

Derm Digest

Indianapolis IN • Louisville KY • Marietta GA • Pasadena CA
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Animal Dermatology Clinic

Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

Fall 2014

Holiday Season Fast Approaching: Pet and food challenges ahead

Halloween is a tricky time for pets. The overabundance of treats are enticing to pets but can be bothersome to digestive systems of animals. Make sure pets do not bolt when the door is open for trick-or-treaters. It is a fun time for children, but could be stressful for pets. It might be helpful if pets are placed in a secure area of the home if there a potential for a pet to escape.

The holidays often bring guests to your home. If your pet is on a food elimination trial, remind your guests not to feed your pet. Although it is a friendly gesture for guests to share food with your pet, it could derail your weeks of effort in maintaining a restrictive diet. Worse, if it is an allergy trigger food then your pet will be miserable for that fleeting moment of that tasty morsel.



This dog t-shirt offers a polite reminder to friends and strangers to not feed your food allergic pet. Ask your local Animal Dermatology Clinic representative about availability.

Generally, table food is not recommended for pets. Foods which are high in fat can also contribute to pancreatitis, an inflammation of the pancreas with symptoms that range from mild discomfort to a blood infection (sepsis) and internal bleeding. High-fat foods to avoid include bacon, paté, sausage, gravy covered meat, beef trimmings, and poultry skin.

Holiday decorations are tempting baubles to pets. Tinsel and other festive decorations can be ingested with disastrous results for pets. Use care in home displays and never leave an open flame unattended that could draw an inquisitive pet.

Portrait Pet

Winners Selected

Two lucky winners were selected from the Animal Dermatology Clinic website Pet Gallery.

Both completed portraits will be featured in an upcoming issue of Derm Digest.

“Rhea” of California was selected and artist Jane Roberts will be creating a special portrait of this 1-year old fawn colored Sharpei pitbull mix. Owner Lisa says that Rhea was born at the Humane Society and adopted at 2 months.

“Sadie Mae” is a white and black, long-hair feline in Powder Springs, GA. Sadie Mae is a senior cat and a long time member of owner Yvonne’s family. Artist Beth Glenn is eager to create a fantastic image of Sadie Mae.

Thanks to all who submitted pictures of their beautiful pets. Each submission now has the potential to be selected as Pet of the Month and be featured on the homepage of the Animal Dermatology Clinic website. In addition, those owners will receive a “Pet of the Month” bumper sticker to let everyone know that their pet is featured on the website.

If you wish to arrange for the artists for a custom pet portrait of your pet they can be contacted via email:

Jane Roberts is offering a holiday special for readers of the Derm Digest. Email Jane now to get your pet portrait in time for the holidays. Contact her at Jane@JaneRobertsArt.com. View samples at www.JaneRobertsArt.com.

If you are interested in work by artist Beth Glenn, she can be contacted via email: mainelylobsters@yahoo.com

Are Fleas Making a Comeback?

Are fleas making a comeback?

Some pet owners think so. Over the past few years, anecdotal reports from dog and cat owners around the country suggest that the bloodsucking parasites are getting more difficult to control, despite the use of once-revolutionary topical flea treatments.

But veterinarians and flea product makers say the products work when used correctly, and that many pet owners may be making mistakes or have unrealistic expectations about how the treatments work.

Last summer, Mark Conrad a freelance photographer in Fairfield, Conn., noticed his golden retriever Tia scratching more than usual. Mr. Conrad said he suspected an allergy rather than fleas because the dog had been treated diligently every month for three years with a leading flea treatment that contains the chemical fipronil, which has been shown to be highly effective against fleas. Soon, however, he discovered that his dog and home were infested with fleas. "It was a nightmare for two months," he said. "Tia was miserable, and the fleas just kept coming back."

Because the dog had already been treated for fleas, Mr. Conrad tried using a flea comb, natural remedies and flea baths, and even spraying his yard, but nothing helped. He came across other pet owners who were beginning to doubt the efficacy of fipronil. When it came time to treat Tia again, he switched to another topical solution that includes the active ingredient permethrin. The fleas finally resolved, and he decided to stick with the new treatment.

Veterinarians said they hear stories similar to Mr. Conrad's all the time, but that there was no convincing research to suggest that fipronil or other leading flea treatments have become less effective in most areas.

Michael W. Dryden, a professor of veterinary parasitology at Kansas State University, has conducted numerous studies on the efficacy of flea treatments. Dr. Dryden, who is commonly called "Dr. Flea," said there are some areas, particularly in the southeastern United States, where flea populations are strong and some treatments may not be working as well as they did 10 to 15 years ago. However, flea products continue to work well in most parts of the country, so the real issue is educating consumers on the best way to use the products and what results to expect.

"Most of us, by the time we start treating fleas, our homes are already infested," Dr. Dryden said. "No home is ever under control in a week, and it can take weeks or months in some homes. It can take time for a flea infestation to be gone, and that has nothing to do with resistance."

Christine L. Cain, an assistant professor of dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, said that even among pets being treated for fleas, outbreaks can occur. Missing a monthly treatment by even a few days can be enough to give fleas a foothold, for instance.

Sometimes, particularly in pets with long hair, a topical treatment may not be applied correctly or may inadvertently be washed off

before it has a chance to be absorbed, she said. A pet that comes into contact with an infested animal at a dog park or in the wild could also develop a temporary flea problem, since most monthly flea treatments prevent long-term infestation but don't repel new fleas.

"A lot of times what people are perceiving as resistance may not be true resistance," Dr. Cain said.

Topical treatments revolutionized flea control when they were introduced in the 1990s. Most of the treatments are applied to the skin between an animal's shoulder blades. The chemical is absorbed into the sebaceous glands across the animal's skin but does not get into the bloodstream. The treatments do not repel fleas, but those crawling on an animal will absorb the chemical and eventually die, usually within four hours.

Several new flea control products have been introduced recently, including monthly pills and long-acting collars, available through veterinarians. The oral pills are easier to use and less messy, but some pet owners still prefer a topical treatment. Dr. Cain said that when a pet develops a severe skin allergy to fleas, a pet owner may use a combination of topical and oral treatments to protect the animal.

Michael Murray, a veterinarian and technical marketing director for Merial, a unit of Sanofi, the company that makes the Frontline flea treatment, said that a rainy summer can trigger a "flea bloom," causing a population explosion among wild animals. The fleas can then get in the grass, exposing treated pets to more fleas.

During a flea bloom, even animals treated with a topical solution are vulnerable. If treated properly, the fleas will die off, but not necessarily before owners have caught sight of the fleas on their pets.

"These products don't work instantaneously," Dr. Murray said. "When there is a lot of exposure during a flea bloom, people are more likely to see the pests and conclude the product is not working."

Dr. Murray said owners who have treated their pets properly need to be patient and allow the product time to do its work. If an owner has missed a treatment, it may take longer to rid the pet of fleas.

By the time owners notice fleas on an untreated animal they are probably seeing a second or third generation, Dr. Murray said. "That means by the time you start treating your pet you've got this massive amount of flea biomass in your home, flea larvae and pupae," he said. "It can take as little as three weeks or as long as several months for that to run its course."

Source: New York Times, Tara Parker-Pope, Sept. 29, 2014

New Animal Dermatology Clinic Location Coming to Maryland

Starting in November a new location for Animal Dermatology Clinic will open in Rockville, MD. This is an exciting opportunity for Animal Dermatology Clinic to offer its services in a new area of the country. Rockville, MD is 45 miles NW of Washington D.C. and forms part of the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. There are 9.3 million people in the metro area and it has approximately a 50% rate of pet ownership.

Rockville will be a satellite location of the Marietta, GA clinic and headed by Dr. Joel Griffies. For questions or appointments for Rockville, call 770-422-2509.



The new Animal Dermatology Clinic in Maryland is located in the Hope Advanced Veterinary Center, 1 Taft Court, Rockville, MD 20850

*“Pets are humanizing. They remind us we have an obligation and responsibility to preserve and nurture and care for all life.”
– James Cromwell*

2nd Annual Dermatology Forum for Veterinarians Success: Next year, Florida!



Dr. Joya Griffin (Louisville, KY) presenting at the Dermatology Forum recently held in San Diego, CA

The doctors of Animal Dermatology Clinic recently completed their participation at the 2nd Annual Dermatology Forum for Veterinarians in San Diego, CA.

The conference, now in its second year, is organized to provide Continuing Education credit to veterinarians attending the three-day conference. Dermatology related ailments are high on the list of complaints seen by veterinarians and there is great interest in learning more from specialists in the field. The doctors of ADC provided the educational content and led the presentations for a total of 22 lecture sessions.

There were almost 100 attendees, the furthest national attendee came from New York and one international attendee from China.

Industry sponsors provided support for the event and sent representatives to discuss products and services offered by their companies in the exhibitor halls.

Planning has begun to organize the third annual meeting of the conference which is slated to be held in Destin, Florida in October 2015.

Pet Events in Your Area

The following is offered for informational purposes only. Please contact the organization hosting these events to ensure dates and times have not changed. Animal Dermatology has no affiliation with these organizations.

Exposition Hall at the Indiana State Fairgrounds

1202 East 38th St., Indianapolis, IN, US

515-777-8801

tfenimore14@gmail.com

Nov 8, 2014 to Nov 9, 2014

10:00am to 6:00pm

Admission: \$8

The Great Indy Pet Expo welcomes anyone who loves animals and pets. Whether you're a current pet owner or just thinking about bringing a companion animal into your home, the Great Indy Pet Expo is for you. It's a great event for family entertainment, and with the largest pet-related trade show in the state, it's a must for your holiday shopping list!

For more information, please call 515-777-8801 or email tfenimore14@gmail.com.

Atlanta, GA

Atlanta Pet Expo **Animal Dermatology will be there!**

Saturday November 8, 2014 10:00AM - 6:00PM

Gwinnett Center. FREE parking and admission!

Pet adoptions, contests, vendors and so much more!

Plenty of shopping opportunities throughout the expo. Be sure to stop by and visit the staff of Animal Dermatology Clinic at the expo. Well behaved pets on a leash are welcome and after completing a release agreement. Info at www.atlantaexpo.com

Long Beach, CA

Sunday October 26, 2014 2:30PM

FREE to watch.

14th annual HAUTE DOG HOWL'OWEEN PARADE is Sun., Oct. 26, 2014, 2:30 p.m., to include more than 500 costumed dogs and a few thousand dogless gawkers. This is one the largest dog parades in the world! After the parade, stop by and visit vendors promoting their pet-related products and services. Haute Dogs is expected to again donate thousands of dollars to animal welfare programs from money raised. FREE to watch. Rent a chair for \$5. - See more at: <http://www.hautedogs.org>

7th Annual Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade

San Diego, CA

December 14, 2014

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Admission: \$15-\$20

All pet owners and their furry, feathered and scaled companions are invited to don their favorite costumes and put their best paw, wing and fin forward for this jolly promenade and pet expo, which starts and ends at Hilton Gaslamp Park, adjacent to the Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter (401 K Street, San Diego, CA 92101) at Fourth Avenue and K Street.

Los Angeles, CA **Animal Dermatology will be there!**

Larchmont Village Family Fair

Sunday October 26

Bring the family to the Larchmont Family Fair on Larchmont Blvd between 1st and Beverly. Street will be closed to vehicles to best enjoy one of L.A.'s finest community events. Talent show, petting zoo and even camel rides! Many vendors and exhibitors, food, non-profits and so much more.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

BBC ST. MATTHEWS 1 - 7 PM

3929 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville, KY 502-899-7070

Come out with your canine pal for a day of outdoor fun at BBC St. Matthews where dogs rule!

Celebrate fall by joining us for the rollout of BBC OKTOBERFEST BEER. Dogs welcome!

Live music, dog themed food and drink, pet shop vendors, dog trainers, rescue shelters, animal charities and more! A fundraiser for Shamrock Pet Foundation. The Shamrock Pet Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the lives of companion animals through proactive programs such as spay/neuter, public education and adoption options. We are a group of highly committed, unpaid volunteers who have a passion for our mission and its goals.