

INDEPENDENCE VETERINARY CLINIC

Volume 21

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~What we've been up to~

October 2011 Weber and Harley Celebrated their 2nd b-day, IVC team members dressed up as Farm Animals for this years Howl-O-Ween and carved pumpkins!

November 2011 Superior Studios came by to take photos of our 4-legged fur babies, We rewarded our Referring Clients of 2011 with a \$25.00 account credit. Also, all clients that made referrals in November received an additional \$25.00 credit. We ended November with a Pot Luck Thanksgiving lunch for the staff. November of 2012 look forward to a Veteran's Discount!

On December 1st, 2011 we celebrated The Bryan's 7th Anniversary as owners of Independence Veterinary Clinic. We have worked very hard to make improvements every year. We continue to strive to make our clients and patients feel special, as we know how stressful it can be to bring your pets to the veterinarian. We try our best to provide exceptional client service, so please let us know if you have any additional suggestions to keep the clinic improving. Your feedback is very important to us! We had our first Senior 55 or older 10% discount month. We celebrated Christmas with fun games and gifts, plus ate some yummy food! Thanks to all our clients who brought us yummy treats this Christmas!!



National Pet Holidays

January 14th is Dress Up Your Pet Day

February Responsible Pet Owners Month, Have a Heart for Chained Dogs Week - February 7-14, Pet Theft Awareness Day - February 14, Spay Day USA, Feb. 23, National Dog Biscuit Day - February 23, & Pet Dental Health Month

March 23rd is National Puppy Day



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Special points of interest:

- Benefits of having a cat indoors
- There are two forms of diabetes in dogs
- Peanut Butter Yogurt Treats
- National Pet Holidays





Keeping Your Indoor Cat Happy



Benefits of having a cat indoors: safety from trauma (people, pets, vehicles and poisons), reduces risk of contracting Feline Leukemia, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, other infectious diseases and parasitic diseases.

Drawbacks include: behavioral and medical consequences such as urination problems, feline aggression, compulsive disorders and obesity.

What you can do to keep your indoor cat happy and healthy:

This is a typical cat's day:

40% of time spent sleeping

22% of time spent resting

15% of time spent grooming

14% of time spent HUNTING

3% traveling

2% feeding



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Indoor cats are sometimes deprived of their normal hunting time, so your job is to keep his attention and energy engaged in appropriate "hunting" games. Provide a combination of security, complexity, the ability to achieve objectives (games/puzzles) and novelty. **Security:** Cats prefer to have protected hiding spaces. Preferably, these spaces should be warm, dry, and protected on at least one side - preferably two sides, like a corner of a shelf. This helps assure they cannot be approached from behind. You can supplement his environment with three dimensional items, like newspaper huts, paper bags, cardboard boxes, etc. Make sure to routinely remove and replace items to keep things interesting and novel for your cat. **Games to achieve objectives:** Hide his normal food in small bowls around the house so he has to "hunt" to find it. Don't hide it in places he may be frightened to enter, like the laundry room, and don't hide food where

he will never find it. When his food gets old, he will lose interest. This provides him with intellectual stimulation, and he gets a reward at the end of a long game. The best game to play with your cat is this: get a balled up piece of paper, spray it with commercial catnip (try a pet store), scrunch it loudly, toss it across the room, and convince him to bat it around and chase it. Also consider food-stuffed toys, like the Kitty Kong. Place a treat inside the Kitty Kong which allows him to eat his 'prey' after figuring out how to get it. This also mimics tearing open his prey and bringing it back to his owner to praise him - as unappetizing to you as that may sound, it will definitely stimulate his mind! Cats also enjoy used hair bands (preferably yours), feather toys you can drag along the ground and float above his head, and a mouse on a spring. Be sure to surprise your pet with these toys to prevent ingestion. To keep his interest in play-time, and to keep him from attacking you because he's bored, take short breaks between playing with each new toy. Change his toys frequently to avoid possible disinterest.

Diabetes in Dogs

There are two forms of diabetes in dogs: diabetes insipidus and diabetes mellitus. Diabetes insipidus is a very rare disorder that results in failure to regulate body water content. The more common type of diabetes is diabetes mellitus and is most often seen in dogs 5 years of age or older. There is a congenital form that occurs in puppies, but this is not common. Diabetes mellitus is a disease of the pancreas. This is a small but vital organ that is located near the stomach. It has two significant populations of cells. One group of cells produces the enzymes necessary for proper digestion. The other group, called beta-cells, produces the hormone called insulin. Simply put, diabetes mellitus is a failure of the pancreas to regulate blood sugar. **The Types of Diabetes:** In humans, two types of diabetes mellitus have been discovered. Both types are similar in that there is a failure to regulate blood sugar, but the basic mechanisms of disease differ somewhat between the two groups.

1. Type I, or Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus, results from total or near-complete destruction of the beta-cells. This is the only type of diabetes known in dogs. As the name implies, dogs with this type of diabetes require insulin injections to stabilize blood sugar.
2. Type II, or Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus, is different because some insulin-producing cells remain. However, the amount produced is insufficient, there is a delayed response in secreting it, and the tissues of the body are relatively resistant to it. People with this form may be treated with an oral drug that stimulates the remaining functional cells to produce or release insulin in an adequate amount to normalize blood sugar. Because Type II diabetes does not occur in dogs, oral medications are not appropriate for treating diabetic dogs.



The Purpose of Insulin: The role of insulin is much like that of a gatekeeper: It stands at the surface of body cells and opens the door, allowing glucose to leave the blood stream and pass inside the cells. Glucose is a vital substance that provides much of the energy needed for life, and it must work *inside* the cells. Without an adequate amount of insulin, glucose is unable to get into the cells. It accumulates in the blood, setting in motion a series of events that can ultimately prove fatal.

When insulin is deficient, the cells become starved for a source of energy. In response to this, the body starts breaking down stores of fat and protein to use as alternative energy sources. As a consequence, the dog eats more; thus, we have weight loss in a dog with a ravenous appetite. The body tries to eliminate the excess glucose by excreting it in the urine. However, glucose (blood sugar) attracts water; thus, urine glucose takes with it large quantities of the body's fluids, resulting in the production of a large amount of urine. To avoid dehydration, the dog drinks more and more water. Thus, we have the four classical signs of diabetes: Weight loss, Ravenous appetite, Increased water consumption, Increased urination.

The diagnosis of diabetes mellitus is based on three criteria: the four classical clinical signs, the presence of a persistently high level of glucose in the blood stream, and the presence of glucose in the urine. The normal level of glucose in the blood is 80-120 mg/dl. It may rise to 250-300 mg/dl following a meal. However, diabetes is the only common disease that will cause the blood glucose level to rise above 400 mg/dl. Some diabetic dogs will have a glucose level as high as 800 mg/dl, although most will be in the range of 400-600 mg/dl. To keep the body from losing its needed glucose, the kidneys do not allow glucose to be filtered out of the blood stream until an excessive level is reached. This means that dogs with a normal blood glucose level will not have glucose in the urine. Diabetic dogs, however, have excessive amounts of glucose in the blood, so it will be present in the urine. Consistency is vital to proper management of the diabetic dog. Your dog needs consistent administration of medication, consistent feeding, and a stable, stress-free lifestyle. To best achieve this, it is preferred that your dog live indoors. Although that is not essential, indoor living removes many uncontrollable variables that can disrupt regulation. The first step in treatment is to alter your dog's diet. Diets that are lower in sugar and slower to be digested are preferred. This means that the dog does not have to process a large amount of sugar at one time. Your dog's feeding routine is also important. It is very important that you accurately measure the amount of food that is consumed. The foundation for regulating blood glucose is the administration of insulin by injection. Many people are initially fearful of giving insulin injections. If this is your initial reaction, consider these points.

- 1) Insulin does not cause pain when it is injected.
- 2) The injections are made with very tiny needles that your dog hardly feels.
- 3) The injections are given just under the skin in areas in which it is almost impossible to cause damage to any vital organ.

Please do not decide whether to treat your dog with insulin until we have demonstrated the injection technique. You will be pleasantly surprised at how easy it is.



