



THE EVF TIMES

EGLINTON VETERINARY FACILITIES

SEPTEMBER 2012

MEDICAL/ROYAL CANIN DIETS FOR CATS ARE CHANGING!

If your feline friend(s) currently eat one of our feline prescription diets, please see page 4

THERAPY LASER

We are pleased with the response to our new laser therapy program. See page 3

HOLIDAY NOTES

The clinic will be closed on Thanksgiving Monday

INTESTINAL PARASITES

Why is the veterinarian asking for a fecal sample? Why should I deworm my pet? We consider parasite control an important part of preventative health care for our patients, and spend a lot of time discussing topics such as fleas, ticks and heartworm disease. However, intestinal parasite control is also important, particularly in Ontario, where our pets are in constant contact with wildlife.

Cats and dogs in North America are the favorite nesting grounds of four principal groups of worms and a few species of microscopic protozoa. The four worms are roundworms, tapeworms, hookworms, and whipworms. The protozoa are coccidia, toxoplasma, and giardia,

Parasite infestations may cause any or all of these symptoms: diarrhea (perhaps with blood); weight loss; dry hair; general poor appearance; and vomiting (rarely with worms in the vomit). However, some infections cause few or no symptoms; in fact, some worm eggs or larvae can be dormant in the dog's body and activated only in times of stress. For example, roundworms and hookworms may lay dormant until the later stages of pregnancy when they activate and infest the soon-to-be-born puppies and kittens.

Keep in mind that the goal of a parasite to stay in the safety of the intestinal tract; if they come out, they'll die!

Therefore, parasites in all species have adapted to avoid detection. Most of the parasites that we deal with are microscopic, or, too small to be seen in the stool. Clients rarely see an adult roundworm or tapeworm segment.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR INTESTINAL PARASITE PREVENTION

- Deworm your pet annually, or more often depending on possibility of exposure.
- Routine fecal examinations for your pet 1-2 times yearly. Not every deworming medication is effective against every parasite. Proper testing is important.
- Practice good hygiene after picking up pet waste. Wash hands thoroughly.
- Pick up pet waste daily. Do not use as fertilizer for your garden.
- Keep pets free of fleas.
- Wear shoes in gardens, parks, playgrounds and sand boxes where animal stools may be present (hookworms can penetrate human skin).
- Clean cat litter boxes daily.
- Do not allow your pet to drink from standing water or streams.

Please bookmark our website

www.eglintonvet.com

Blog entries, case studies and news items are added regularly. We also have on-line forms via the website that allow you to

Send appointment requests

Send medication refill requests

Register a new client

Fun articles and information at our Facebook page



found via a link on the website or at: www.facebook.com/EglintonVeterinaryFacilities

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INTESTINAL PARASITES (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

The elusive nature of these parasites is precisely why a stool sample is required in order to discover which parasite is present; the presence of parasites or eggs can only be detected microscopically. We routinely ask that clients collect fecal samples from pets, both as part of 'annual checkups' and when the pet is ill, particularly in cases of diarrhea.

Once parasite identification is made (or if a doctor is treating presumptively), the proper deworming medication must be administered. With some intestinal worms, treatment of the environment also may be needed.

Not all parasites are treated in the same way and medications are selected carefully. Most treatments are oral medications, taken only for a few days. However, periodic checking is necessary to be sure that all intestinal worms have been eliminated. A veterinarian may request an additional fecal sample at a later date.

Once a problem is treated, it makes sense to prevent reinfection. Bowel movements are the greatest source of most worms. To avoid worms, keep your pet away from areas where other animals have relieved themselves and dispose of bowel movements as quickly as possible in your own yard.



Roundworm



Microscopic giardia

One last note is that many of the intestinal parasites carried by pets can be transmitted to humans. This rarely occurs, but people should use caution when handling feces, particularly if young, old or immunocompromised.



DVM CORNER: IS YOUR PET IN PAIN?

DR. BEV BATEMAN

One of the great challenges for pet owners and veterinarians is to determine if an animal may be in pain. For the most part, your pet(s) will do everything that they can to avoid showing pain, as it would be seen as a sign of weakness among other animals.

The most common culprits behind pain are trauma and arthritis, but pain is also a component in many medical conditions. Regardless of the reason for a visit to the vet, our doctors will look for signs of pain during a physical examination. We will examine your pet's body and feel each area to check for lumps, bumps, sensitivity, swelling, inflammation, or tenderness. Our exam may include moving your pet's joints and feeling their response to the movement. Dogs and cats rarely cry in pain during the exam, but we would hope to identify areas that they are guarding.

Your pet will give you clues when pain is present. Please watch for the following and call us to report abnormalities or changes in your pet's behavior.

- Limping/ lameness
- Posture changes
- Panting
- Snapping when touched
- Restlessness / being less active
- Hesitation going up stairs
- Lack of appetite
- Dilated pupils
- Vocalization
- Inappropriate urination
- Sudden behavior changes

There are also changes in behavior specific to dental pain, which is a common problem in our companion animals (80% of pets over 4 years old have been found to have oral disease).

- An odd head tilt
- Passing up treats
- Avoiding crunchy food
- Eating wet food only
- Not eating at all
- Taking longer to eat
- Drooling
- Odor involving the mouth
- Dogs avoiding chew toys or bones

Depending on the cause of a pet's pain, there may be any number of ways to address the problem. Acute problems such as a muscle strain or sore tooth will be addressed differently than chronic problems such as arthritis. Along with pain medications, we may recommend a weight loss program, supplements and the use of adjunct therapies such as laser therapy .

There are many different prescription drugs used for pain in pets; some are effective alone, or may need to be used in combination. One of the complexities of veterinary care is that medications are metabolized differently by different species. In addition, dosages can vary due to age, weight and breed. For example, many medication used in dogs cannot be used in cats.

Did you know?

Tylenol (acetaminophen) used commonly for pain and fever in humans is **highly toxic to cats**. One dose can cause death.

Any medications prescribed by your vet must be used exactly as ordered

Never use human medications for pets without checking with a vet

Always advise us of the use of herbs/natural remedies to prevent adverse events when using medications

TECH TALK: WHAT HAPPENS DURING SURGERY?

One of the key roles of Eglinton Vet's veterinary technicians is to assist our doctors in procedures involving anesthesia, including surgeries or dental evaluations and cleaning. Since surgical and anesthetic procedures are probably the most important procedures your pet will ever undergo, we put your pet's safety and comfort ahead of everything else. Prior to any procedure, our team will attempt to impart as much information as possible, but we thought that it would be valuable here to outline some specifics as to how we care for your friend when they are admitted to our facility for surgery.

We ask that any pets coming into the hospital for a procedure under anesthesia (dentistry or surgery) are fasted for 12 hours prior, and arrive between 7:30 and 8am that morning. At that time an owner will meet with one of our veterinary technicians who will confirm procedural details, go over the events of the day and answer any questions you may have.



Once admitted, each pet will have the following on their day of anesthesia:

- A thorough physical examination
- A treatment plan tailored by the doctor to their specific health status, age, and breed
- Mandatory pre-operative blood testing if not yet done
- Intravenous catheter placement which allows for (a) IV medications in emergency situations, and (b) the delivery of intravenous fluids to support your pet's organs, blood pressure and electrolyte balance
- Drugs that are chosen using the shortest-acting effect possible
- Mandatory pain management
- Endotracheal intubation to allow oxygen supplementation and a clear airway
- Isoflorane gas anesthesia, which provides a great safety margin and rapid recovery
- Warming grids to maintain the pet's body temperature during surgery
- Monitoring of vital body parameters with EKG, oxygen, pulse and blood pressure monitors
- Constant supervision by our team

Our team is happy to answer any questions that you have about your pet's anesthesia!



Veterinarians prepare for surgery much like you would see in the human field, scrubbing their hands/arms, and using sterile gowns, gloves, masks, caps and equipment each time. If a surgical incision is to be made, that area is shaved and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Each pet is connected to electronic monitoring of vital signs during their anesthesia, however, our technicians are vital to insure the patient's safety; they act as a second set of eyes, ears and hands for the surgeon, monitoring the pet during the entire procedure.

After a procedure is done, the pet is kept warm and monitored closely by the team. In most cases, our doctor will release patients late in the day, when they have had adequate time to recover. However, some pets do need to stay overnight in the hospital to receive additional care, including pain control. When you pick up your pet, our staff will cover any home care instructions including any medications sent home.

CASE STUDIES: LASER THERAPY TALES

We were very excited to add this treatment modality to our practice in July 2012. Like our laparoscopic surgery program, the goal with laser therapy is to improve the quality of life of our patients in a non-invasive way. So far, we have seen success with the laser treatments, and also been pleased with how easy the sessions are for the patients. In most cases, the client will act as an assistant and stay with their pet for the duration of a treatment session.

Examples of cases treated using our laser:

- ◆ Arthritis of multiple joints, including elbows, knees, hips and spine
- ◆ Acute injuries to knees and elbows
- ◆ Nerve pain, especially back pain following injury or surgery
- ◆ Skin lesions such as lick granulomas and irritated cysts

Visit <http://www.eglintonvet.com/laser-therapy/> for more information

BENEFITS OF LASER THERAPY

NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT
NO SEDATION NECESSARY
NO SIDE EFFECTS
RAPID RESULTS
SPEEDS HEALING PROCESS

**PLEASE CALL US TO DISCUSS
LASER THERAPY. YOUR
FRIEND WILL THANK YOU!**

DRUG SHORTAGE PLAGUES VETS

Over the past several months, regulatory and manufacturing issues with drugs have been creating problems in both human and veterinary health care.

- ⇒ One of our problems stems from the US Food and Drug administration (FDA) suspending production at the Novartis plant in Nebraska, which produces *Interceptor* and *Sentinel*, two commonly used parasite prevention products. As a result, many of our clients have been switched to alternate flea and/or heartworm preventions for this summer.
- ⇒ In March 2012, Sandoz Canada, a pharmaceutical manufacturer with a plant in Boucherville Quebec announced they were temporarily suspending or discontinuing production of some pharmaceuticals. This action stemmed from a warning notice sent by the FDA indicating that Sandoz Canada manufacturing practices must be improved. This has resulted in a very limited availability of some human drugs used in veterinary practice, in particular some anesthetic and pain management products. Sandoz has indicated that no human drugs will be delivered to veterinary wholesalers before the end of 2012 as the priority is to supply human hospitals first.

This situation is having an impact on the way we practice. We have found it necessary to make substitutions for many common medications and even change our anesthetic protocols for routine surgery. Thank you for your patience if we have been unable to supply you with medications that you are used to or if we have had to reschedule routine procedures involving anesthesia.

MCRC FELINE DIET CHANGES

In an effort to bring new innovations to your cat's dietary formula, Medical Royal Canin is launching a new and improved line of Veterinary exclusive diets.

These changes will affect pets on MCRC Kitten, Preventive, Mature and Weight Control diets. These diets will transition to new labels as follow:

- Preventive becomes Adult
- Kitten becomes Development Kitten
- Mature will be split into three options - Mature Consult, Mature Consult Moderate Calorie and Senior Consult.
- Weight Control and Dental will transition only in label colour and sizes available.

Please contact one of our staff to ensure that your pet is transitioned onto the appropriate diet for their lifestyle and stage. Please ensure you have adequate food on hand.





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**Healthy pets are happy
pets!**

FEATURED PRODUCT: ENJAY Odor End

Odour End is an unscented, biodegradable product that is used to eliminate odour, including skunk. It works in a few seconds and the results are permanent. Use it on virtually any surface including skin, fur, clothing, bedding, litter pans, upholstery, car interiors, flooring, etc. Use it for your pet and use it around the house. The possibilities are endless.



FEATURED PRODUCT: ENJAY Stain & Odor Remover

Stain & Odour Remover is a biological and biodegradable product that literally digests stains (like a mini compost) thus eliminating odour also. It's simple to use, no mixing, no measuring, no diluting. Just spray it and cover it. It does the rest for you. It's an environmentally sound product that's safe to use around animals and kids.



Curtis Counter

Eglinton Vet has a resident cat who we adopted in 2010. At that time, he was obese, weighing in at over 30 lbs!



*Curtis weighed in at 7.58kg
(16.6lbs) on Sept 8, 2012. We are
very proud of him. **Please ask us to
meet Curtis.***