



THE EVF TIMES

JUNE 2012

LASER THERAPY

NEW

The team at Eglinton Veterinary is proud to announce that we have added a therapeutic laser unit to our practice!

This will enhance the quality of care for our patients, by giving us a non-invasive, simple tool to reduce pain and inflammation.

Please see page 4 for more details



**Dog owners...
Don't forget!**

Your dog(s) should have started their heartworm/flea prevention medication on or before June 1st.

Please give it for 6 months.

IF YOUR DOG(S) DO NOT YET HAVE THEIR MEDICATION PLEASE CALL US TO BOOK A VISIT

NUTRITION -

Whether you have a new furry friend or a pet that you have loved for years, caring for your dog or cat properly makes it more likely that you will spend many happy years together. Just like in people, nutrition is an important part of your pet's happy, healthy life, so we've chosen to highlight some nutrition information here and also on the board in our front office.

With a plethora of pet diets available, it is important to discuss the appropriate options for your pet's lifestyle with your veterinarian.



First, it is important to remember that an animal's nutritional needs change as they age. Caring for your pet by the correct life stage means that you are providing optimal nutrition. This will mean making transitions between puppy/kitten, adult and senior diets. Pets with medical conditions may further need transitions onto specifically chosen prescription diets.

For pets that get an average amount of exercise through daily playing and walks, the goal is to choose a pet food that provides the optimum balance of nutrition and energy to maintain a proper weight, along with healthy teeth, skin and coat.



In contrast, pets with low activity levels or who tend to gain weight easily need a pet food to help guard against obesity. If your pet is gaining weight, we can help you to assess their activity level, body condition score and predisposition to fat. To control obesity, adult pets need a food that is low in fat and calories and high in fiber to help them feel full without reducing their food intake. We see overweight animals of all types, but find that indoor cats (especially females) struggle the most with this. Our general recommendations are to focus on canned food of specific calorie-restricted foods in amounts that are measured accurately and maintained carefully.

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Please view the new content on our website

www.eglintonvet.com

Giving back

Updated team profiles

New journal entries

We 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

Like us on
facebook

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

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NUTRITION-WHAT TO FEED? (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Even if your pet is not overweight, it is important to have regular weight checks to make sure an ideal weight is maintained. You are welcome to weigh your pet at the clinic at any time and we will record this weight in their medical record.



There is very little regulation of the pet food industry, and there are endless choices for consumers. Whether you are shopping at a grocery store, pet retailer or your veterinary clinic, it is important to be well informed. We would recommend that you choose foods approved by organizations such as **AAFCO** or the CVMA and that you consider companies who contribute to pet nutrition research.

The Association of American Feed Control Officials (**AAFCO**) is a voluntary membership association of local, state & federal agencies charged by law to regulate the sale and distribution of animal feeds. Foods bearing their seal have guaranteed ingredients and balanced nutrition. <http://www.petfood.aafco.org/Home.aspx>

Hill's pet nutrition offers a variety of information on nutrition: www.hillspet.ca

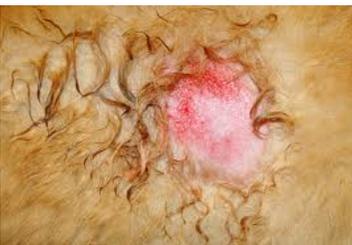
Pet Food association of Canada FAQ page: <http://www.pfac.com/learn/faq/index.html>

Veterinary Partner.com and their Pet Nutrition corner has a number of articles on pet food labels and ingredients. <http://www.veterinarypartner.com/>

DVM CORNER: HOT SPOTS IN DOGS

With a hot and humid summer ahead, dog owners will need to be on the lookout for "Hot Spots". Medically described as acute moist dermatitis, hot spots are localized lesions caused by biting, licking or scratching the skin. These areas of inflamed skin will commonly look red, irritated and infected.

The term 'hot spot' is a general description of the skin and not a diagnosis; it describes a patch of skin that is bothering the dog such that they cannot leave it alone. Because of overwhelming discomfort, dogs tend to lick and chew at these areas excessively and frantically.



Affected areas of the skin are moist, weeping and often covered with matted hair and dried exudates. The localized areas of infection are caused by a bacterium called *Staphylococcus intermedius*.

Anything that initiates an itch-scratch cycle can predispose a dog to developing hot spots. In most cases, the causes of hot spots remains unknown, although they are often due to some underlying factor such as fleas, bacteria, swimming, allergies or anxiety. They are more common in hot, humid environments and in thick-coated, long-coated breeds like Golden Retrievers. They often occur after a dog has been swimming.

DR. BOB WATSON

If you think that your dog has a hot spot, it is recommended that they see a vet. The first step in the treatment of hot spots is to shave the area, dry them out and get air to the area. Hair loss is a feature of hot spots, but hair can also mat over the inflamed area, potentially covering up a more severe problem than is first suspected. The next step is to cleanse the area with cool water and a gentle skin cleanser. Owners may be asked to compress the area two to four times a day with a cool, wet washcloth. One of our veterinarians may prescribe oral antibiotics, topical drying sprays or creams and/or special shampoos.



Dr. Bob Watson

An Elizabethan collar may be sent home with your dog to prevent licking, biting and scratching of the skin.

As they can spread quickly and possibly cause painful, dangerous deep skin infections, it is wise to start the treatment of hot spots with one of our veterinarians as soon as they are noted.

Enjoy the weather and here's to a summer free of hot spots!

HOT SPOT TIPS:

Insure that your dog's coat and ears are dry after swimming and consider clipping long haired dogs for the summer months.

TEAM TALK: MORE INTRODUCTIONS

In the Winter 2011 Newsletter, we used this space to introduce our veterinary technicians and describe what they do for our patients and our doctors. It now seems important to do the same for our other full-time staff members. When one of our patients comes to see us, their care plan is handled by the vets and coordinated by the technicians. However, our practice could not run without the whole team! We are also helped by a team of part-time students who work with us evenings and weekends.



Matthew ~ Operations Manager Matthew came to us over 10 years ago, leaving behind a successful career in the music industry, where he owned and managed a record label. Matt's list of responsibilities at EVF is endless!



Sharon ~ Reception Sharon joined our team after moving to Toronto to be with her daughters, bringing experience from a career as a university hospital administrator and receptionist at a vet clinic in London. Sharon's great sense of humour delights us all!



Laura ~ Reception Laura has a challenging job managing our front desk full-time, but loves the opportunity to get to know our patients and their families. She is the team whiz at working with our veterinary software program.



Kasey ~ Vet assistant/reception After obtaining a BSc degree at UNB, Kasey came to Toronto to gain experience in the veterinary world, hoping to one day train to be a vet. Kasey would help animals of any shape or size!



Dalton ~ Vet assistant Dalton has provided hands-on care for our patients for over four years, first part-time and now full-time as a veterinary assistant. Dalton is the one you may hear singing in the back of the hospital!



Harry ~ Vet Assistant Harry has worked at EVF for a number of decades, caring for two generations of our patients. His work occurs mostly 'behind the scenes'. We think of Harry as our "MacGyver" as he can find a fix for anything!

EVF Team core values: Excellence - Respect - Team work - Compassion - Kaizen - Fun

CASE STUDY: DIETARY MANAGEMENT OF KIDNEY DISEASE

Kidney disease(Chronic Renal Failure) is a common medical condition among senior cats (and less commonly, dogs). Cats develop kidney disease for a variety of reasons; it may be caused by degeneration of the kidneys due to unknown origin or simply aging, or it can be caused by urinary tract infections, kidney tumors, viral infections, kidney stones. Symptoms of kidney disease include:

• Variable Appetite
The kidneys contribute to the removal of metabolic waste products from the blood stream and the regulation of the levels of electrolytes. As kidney function declines, waste products build up in the bloodstream, and excess water is lost in the urine, contributing to dehydration and other clinical signs. Kidney disease unfortunately, is irreversible but the progression of the disease can be slowed with treatment in conjunction with a prescription diet.

Meet Louise: Louise is a 15 year old, spayed, female Burmese cat who has recently been diagnosed with chronic renal failure. She presented with symptoms of weight loss, decreased appetite, and a decline in coat quality. Blood tests revealed elevated renal values while urinalysis showed decreased concentration of urine. Louise's doctor prescribed a veterinary specific renal diet (such as **Hills K/d or MCRC Reduced Protein**). These prescription diets are tailored to address the nutritional needs of a cat with chronic renal failure.



Prescription renal diets contain high quality protein in reduced amounts, which helps decrease the amount of waste products in the blood stream. They also contain lower amounts of phosphorus and balanced levels of vitamins that these cats have difficulty acquiring. As sick cats often lose their appetite, it is important to keep them eating, ideally using canned food to increase water consumption.

- Dehydration
- Weight loss
- Poor coat quality
- Excessive drinking/urination
- Bad breath

Please call us if your senior pet is exhibiting any of these symptoms so that we can help!

LASER THERAPY(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The decision to add a therapeutic laser to our practice was driven by our desire to be on the leading edge of veterinary medicine. Our team believes that we can use technologies already proven in human medicine to contribute to the well being of our patients in non-invasive, non-threatening ways. The success of our laparoscopic surgery program has fueled these beliefs even further! Your pets are part of your family and you want them to have the best quality of life possible. Laser therapy can help to achieve this. **Some of the conditions that can be treated with our Class IV laser unit:**

- **Degenerative joint disease /Osteoarthritis**
- **Tendonitis / Musculoskeletal injuries**
- **Inflamed ears/other inflammatory conditions**
- **Wounds/lacerations**
- **Nerve injuries**
- **Dermatological conditions**
- **Post-surgical pain and healing**

PLEASE CALL US OR BOOK AN APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS LASER THERAPY. YOUR PET WILL THANK YOU!

ALSO NEW DIGITAL OTOSCOPY

Digital otoscopy is a technique now available with our state-of-the-art laparoscopic camera. The camera allows our doctors to examine your pet's ear canal with unsurpassed clarity and magnification, allowing us to more accurately diagnose and treat ear conditions. Digital otoscopy is extremely beneficial in treating recurrent or severe external ear infections, examining the tympanic membrane for damage or tears, and examining the ear canals for masses. As we are able to save digital images of your pet's ears, we can more accurately monitor treatment success over time. If your pet suffers from ongoing ear problems that have not responded to standard treatment, digital otoscopy may be able to help. Please feel free to ask any of our veterinarians or technicians for more information.

BENEFITS OF LASER THERAPY

NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT

NO SEDATION NECESSARY

NO SIDE EFFECTS

RAPID RESULTS

SPEEDS HEALING PROCESS

FEATURED PRODUCT: THUNDER SHIRT

The Thundershirt's unique and innovative design applies a gentle, yet constant pressure on a dog's torso. This gentle pressure has an amazing calming affect on most dogs. Pressure has been used for years in both humans and animals to reduce the affects of anxiety. With an 85% success rate in canines, this product is a must have for those dealing with an anxious or nervous pet. Simply measure your dog's chest right behind their front legs. Let us know the measurement and we will order you the appropriate size for your pet.





Eglinton Veterinary Facilities

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Healthy pets are happy pets!

FEATURED PRODUCT: TICK TWISTER

Tick Twisters hooked and wedged tools make quick work of removing annoying and potentially infectious ticks from your dog's skin. The design allows for removal of newly attached ticks as well as engorged, feeding ticks. This tool removes the entire tick, including the head, which if left in the skin can cause nasty site infections. Please ask our team about tick control if you are in a high risk area.



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 7.9kg (17.5lbs) on June 15, 2012. We are very proud of him. Please ask us to meet Curtis if you would like.