



The Official Newsletter of

Companion Animal Hospital

and

Paws Inn

January 2008



Old Man Winter



Now that the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is over, take a breath and relax. Think that you have winter woes? Well grab yourself the Pet Gazette and read about your pet's winter worries, such as arthritis flare-ups and dry skin. Learn what you can do to make your pet comfortable during the cold weather.

Paws Inn

Does your pet have dry, itchy, flaky skin? Let the groomers at Paws Inn treat your pet to a moisturizing bath. Dry, itchy skin tends to be problematic during the winter due to the low humidity and created by heating our homes with furnaces and wood stoves. With the help of shampoos that contain moisturizing agents, your pet's skin can remain protected from the harsh winter weather.

Call today to schedule an appointment for your pet!!

Visit Paws Inn to renew your dog license!

Canine Arthritis



What is canine arthritis? Osteoarthritis, otherwise known as degenerative joint disease (DJD), is a progressive and debilitating disorder characterized by a loss of cartilage and the death of cartilage-producing cells. Although osteoarthritis is most common in the hip, it can occur in any joint. DJD can possibly lead to pain and decreased use of the joint.

Degenerative joint disease can occur secondarily to trauma, nutritional disorders or infections. In most cases we do not know what triggers degenerative changes in the joint. It tends to be prevalent in middle-aged to geriatric dogs, and sometimes cats. Young large breed dogs can develop elbow and hip dysplasia leading to DJD.

Drug therapy can help control the pain that comes from DJD and also help increase mobility. The most frequently prescribed drugs to help aid in pain control and help decrease inflammation are nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Dog approved NSAIDs include Deramaxx, Rimadyl and Metacam. Aspirin is not recommended for long term use due to risk of stomach ulcers. Never use Ibuprofen or Tylenol. Adequin is an injectable medication that helps build healthier cartilage.

In some cases, chondroprotective agents, drugs that help protect cartilage as it attempts to repair itself, are becoming more popular than ever. Cosequin and Glyco-flex are two drugs in this group. These drugs consist of glucosamine and purified chondroitin sulfate, which are major building blocks of cartilage. Both Cosequin and Glyco-flex are nutraceuticals (dietary supplements or food additives). Because chondroprotective agents work differently than NSAIDs, they can be used simultaneously.

Along with drug therapy, weight control can play a key role in helping with DJD. Overweight dogs should be placed on a diet and a nonstrenuous exercise program to help decrease their weight. The less weight the animal is putting on the joints, the better they will feel and the easier it will be for them to get around.

If your pet is experiencing low activity, reluctance to walk, play or climb stairs, or seems grumpy and painful, they may be suffering from arthritis. A diagnosis of arthritis is confirmed with X-rays and bloodwork. If you are concerned that your pet may have osteoarthritis, then contact the doctors and staff here at Companion Animal Hospital to set up an appointment to have your pet evaluated.

February is National Pet Dental Month!

Call CAHS to find out how you can save 10% on a dental cleaning!

The Pet Gazette



Cold Weather Tips

- Outside pets should be brought indoors when temperatures go below freezing.
- Always clean up antifreeze spills right away. If you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Outside cats like to sleep near a warm car engine. Be aware of your cat's location when starting your car, or make a loud noise near the hood prior to starting the car.
- Salt used to melt snow and ice can be an irritant to paw pads. Be sure to clean you pet's pads after a walk where salt has been used.
- Make sure to check your outside pet's water bowl for freezing at least twice a day. It is best to use a porcelain bowl, not metal, to prevent tongues from sticking.

CAH Open House A Hit!

Companion Animal Hospital's Open House went off with a bang!! We raised over \$250 for PA Pets. The doctors and staff at CAH were excited to see the great turnout for the Open House. A lot of hard work and dedication went into this Open House, so the amount of support from the community was a wonderful reward for everyone here at CAH to enjoy. We would just like to thank each and everyone of those who attended and made the Open House a huge success.

THANK YOU!!!

Referral Rewards Program:
(refer a friend,
get a thank you!)

1st Referral = 5 Kind Cafe Bucks
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

www.companionah.vetsuite.com

E-mail us at:
[petvets @ ptd.net](mailto:petvets@ptd.net)