

Derm Digest

Indianapolis IN • Louisville KY • Marietta GA • Pasadena CA
Marina del Rey CA • San Diego CA • Tustin CA



Animal Dermatology Clinic
Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

September 2010

Resident Doctors Achieve Diplomate Status



Jennifer Aniya



Danielle James

Diplomate (dip•lo•mate). Not to be confused with the word “diplomat”, a diplomate is a physician qualified to practice in a medical specialty by advanced training and experience in the specialty followed by passing an intensive examination by a national board of senior specialists.

Two resident doctors of Animal Dermatology Clinic recently passed their examinations and now are Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology. After a three-year residency program, which includes a rigorous program of intensive review, case studies, writing and publishing dermatology articles, the resident doctors sat for a two-day examination held in Raleigh, NC in August.

The new diplomates are Dr. Danielle James who is based in our San Diego, CA clinic and Dr. Jennifer Aniya who is based in our Tustin, CA clinic. Congratulations to both for their well-merited efforts.

Atopy: Seasonal Flare Allergy and Weeds

Atopy is caused by allergic reactions in the environment. These substances, called allergens, can include dust particles, molds, plant fibers, plant pollens, animal particles, and other environmental particles. Some of the signs of atopy may include scratching, licking, and rubbing of their feet, face, ears or body.

The release of pollens into the environment follows the seasons of the year. In the fall, weeds, and certain grasses and trees are especially active in releasing pollens and depending upon what part of the country you and your pet reside, pollens vary. On the homepage of www.animaldermatology.com is a tool that reports the pollen count in your zip code.

Atopy is often seasonal and may become more severe at certain times of the year depending on the allergen that your pet is sensitized to. In order to formulate allergy vaccine and to attempt to hyposensitize your pet, a blood allergy test or preferably an intradermal skin test can reveal the allergens that are affecting your pet.

continued on page 2



Irritation and itching caused this dog to lick and chew his paw to the point of hair loss.

Atopy, continued



The chest of a dog that has scratched intensely to relieve his itching. Left untreated it often leads to secondary bacterial infection.

Once the allergens are identified, hyposensitization (allergy injections) may be a course of action. These are a series of injections of dilute allergens that make the pet less sensitive to its allergies. After a brief demonstration in the clinic, most pet owners then administer these injections at home. Alternative forms of treatment include: antihistamines, corticosteroids or other immune-modulating therapy. Antihistamines will help some allergic pets but not all will work for every pet and short trial period of various antihistamines may be used to determine the one that offers best relief. Corticosteroids can be used when antihistamines are not completely effective. However, long term use will almost always result in undesirable side effects. In order to minimize side effects, the lowest dose of steroid should be found and utilized only if other forms of therapy have failed.

Other treatments for relief of atopy may include topical therapy including shampoos, rinses and fatty acids. Allergy treatment may involve a combination of some or all the above treatments.

Most allergic dogs and cats require allergy injections, oral medications and topical treatments to achieve complete control. The combination varies with each pet and may vary with the season.

Source: David D. Dulcos, Canine & Feline Skin Diseases

Rusty Muse, DVM, Animal Dermatology Clinic

Taking a Shot at Allergy Injections at Home

After a brief demonstration in the clinic most pet owners are able to administer antigen shots at home.

Dr. Craig Griffin has written a step-by-step guide "allergen-specific immunotherapy: 4 easy steps for home administration". Go to www.animaldermatology.com and click on Tips & Information to download and read this article.



"NEVER TRY TO OUTSTUBBORN A CAT."

-ROBERT A. HEINLEIN

Employee Spotlight: Brenda Hernandez



"I joined ADC in October 2008 after finally finishing college and lots of traveling. After my travels I didn't know what to do or where to go but a friend told me ADC was opening a clinic in Pasadena and they needed a tech. My employment at ADC has been a very rewarding and exciting chapter in life. I look forward to getting to work (minus the traffic), there is always a great atmosphere in the clinic which makes the work hours enjoyable, and since I've been here since we opened, I have a very close connection with our furry friends and their parents. Besides being an animal lover I am very family/friends oriented, so you'll always find me running around doing all kinds of things with my loved ones: horseback riding, hiking, cooking and recently, biking. I share my home with many different beings, but my favorite individuals are our 3 dogs, cat, parrot and an awesome opossum, Santiago."

ADC Marina del Rey featured on TV Show *Pit Boss*

Dr. Ghubash ready for her close-up

Following closely on the recent broadcast of HGTV's *The Antonio Treatment*, Animal Dermatology Clinic Marina del Rey was the site of a recent episode of *Pit Boss* shown on the Animal Planet channel.

This reality show follows Shorty Rossi and his team as they rescue, rehabilitate and train the most misunderstood of dogs--pit bulls. The episode that aired August 7 features a segment where Mr. Rossi brings one of his rescues to Dr. Rudayna Ghubash for examination. See your local TV listings to see this and more episodes of *Pitt Boss*.

Did You Know?



You probably never thought about a cat as being either left- or right-pawed, but over 40 percent are either lefties or righties. That means there's quite a few out there who are ambidextrous. Luckily for them, they can probably operate the can opener with both paws ...

Dogs have a sense of smell that is one of the keenest in nature. Humans might smell a pot of stew cooking on the stove, but a dog can distinguish the smells of each individual ingredient, from the beef itself to the potatoes.

Pet Events Happening in Your Area

Events listed for informational purposes only. Animal Dermatology Clinic has no affiliation with these events. Venue may change without notice.

The Animal Care Society's 7th Annual Bark in the Park and "Woof Walk"

Where: Seneca Park
3151 Pee Wee Reese Rd
Louisville KY 40206
When: Saturday Sept 18 9am – 3pm

The Animal Care Society is the area's only no-kill shelter for companion animals, relying solely on donations. Event to raise funds

For more information call 502-426-6303 or email: bunnyzacs@bellsouth.net

Doggie Dayz

When: Monday, Sept 6, 2010; 6:00p - 8:00p
Where: MCC - Waterpark, 1235 Central Park Drive East, Carmel, IN
Cost: \$6/dog

Join us as the Waterpark "goes to the dogs." Bring your favorite pooch for a dip in the pool! The Waterpark is closed for the human season and opening for the canine season (for one night anyway).

This special open swim for dogs will sure be a "treat" for you and your special pet. Doggy treats will be available. Social dogs only. Dogs must be on a leash until they are in the water. You are strongly encouraged not to swim in the pools with the dogs.

Pets in the Park

When: Saturdays, Sept 4 & 11; 10a -1p
Where: Park Tavern, 500 10th Street NE, on the corner of 10th and Monroe

Three of Atlanta's most recognized names: SweetWater Brewery, Park Tavern, and Atlanta Humane Society are joining forces to match homeless pets with new, loving families. Mobile adoption bus with pets to meet, play with and adopt!

More information at www.atlantahumane.org

Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon

When: Sunday September 12, 2010
Where: North Beach in Del Mar CA

Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon is a great family day at the beach for surfers and dog lovers alike. This event will help raise awareness and money for orphaned pets while promoting responsible pet ownership.

Whether you want to surf for animals on your own or with your best four legged friend, there will be heats for both.

The funds raised will be used to support all the programs at Helen Woodward Animal Center.

Many events listed on the website and registration for events: surfdog.kintera.org

*Please remember to bring money to the beach as there will be over 40 vendors, food, and an Opportunity Drawing!

Irvine Pet Trek & Health Fair 2010

When: Saturday, Sept 25 8am-1pm

Where: Irvine, CA Woodbridge Park

The 9th Annual Pet Trek Walkathon to benefit the Irvine Animal Care Center. Vendors, contests, food and silent auction all to provide care for more than 4,500 sick, injured, abused and homeless pets.

For more information call 949-724-7740 or go to www.irvineshelter.org

Wiggle Waggle Walk Fair & Pet Expo

When: Sunday, Sept 26

Where: Pasadena Rose Bowl

The 12th Annual event to help provide nourishing food, shelter and veterinary care to the more than 12,000 animals that come to the Pasadena Humane Society yearly, and also help these animals find loving forever homes. 3K pet walk, vendors, exhibits and more!

Information: 626-792-7151 or www.pasadenahumane.org