

Derm Digest

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Animal Dermatology Clinic

Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

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Injection Site Alopecia

Alopecia means loss of hair. Although there are many causes of hair loss in a pet, focal loss of hair may be due to injections.

Some pet owners may first notice a small round or oval patch of hair loss, usually in the shoulder or neck region. This is generally the site where injection are given.

These injections may be rabies or distemper/parvo vaccines, corticosteroids or other injectable compounds. In some cases, the use of injected steroids can cause the hair follicles to atrophy and hair to fall out. In most cases, hair will regrow when the follicle is no longer influenced by the steroid levels.

Rabies vaccine injections may affect any dog but is more commonly seen in certain breeds: small-breeds, especially Poodles. Bichon Frises, Shih Tzus and Yorkshire and Silky Terriers.

Hair loss from an injection usually begins to occur within a few months but may not be obvious for up to 6 months. This extended period of time causes some owners to overlook the correlation of the vaccine injection to the affected area.

(continued page 2)



This poodle received a rabies vaccine and developed injection site alopecia.

Help Shelter Pets This Season



It is that time of the year that we ask you to consider making a donation to your local animal shelter or favorite pet rescue program.

Shelters run on the thinnest of budgets and many that fall under city or county budgets have felt the pinch of decreased revenues. Many rescues are volunteer-run organizations and rely solely upon fundraising events and donations to maintain operations.

On page four of this newsletter are but a few of shelters that may be in your area. If a monetary donation is not possible, call and ask them if blankets, towels or pet food are needed. In some cases, expired or unneeded medication is accepted at shelters. A staff veterinarian at the shelter will review the usability of these medications at the facility.

Perhaps your unique skills can be utilized! Offering needed services could fill a need in the way of printing, tech support or maybe handyman assistance. Just ask!

Finally, if and when it comes time to accept a new pet into your home, consider visiting a shelter or rescue organization to make that adoption.

Injection Alopecia, *cont.*



Another example of injection site alopecia. Hair loss is limited to the immediate area of the injection.

In some cases widespread hair loss will continue to involve the back and limbs, fortunately, this is a relatively uncommon condition. It may take months and up to year for hair to regrow and the hair may return darker or lighter from its original color. In the case of rabies vaccine reactions, the hair loss is often permanent.

The effects of the condition are primarily cosmetic. Treatment is supportive although a medication called pentoxifylline may help to increase the blood flow into the area and allow for better oxygen penetration to the hair follicle to help with improving the possibility of hair growth. Surgical removal of the residual scar can be performed in some cases. Identification and avoidance of the likely trigger is important to prevent additional reactions and possible more severe reactions upon subsequent exposure.

Article Highlights Role of Veterinary Specialists

Animal Dermatology Clinic was highlighted in the recent article “The Specialist’s Role in Veterinary Healthcare”, Debra Channick, PhD. The article was published in The Courier, the official magazine of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America.

Dr. Channick interviews a number of veterinary specialists as well as general medicine veterinarians and discusses the growing role of the specialist as an extension of pet care through the primary veterinarian.

Veterinary specialists may invest in equipment that cost tens of thousands of dollars but it is impractical for the general veterinarian to purchase such equipment when possibly it will be used intermittently. When the general veterinarian encounters a difficult or unusual case, it may be a routine patient due to the volume that similar cases are frequently seen with a specialist.

We are fortunate to be able to draw upon the expertise of both veterinary general practitioners and specialists working as a team in order to ensure the best care for our dogs.

The primary veterinarian is the first step in the routine and general health of a pet. Regular check-ups with the primary veterinarian are advised to monitor and identify changes in your pet’s health and to address those issues early when they are potentially easier to treat. But should an illness or condition become chronic or beyond the scope of the primary veterinarian, the resources of a veterinary specialist are readily available.

(To read the full article The Specialist’s Role in Veterinary Healthcare, please go to www.animaldermatology.com and look under Tips & Information.)

FDA Cautions Dog Owners About Chicken Jerky Products

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a cautionary warning to dog owners regarding the rise of reported pet illnesses possibly linked to chicken jerky treats imported from China. The chicken jerky is also sold as chicken tenders, strips or treats.

In the past 12 months the FDA has seen an increased number of these complaints from veterinarians and dog owners.

The FDA previously issued a cautionary warning regarding chicken jerky products in September 2007 and a Preliminary Animal Health Notification in December 2008. Complaints dropped in the latter part of 2009 and most of 2010, but the FDA is now seeing the number complaints rise again.

For pet owners who choose to feed their dogs chicken jerky products the FDA advises that dogs are watched closely for any or all of the following signs that may occur within hours or days of feeding the products: decreased appetite; decreased activity; vomiting; diarrhea, sometimes with blood; increased water consumption and/or increased urination. If the dog shows any of these signs, stop feeding the chicken jerky product. Consult your veterinarian if signs are severe or persist for more than 24 hours.

The FDA is continuing their investigation to isolate the problem and its origin. Many of the illnesses reported may be the result of causes other than eating chicken jerky. If you suspect a food illness associated with pet foods, a report may be submitted to the FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator in your state or go to <http://www.fda.gov/petfoodcomplaints>.

This article has been posted on the Animal Dermatology Clinic website in 'Recent News' and in 'Tips & Information'.

Allergy Test Video Posted on ADC Website

People may have heard of a pet getting a skin test and wonder "how is that done?". In a previous issue of Derm Digest we highlighted "Hazel" the cat when an intradermal skin test was performed on her.

A photo montage video has been posted on the Animal Dermatology Clinic website showing the process of a dog getting a skin test from beginning to end.

The intradermal skin test is a routine procedure at ADC, with many performed each week. The two-minute video captures the highlights of the skin test which takes about an hour to complete.

ADC Clinic Hosts Open House

Animal Dermatology Clinic - Marina del Rey opened their doors to guests for an open house reception.

Although they remained in the same building complex, a new suite was selected for the remodel with added square footage. The mailing address has changed to 4834 Lincoln Blvd, Marina del Rey, CA 90292. The telephone remains the same 301-822-3376.

Guests were invited to visit and tour the state of the art facility as the doctors led tours throughout the reception.

Pet Shelters and Rescues in Your Area

The following are listed for informational purposes only. Please contact the organization prior to visiting as schedules may change without notice. Animal Dermatology Clinic has no affiliation with these organizations.

Orange County, CA
Irvine Animal Care Center
6443 Oak Canyon
Irvine, CA 92618
949-724-7740
www.irvineshelter.org

Animal Assistance League of Orange Co.
PO Box 38
Midway City, CA
714-893-4393
www.aaloc.com

San Diego, CA
San Diego Humane Society and SPCA
5500 Gaines St.
San Diego, CA 92110
619-299-7012
www.sdhumane.org

ARRF - Animal Rescue Resource Foundation
San Diego County, CA 92081
www.rrf.cc

Helen Woodward Animal Center
6461 El Apajo Road
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
858-756-4117
www.animalcenter.org

Los Angeles, CA and surrounding
West Los Angeles Care & Control
11361 West Pico Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90064
888-452-7381

Pasadena Humane Society
361 S. Raymond Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91105
626-792-7151
www.pasdenahumane.org

Friends of Animals Foundation
2336 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90064
310-479-5089
www.friendsofanimalsfoundation.org

Indianapolis, IN
Humane Society of Indianapolis
7929 N. Michigan Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46268
317-872-5650
www.indyhumane.org

Friends of Ferdinand
PO Box 1784
Indianapolis, IN 46206
www.friendsofferdinand.com

Louisville, KY
Alley Cat Advocates
#204 3020 Bardstown Rd
Louisville, KY 40205
502-634-8777
www.alleycatadvocates.org

The Animal Care Society
12207 Westport Rd.
Louisville, KY 40245
www.animalcaresociety.org

Marietta, GA
Atlanta Animal Shelter
981 Howell Mill Rd NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
404-875-5331
www.atlantahumane.org

Cobb County Animal Control
1060 Al Bishop Dr.
Marietta, GA 30008
770-499-4136
www.cobbanimalcontrol.org