



paw prints

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DOYLESTOWN ANIMAL MEDICAL CLINIC NEWSLETTER

Hooray...It's Summertime!



Drew F. Sporer, VMD & Dale D. Mantell, DVM

Welcome to our latest edition of *Paw Prints*. We're thankful summer's here and all thoughts of our snowy winter and allergy-laden spring can get pushed aside for festivities in the sun. Some creatures, however, enjoy summertime *feast-ivities*—like pesky parasites that find the season

prime time for feasting on our furry friends. Learn more about these year-round threats in this issue and what you can do to control them, along with an overview of osteoarthritis, the importance of laboratory testing, our recent spay/neuter clinic, and more! And if your pet is due, don't forget to schedule his/her annual exam and vaccine appointment. Have a great summer...we hope to see you at DAMC soon!

SPECIAL NOTE: Don't forget that back issues of *Paw Prints* are available at our website, www.damcvets.com!

Dr. Dale Mantell & Dr. Drew Sporer

Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Creaky Bones... Causes of (and Remedies for) Osteoarthritis

Dr. Scott Rosenbloom

Osteoarthritis, abbreviated OA, is a degenerative condition affecting the body's joints. Osteoarthritis has many causes. Congenital problems like hip and elbow dysplasia, patella luxations, and poor body conformation, can all lead to OA. Traumatic injuries, especially orthopedic injuries like torn knee ligaments or boney fractures, can make a pet more prone to OA as they age.

Story continued on next page - Dem Creaky Bones.

DAMC Newsbytes

A warm welcome back to Dr. Lynn Platt who returns from maternity leave after the birth of her son.

Congratulations to our talented kennel technician Jackie Pfeiffer who graduated from Lansdale Catholic High School.

Another **round of congratulations** to Laura Gregory who graduated from DelVal College.

And finally, a **bittersweet goodbye** to Dr. Rachel Coyer who's moving to Chester County to get married ...and open her own practice. Good luck, Rachel!

New Hills Pet Nutrition Products Available at DAMC

After extensive research and testing, Hills has just released its newest Science Diet dog and cat food line called Healthy Advantage—and it's available at DAMC! These diets combine the highly developed technologies used in Hills Prescription Diets—but without needing a prescription to buy them.



From kittens to puppies to adult cats and dogs, the Healthy Advantage line promotes wellbeing for any average pet not in need of a medically supervised diet. Stop in and buy a bag today and see what a difference it could make in your pet's life! If your pet is not fully satisfied, you can return the unused product for a full refund!

Fun Fact

How fast does the heart of a healthy cat beat?

To find out, go to www.damcvets.com and click the "Check this Out" button!



Dem Creaky Bones

Continued from cover page.

Other, less common causes of arthritis include infectious and inflammatory diseases. Finally, obesity, either on its own or in conjunction with other conditions, is perhaps the most significant risk factor for OA in pets nationwide.

For the most part, the degenerative changes caused by OA cannot be reversed. Treatment of OA is aimed at slowing the progression of the disease and alleviating pain. Treatment can involve medications, either "neutraceuticals" or prescription-based drugs, controlled exercise, including veterinary supervised rehabilitation, and dietary modification, especially weight loss.

A neutraceutical is defined as a non-prescription product or nutrient with medicinal properties. Common neutraceuticals include glucosamine and chondroitin, Adequan injections, omega-3 fatty acids, methyl sulfonyl methane (MSM) and various antioxidants. Neutraceuticals provide the building blocks necessary for maintenance and protection of cartilage health, and some are thought to have mild anti-inflammatory properties. They generally require several weeks of administration before results can be expected. Because they are non-prescription, they are not subject to the same FDA regulations as prescription drugs, and the quality or consistency of the products can vary.

The most common prescription medications for OA are the non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAID's) like Rimadyl, Deramaxx, Metacam, and others. These medications all work along similar pathways in the body. They provide pain relief and can mitigate the detrimental effects of inflammation. While NSAID's are generally safe for long-term usage, some side effects are possible so pets should be monitored closely. If your pet experiences any side effects, other, non-NSAID prescription medications can be tried.

Exercise is important for keeping joints healthy and preventing obesity. Joints are designed to move so long periods of immobility can be detrimental. Likewise, the heavier a pet becomes, the more mechanical strain their joints have to endure. A controlled physical therapy or rehabilitation program designed and implemented by a veterinarian can be helpful in controlling arthritis. Of utmost importance for pet owners is to keep their pets at a healthy weight throughout all stages of their life.

If you think your pet is suffering from osteoarthritis, speak to your veterinarian about diagnostic and treatment options. In the meantime, to help prevent OA from affecting your pets' life, keep them skinny, keep them active, and you'll keep them happy for years to come.

Oh, Yes...There Will Be Blood (work) Learn More about DAMC Diagnostic Laboratory Testing

Dr. Drew Sporer

A thorough physical examination remains the cornerstone of evaluating DAMC patients. However, veterinarians are increasingly relying on laboratory testing when an examination alone does not yield a diagnosis. Whether cat, dog, rabbit, snake, or bird, advances in laboratory techniques, and improvements in commercial and in-house equipment, have allowed better analysis with smaller blood samples and faster results.

Blood analysis is most often used as an aid to confirm a clinical suspicion of disease or to monitor patients on chronic medication. Other uses include measuring therapeutic drug levels (Phenobarbital, thyroid replacement), routine

screening of geriatric patients, or timing of ovulation for breeding. In addition to blood work, other common laboratory procedures are analysis of urine and other fluids, culture, cytology, and biopsy.

At DAMC, we are fortunate to be able to offer extensive in-house testing as well as daily service from two commercial laboratories. We also have technicians dedicated solely to maintaining and operating laboratory equipment and keeping all those samples straight! So, if an exam alone does not reveal the problem with an ailing pet, be assured we have access to the latest in laboratory analysis and a staff dedicated to that testing to help with a diagnosis.

The DAMC Spay/Neuter Day: An Annual Event that Saves Lives and Helps Those in Need

Kathrine Walkup, Hospital Administrator



Dr. Coyer in the midst of neutering a kitty.

A handful of eager Delaware Valley College student volunteers and DAMC staff awaited the arrival of the first cats bright and early on Sunday, April 10. For the third year in a row, Doylestown Animal Medical Clinic hosted a cat spay and neuter event. All of the cats were surgically sterilized, given a rabies vaccination and a dose of Revolution®.

The cats cared for were either feral or pets from low-income families who requested assistance. According to the USDA, Pennsylvania is number one in the country for rabid “domestic” animals (ie.cats). Not only will the efforts from this event control pet overpopulation, but all of the animals treated are also protected from infection from the rabies virus through vaccination.

Once again, generous donations from Pfizer Corporation helped to make the day possible. In addition to donating the rabies vaccines and Revolution® doses, they purchased breakfast and lunch for the hungry volunteers. Revolution® is a topical preparation used to protect against fleas and heartworm disease and for treatment and control of hookworms, roundworms, and ear mites. Even the feral cats that were returned to the out of doors will have some relief from parasites. Although a few of the volunteers may now have fleas of their own!

Controlling Feline Parasites Before they Control You

Dr. Dale Mantell

Parasitic control is one of the four ways we protect the health of our feline companions. Annual exam, vaccination, and nutrition are the other three. Parasite control is especially important in that parasites, like heartworm, fleas, and ticks, can affect us as well as our cats.

Insulating our pets inside our homes gives us a sense that they will not become parasitized. This is not true!

Fleas: Fleas don't discriminate! Whether your cat is always inside or spends time outdoors, fleas will seek every opportunity to plague your pet—and your home. In just 30 days, 23 female fleas can multiply to over a quarter million! And fleas can survive year-round—not just in warmer months.

Roundworm and Hookworm: These prevalent intestinal parasites may be transmitted to your cat. Roundworm infestation comes from ingesting infected animals like rodents, cockroaches, and flies. Hookworm infection can occur through contact with immature parasites present in soil. **These parasites can also be transmitted to humans.**

Heartworm: New research shows that cats are equally at risk as dogs for disease from a heartworm-infected mosquito. Researchers and veterinarians recently discovered that heartworms attack a cat's lungs *and* heart. Signs such as intermittent coughing, gagging, and increased respiratory effort (which looks like asthma) in cats can be caused by the presence of heartworm in their lungs.

Ear Mites: Ear mites are highly contagious parasites that live on the skin, feed off the surface of the ear canal, and are easily transmitted between animals. In addition to inflicting discomfort, an infected ear is the ideal environment for secondary bacterial infections.

DAMC recommends all of our feline patients be protected year-round from parasites. Even if your cat stays indoors, it may still be susceptible to parasite infections and should be protected. To learn more, ask your DAMC veterinarian for his/her recommendations to best protect your feline friend.

More photos from Spay/Neuter Day



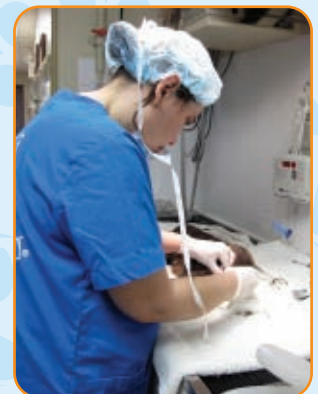
This wide-eyed kitty came with a full meal!



Veterinary Technicians Angela and Becki prepare their sleepy patient's blood work.



Kitty "Q" gets ready for his surgery.



Dr. Risel finishes up one of her seven surgeries.

Upcoming Events



VISIT US ONLINE!

Don't forget to visit us at www.damcvets.com and keep up to date with the goings on at the clinic, to download copies of our newsletters, and to access our online pharmacy.

Gift Certificates Available!

They make a great present for any pet owner and are always available in any dollar amount!



Doylestown Dog Park – We're Making Progress!

DAMC will be out and about at the many Doylestown Dog Park awareness-raising events planned for this summer. Make sure to check www.damcvets.com throughout June, July, and August for the latest happenings!

May We Have Your Email Address?

If you haven't already done so in person during an office visit, please let us know your current email address by emailing us at: info@damcvets.com. By doing so, you'll receive appointment reminders and vaccine notices right on your home or office computer.



DAMC