

The Official Newsletter of Companion Animal Hospital and Paws Inn

October 2007



Fall is fast approaching. Before long winter will be upon us, along with the holidays. While you are enjoying the holiday season with your loved ones, do not forget about your furry family members. Learn how you can protect your pets from holiday hazards, whether it be food or decorations. Also, keep us in mind if you need a place for your pet to stay over the holidays.

Paws Inn

New Boarding Rates

Dogs - \$16 per night

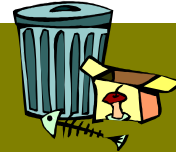
Cats - \$10 per night

\$13 per night for cat condo

Make sure to schedule your boarding early due to the holiday season fast approaching.

Are you a **Steelers, Eagles** or **Penn State** fan??
Come see our newest selection of leashes and collars and help support your team.

Pancreatitis



Pancreatitis, what is it? How do you know if your pet is sick with pancreatitis? Better yet, how can you help prevent your pet from getting it?

Pancreatitis is the inflammation of the pancreas, an abdominal organ that lies just below the stomach. The functions of the pancreas include controlling blood sugar and producing enzymes to help aid in the digestion of food.

Signs of pancreatitis include, but are not limited to, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, restlessness, abdominal pain and fever. In some cats, anorexia can be the only symptom.

The doctors at Companion Animal Hospital see most of our cases of pancreatitis caused by patients eating table foods or other high fat items found in kitchen trash cans. Examples include: ham, bacon, pork chops, ice cream, steak, gravy and even suet blocks normally used to feed outdoor birds. Also trauma to the pancreas, hormone imbalances and the use of certain drugs can predispose an animal to pancreatitis.

Blood tests are typically performed to help diagnose pancreatitis. Elevation of pancreatic enzymes (amylase and lipase) and white blood cells are common findings. Sometimes more extensive testing is needed, such as an ultrasound or other pancreatic specific bloodwork in order to reach a diagnosis.

Treatment often consists of hospitalization of the pet. While in the hospital the pet is fasted for at least 12 hours, sometimes longer depending on the severity of the case. This allows the pancreas to rest without stimulation. While fasting, the patient is on IV (intravenous) fluids to help keep the animal hydrated. Since pancreatitis can be a very painful condition, pain medication is given to our patients. Antibiotics also play a key role in the treatment protocol. In severe cases, plasma transfusions or surgical interventions are required. Severe pancreatitis can be life threatening as it can trigger other conditions, such as coagulation disorders or even acute kidney failure. Eventually the patient will gradually be started back on food and water. Most patients are sent home on a low fat diet that is fed for an average of 3-5 days. After that 3-5 day period, the low fat diet is then mixed in with the pet's regular diet and fed over a couple of days to help reduce the risk of upsetting the pet's stomach. Medications, such as antibiotics and acid blockers, are typically sent home with the patient as well.

Knowing what causes pancreatitis may help prevent your pet from becoming sick. Keeping trash out of reach and not feeding table scraps are just some of the things you as a pet owner can do to help your pet.

The Pet Gazette

Holiday Hazards

- Holiday decorations such as ribbon and tinsel can become wrapped around a pet's tongue or lodged in their intestines.
- Do not allow pets to drink water from the christmas tree stand if the tree has been treated with a flame retardant.
- Avoid allowing pets to chew on light cords which may cause electrocution.
- Monitor playtime with new toys to help prevent accidental swallowing of small plastic pieces or fabric.

Harmful Foods

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| • Avocado | • Macadamia Nuts |
| • Chocolate | • Moldy or Spoiled Foods |
| • Coffee | • Onions and Onion Powder |
| • Fatty Foods | • Salt |
| • Garlic and Garlic Powder | • Yeast Dough |
| • Grapes and Raisins | • Xylitol (a sugar substitute found in chewing gum, pudding, etc...). |



Open House

Companion Animal Hospital will be having an open house on Saturday December 1st 10am to 2pm. We will be having tours of the hospital (ICU, Surgery, Ultrasound, etc.) and Paw Inn. Demonstrations and exhibits will be available for your viewing. There will be something for everyone, balloons for the children, door prizes and drawings. Refreshments will also be available for your enjoyment. Pa Pets and Pet Match Maker will have information for those who are interested in adopting a pet through their organizations. Meril and Pfizer drug representatives will be on hand as well. Paws Inn will be having a special holiday sale, so make sure to stop in and see what they have to offer.

Referral Rewards Program: 1st Referral = 5 Kind Cafe Bucks
 (refer a friend, get a thank you!) 2nd Referral or more = \$15 Gift Certificate to any downtown business of your choice.

Companion Animal
 Hospital
 and
 Paws Inn
 335 Rt 35
 Selinsgrove, PA 17870
 570-374-2247