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Special points of interest:

- Canine Influenza Update
- What is a Tonometer?
- Kidney Disease Nutrition
- Sphynx Spotlight
- Irish Terrier spotlight

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Nutrition Focus– Kidney Disease

As our dogs and cats are living longer because we are providing better care for them we have started seeing an increase in kidney disease. The kidney is the animals filtering organ, it works to conserve water and electrolytes like potassium and it also filters out unneeded extra protein and excess stomach acid. Many owners who see their pets drink a lot of water believe that this is a good thing when in reality it can be the first sign that their pet’s kidneys are unable to conserve water. The pet starts to drink more water to try and keep themselves from becoming dehydrated. For cat owners, they will see larger urine clumps in their litter box and they will start to see their cat more often at the water bowl and also drinking for longer periods of time. Kidney disease can be diagnosed with a blood test to evaluate BUN and Creatinine as well as the new SDMA test offered by IDEXX laboratories as well as measuring the pets urine specific gravi-

ty, which is how well the urine is concentrated.

One way to help prevent kidney disease is to make sure you are feeding age appropriate diets. Puppy and kitten foods are not designed for pets over the age of two years old. Pets who are seven years and older should be eating a senior diet. Please be sure to check the food labels on your pets food, any bag or canned food that is labeled “ALL LIFE STAGES” is a puppy or kitten food. Senior pets should eat senior diets because they are often lower in protein. Diets that are grain free should be checked to evaluate the protein levels as the kidneys have to work harder to eliminate. The new trend towards grain free diets are often proving to be “too much of a good thing” for our senior pets. Also, pets who get a large amount of meat, like ground beef or chicken, as part of their regular diet are most likely getting too much protein.

If your pet have been diagnosed with kidney disease please play close attention to diets recommendations given by your veterinarian. Prescription Kidney Diets like Purina Veterinary NF and hills Prescription Diet KD have reduced protein levels as well as adjusted levels of phosphorus and potassium to help pets with kidneys disease get what they need and to no further damage their kidneys. These diets still contain adequate protein, just not excessive amounts. We also often recommend that canned kidney diets as a big portion of a pets diet because they help give the pet additional needed moisture that they require. Pets with kidney disease cannot always get their needed hydration just by drinking water.

Nutrition can play a critical role in kidney disease in our senior pets, please call us if you have and question regarding your senior pets!

CANINE INFLUENZA UPDATE

Over the last few years different parts of the country have seen outbreaks of canine influenza. This virus is causes coughing and sneezing with nasal discharge and sometimes causes a high fever. It is caused by two different influenza viruses, H3N8 and H3N2. in response to the outbreaks vaccines have been developed. We are currently carrying one vac-

cine that will protect dogs against both viruses. We are recommending any owners with dogs that might be at risk to get vaccinated. At risk dogs include: those that travel, those that attended doggie day care

facilities, those that compete in dog shows, and those that board. Dogs will receive an initial vaccine and then receive a booster vaccine one month after that is good for one year. The state of Oregon has not had any reported cases but the state public health veterinarian is encroaching dog owners to have their pets vaccinated.



“A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.”

— [Josh Billings](#)

“Time spent with a cat is never wasted.”

— [Colette](#)

YOU CAN MEASURE MY PETS BLOOD PRESSURE?

Dogs and cats are often affected by high blood pressure, just like humans. High blood pressure in pets can often be a symptom of many diseases like hyperthyroidism in cats and heart disease in dogs. Side effects of long term high blood pressure can include vision loss and damage to the kidneys. Dr. Robinson is able to measure your pet's blood pressure during any exam



Dr. Robinson recommends blood pressure

screenings to be done for any pet that is over the age of seven. This can be done at their annual physical exam and is often included in a senior wellness packages that includes lab work and a urinalysis. Lab work and urinalysis are other good tools to diagnose senior pet issues. Using these tools we can often diagnose diseases earlier in your pets lives to help keep them in your family longer.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Eyes are one of the most important parts of your pets body, a part that can often be overlooked because diseases affecting the eyes can e hard to see until they are seriously affected. A tonometer in an instrument that Dr. Robinson uses to measure intraocular pressure in your pets eyes. I am sure you are thinking, “what is intraocular pressure?!” this is a measurement of the pressure inside your pets eyes. Intraocular pressure helps us to screen for glaucoma, a disease that can be very common in many dog and cat breeds. If the intraocular pressure is elevated we know that the eyes draining mechanism is not working properly. Sudden increases in intraocular

pressure can result in permanent vision loss and is also very painful to your pet.

Cat breeds that are at risk for glaucoma include Siamese and Burmese, but

and Lhasa Apsos.

Signs of glaucoma include redness to the eyes, bulging of the eyes and often pets will wink or hold them closed because of the pain.



any breed can be affected. There are many more dog breeds that are at rick of developing glaucoma which include: Cocker Spaniels, Golden Retrievers, Beagle, Jack Russell Terrier, Boston Terrier, and other short nosed breeds like Shih Tzus

Dr. Robinson just recently brought in the new Accupen digital tonometer to help screen pets for early diagnosis of glaucoma. We currently recommend all pets age seven or older get an annual intraocular presser screening. Any pet that has been diagnose with glaucoma to get a reading every three months once the pressure are controlled well on medication.

Please call the clinic if you have questions regarding your pets eyes.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPHYNX

Sphynx are medium size cats and the males tend to be larger than the females. These cats are very



loveable and will often be found getting themselves into trouble around the house. Although they prefer to be around their humans most of the time, they also

enjoy company of dogs and other breeds of cats.

The Sphynx are not always completely hairless.

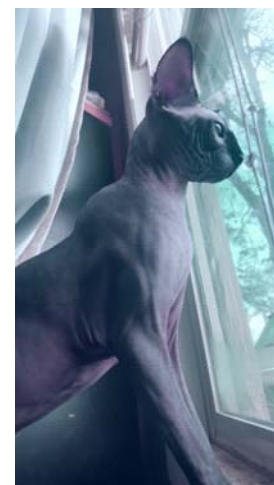
There is usually some hair present on the nose, ears and sometimes on the toes and tail. Some people say that the texture of the Sphynx skin is a lot like suede.

Along with be hairless, the skin of the Sphynx is loose on the body which give the cat a wrinkling look. Caring for a sphynx is not always an easy task. Since they lack hair, which normal-

ly absorbs body oils, these cats need periodic bathing to help with clogged pores and oil control. Regular nail care and ear cleaning is also a must with these cats.

The Sphynx is generally a healthy breed of cat but can be prone to some conditions including, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and hereditary myopathy. The Sphynx is also prone to some skin conditions including, urticarial pigmentos and cutaneous mastocytosis.

Famous people that have owned a Sphynx: Jennifer Aniston, Lady Gaga, Steven Tyler, and Kat Von D!



SPOTLIGHT ON THE IRISH TERRIER

The Irish Terrier is one of the oldest and most uncommon of the terrier breeds. They were first recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1885.



They have a characteristic red to golden red wiry coat and they weigh between 25-35 pounds. As their name suggest they originated in Ireland and

were bred to be hunting dogs to hunt and kill vermin. They are loyal to their owner but can be aggressive to other dogs.

In general, they are a very healthy breed. There are some reports of hypothyroidism and possible cataract development as they get older.

We have one Irish terrier that comes into the clinic. "Murphy" only visits us one or twice yearly when he travels up from California to visit his human grandparents. Murphy's dad often has stories of him making himself at home where ever he may be. One day Murphy escaped from his dog walker and made his way through a strangers dog door and onto their couch and ignored the

residents dogs. Murphy continued to sit on the couch until he was picked up by his dad. Needless to say this is a very intelligent breed that can be stubborn but is very faithful!

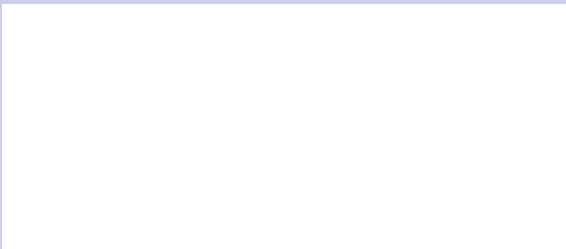
For more information on this breed please check out www.akc.org



Such short little lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day. It is amazing how much love and laughter they bring into our lives and even how much closer we become with each other because of them. John Grogan



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MONTH.

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Specials