissues that anchor the tooth to the bone. Bacteria will continue to eat away at the animals teeth causing gingivitis, and if left untreated periodontitis.



Brushing is the most effective form of home dental care in fighting periodontal disease. It may be supplemented by food specially formulated to promote oral hygiene and aid in the fight against plaque and tartar. We also carry an oral rinse intended to kill the bacteria that causes plaque, and CET chews that are coated with doggie toothpaste and an antiseptic.

A regular examination of your pets mouth will help to identify the appearance of tartar. Bad breath or red gums are indications that you should make an appointment with one of our caring doctors today.

Make an appointment for a dental prophy in the month of February and get a complimentary dental kit!

The Truth About Cats and Dogs

Some pet owners have notions about their pets that aren't always accurate. In this quarterly newsletter, Independence Veterinary Clinic breaks down **misconceptions** surrounding some of the more commonly held beliefs about cats and dogs.

- **Bad breath is natural in dogs and cats.** Long lasting bad breath is not normal. Most of the time, periodontal disease is the cause; however, other conditions, such as diabetes or liver/intestinal/kidney disease, can also be to blame.
- **Dogs and cats can heal themselves by licking their injuries.** Although initial licking can clean a wound, extensive licking can actually make it worse. Remedies to prevent pets from licking include applying bitter-tasting products, covering the area, or using an Elizabethan collar.
- **Feeding dry food and treats will prevent dental disease.** Although some specially formulated foods can help maintain a pet's oral health, this step alone usually is not enough to prevent periodontal disease. At-home care and regular dental cleanings are essential.
- **Spaying and neutering don't provide any health benefits.** In fact, they can prevent or lower the risk of certain diseases, including prostate disease and breast, ovarian, testicular, and uterine cancer.

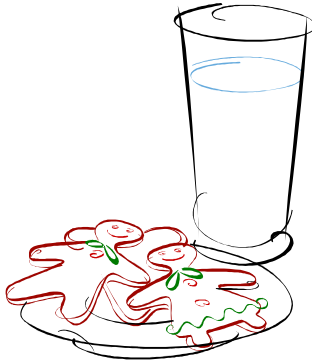


Jamies' Halfway Cookies

Traveling With Pets

You will need:

- 1 cup shortening (1/2 cup oleo and 1/2 cup Crisco)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 egg yolks, slightly beaten
- 1/4 tsp. soda
- 1 tbsp. water
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups flour (all purpose)
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 6 oz. package chocolate chips



Cream shortening and sugar together. Add egg yolks, water and vanilla. Blend well. Add dry ingredients, which have been sifted together 3 times. Mix well. Pat out on greased, shallow pan (13x9 inches). Beat the 2 egg whites stiff; add 1 cup brown sugar. Stir in the chocolate chips. Spread on top of the dough. Bake at 375 degrees for 21-25 minutes. Cool well before cutting.

Older pets that have not had a recent physical examination should undergo a complete senior workup, including blood work and urinalysis, to determine whether traveling is in their best interest. Urgent signs to look for while on vacation are:

- **bloated abdomen**
- **change in appetite, water consumption, or energy level**
- **elimination problems**
- **excessive scratching or noticeable skin irritation**
- **respiratory abnormalities**
- **seizures**
- **vomiting or diarrhea.**



Many destinations and airlines require a health certificate and proof of vaccinations for pets. Even for those pets that are just heading to a friend's house for a long weekend, a checkup is a good idea.

During your visit with us we will recommend the right vaccinations or preventatives for the trip. We will make sure you have our phone number handy for non-emergency health or behavior related questions. We will also recommend a veterinary clinic in the destination area, if applicable. In addition, make sure you pack enough food, supplies, and medication for your pet for the trip (plus a bit extra as a buffer in case the return home is delayed.) If your pet is prone to travel anxiety or motion sickness, the veterinarians may prescribe anti-nausea drugs.

We may determine that your pet is better suited staying at a kennel or with a pet sitter or family friend. Examples of pets that should probably not travel include those that:

- **are pregnant**
- **are untrained or not house broken**
- **are younger than 2 months or have reached senior status**
- **bark excessively**
- **have a serious chronic disease, severe anxiety, or a physical impairment**

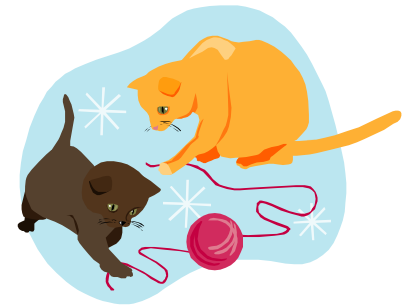
It is a great idea to have your pet microchipped. A microchip is a tiny chip implanted in the loose skin between the shoulder blades. This is quick and virtually painless, similar to receiving a vaccine. Microchips remain reliable throughout a pet's lifetime, so if a pet is lost at any time, a scanner can detect the chip to identify the pet and locate the owner.

Holiday Dangers



Just a few things to keep in mind during the holiday season:

- Keep all tinsel and string away from your pets, especially cats. It could cause an obstruction and may even require surgery. Symptoms include vomiting, lethargy, and/or diarrhea.
- Keep all pets inside during cold to below freezing temperatures. Just think, would you want to eat, sleep, and live outside in the cold?
- Watch your pets around your Christmas tree at all times especially the ornaments. You would be surprised what your pets will eat.
- More candles are lit and burning during this season. Make sure to be in the same room with the candle if your pet is around. This could be an extremely dangerous fire hazard.
- No table scraps! This will only lead to diarrhea and possibly vomiting. Resist the urge to give your pet those leftover turkey bones—they can splinter and do a lot of damage.



If you follow these guidelines, you will have a stress-free, peaceful holiday season.



Highlighting Our Team



Jamie Hardie

Jamie has been with us as a receptionist for about 3 months. She has 3 dogs—an 8 year old beagle mix named Addison, a 2 year old Jack Russell Terrier named Chilli Dawg, and a 3 year old terrier mix named Fox Sweeties.



Amber Helms

Amber has been with us as a Nurse for 8 months. She has a 9 month old husky mix named Archie and a 5 year old cat named Gracie.

2328 Crown Point
Executive Drive
Charlotte, NC 28227
Phone: 704-841-1313
Fax: 704-847-8893
www.independencevet.com