

Derm Digest

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Animal Dermatology Clinic

Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

November 2011

Urticaria in Horses

Urticaria is a common skin condition that affects people and animals. It is also known as 'hives'.

This condition is especially dramatic in horses whose usually smooth-coated bodies reveal the well-defined, raised areas in the upper layer of the skin. These wheals or welts may appear as flat-top nodules, donut shaped rings or occasionally as rope-like lesions that may coalesce into larger geometric shapes or forms. Often limited to a small area, severe cases may involve the face and limbs. The wheals are due to edema fluid developing in the skin and may feel soft when depressed however some horses may develop firm nodules.

There are many causes of urticaria including chemical, physical or hormonal factors. It can be a one-time episode or it can be a waxing and waning problem. History can be particularly valuable especially if some type of drug is associated with the development and recurrence of urticaria. A change in

Urticaria, continued page 2



Horse exhibiting the symptoms of urticaria. The lesions can vary in appearance; here they are flat-topped wheals or welts.

Posh Pets Living a Dog's Life? Hardly.



There are nearly endless amenities and products now available to pets. It wasn't that long ago that dogs were given a bone to fetch or chew and kitty might have found a piece of yarn or a mouse to amuse himself. Nowadays, rarely do we just throw a worn-out tennis ball, it has been replaced by the JPI Rip & Fetch (\$42.84) which launches the ball from a handheld device and also keeps your hands from contact with a ball that has been "returned" numerous times.

My cat Karl would be surprised to know that the rubber band he plays with is utterly passé compared to the natural birch scratching post from Style Spray (\$176, shipping not included from Germany). Likewise, his cat tree that he sleeps on daily would feel like a bed of nails if he were to snuggle in the Leatherette Bed Bowl with Pillow Interior (\$588, www.design-spray.de).

Despite the grinding recession that lingers, pet owners continue to lavish their pets in ways like never before. And why wouldn't they?

Posh, continued page 2



Detail of horse affected by urticaria.

Urticaria, continued

environmental condition may point to allergens in feedstuffs, infectious agents, some parasites, pollens, dusts, fungal and mold spores to name a few. Reactions to light, temperature or stress has been known to trigger urticaria in horses and only affecting an individual horse stabled among many.

Horses may or may not be itchy but if itchiness does occur, self-inflicted trauma may result in contusions and scab formation and sometimes secondary infection.

To treat urticaria the underlying cause should be determined, however many cases are idiopathic and only occur one time. Antihistamines may be used and have minimal side effects. Allergy testing and immunotherapy (antigen injections) can also be effective in cases where environmental allergies are a factor. It is generally recommended that glucocorticoids (steroids) be used limitedly and for short-term treatment.

Recurrent or chronic cases of urticaria are best treated with avoidance of causes if known, antihistamines or antigen injections. Glucocorticoids should optimally be avoided as a long-term treatment and only used long-term as a last resort. Therapeutic shampoos can be used to reduce skin irritation if there is oozing or secondary skin damage. Allermyl (Virbac) or HyLyt (DVM) are excellent choices due to their mild effects and moisturizing properties on the skin.

There is no one identifiable cause of urticaria unless an allergen has been established, therefore prevention is not possible. Fortunately, most horses resolve rather quickly without ever discovering the underlying cause.

Posh Pets, cont.

Surveys report that many pet owners consider pets “part of the family” and receive attention rivaling owners’ children.

The phrase “living like a dog” may have two meanings now. Karl the Cat seems to enjoy a pile of dirty laundry for a nap, but perhaps dreams would be a bit sweeter on a 22k gold thread mattress (\$1000 - 3000, Magniflex USA). Originally made for people (\$24,000 - 30,000), a custom order was requested for the owner’s pet and voila, a new pet product was born.

At dog-spoiling-made-easy.com custom dog houses are available to your specifications. Choice of lighting, tile, shutters, floor covering heating/air conditioning or whatever you deem appropriate for these luxury custom dog residences. Naturally, the exterior can be made to match the architectural features of the owner’s house. After all, what would the neighbors think if a Gothic Revival-inspired dog house was placed in the yard of your Cape Cod abode? With prices starting at \$5,500 you can assure complementary styles to suit your taste.

Now would be a good time to mention the Animal Dermatology Clinic t-shirt for dogs and cats, it comes in four colors and at only \$15 each it’s starting to sound like a steal.



Brewster is wearing the Animal Dermatology Clinic dog or cat t-shirt. White logo and writing adorns the back.

Employee Spotlight: Tami Flatgard



Tami Rae joined Animal Dermatology Clinic in Marina del Rey four years ago to continue her life-long involvement with animals.

She ran a ranch in Malibu breaking and training horses in her early twenties. She was then hired with the Department of Animal Care and Control as a field officer with the City of Los Angeles and then with Los Angeles County.

In 1991 she started her journey as a veterinary nurse and has made this passion ever since. In her spare time, she is an avid photographer, runs her own pet sitting business, loves to volunteer when time allows and is very close to her family.

If dogs could talk, it would take
a lot of the fun out of owning
one. ~Andy Rooney

Top 11 Pet Characteristics

11. Dogs come when you call them. Cats take a message and get back to you.
10. Dogs look much better at the end of a leash.
9. Dogs will let you give them a bath without taking out a contract on your life.
8. Dogs will bark to wake you up if the house is on fire. Cats will quietly sneak out the back door.
7. Dogs will bring you your slippers or the evening newspaper. Cats might bring you a dead mouse.
6. Dogs will play Frisbee with you all afternoon. Cats will take a three-hour nap.
5. Dogs will sit on the car seat next to you. Cats have to have their own private box or they will not go at all.
4. Dogs will greet you and lick your face when you come home from work. Cats will be mad that you went to work at all.
3. Dogs will sit, lie down, and heel on command. Cats will smirk and walk away.
2. Dogs will tilt their heads and listen whenever you talk. Cats will yawn and close their eyes.
1. Dogs will give you unconditional love forever. Cats will make you pay for every mistake you've ever made since the day you were born.

Source: *i-pets.com*

Pet Events in Your Area

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

Atlanta, GA

November 12, 2011 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Rhodes Hall, 1516 Peachtree Street NW

Atlanta, GA, US 30309, 404-885-7812

specialevents@georgiitrust.org

Mark your calendars for Uptown Rhodes Race 5K! Admission: \$25. Join us at Rhodes Hall, Atlanta's "Castle on Peachtree," for the third annual Uptown Rhodes Race 5K benefiting The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. This family friendly event features a gently rolling scenic course through Ansley Park, one of Atlanta's most historic and beautiful neighborhoods. The course is stroller and dog friendly (just as long as your pooch is well-behaved, leashed, and under your control at all times). After the race, stick around for an exciting post-race event featuring delicious food, entertainment and a muscle relaxing stretch clinic. Participants will receive an award winning t-shirt and goodie bag. Awards will be given to the top three male and female racers in each age group as well as the first canine finisher.

Redondo Beach, CA

November 5, 11:00am Saturday

Centinela Feed

413 N. Pacific Coast Hwy, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Come meet our adorable homeless dogs available for adoption! Find your new furry best friend! See all of our dogs and learn more about us by visiting: www.roverrescue.com.

Pomona, CA

Nov 5, 2011 - Saturday to Nov 6, 2011

Pomona Fairplex

1101 West McKinley Avenue

Pomona, CA 91768

This will be an amazing event full of new products, education, pet adoptions, and a lot of fun activities for all attendees. Adults \$12, children 5-12 yrs \$5, seniors 60 \$8. Leashed pets, no retractable leashes, please. Information 661-803-4880 or www.PetExpoUSA.net

Indianapolis, IN

Nov 12, 2011 to Nov 13, 2011

Great Indy Pet Expo

10 AM to 5 PM

Admission: \$7 Adults, \$4 children, kids 5 and under: free

Calling all pet lovers – this is the event for you! More than 150 booths with the latest in pet products and services, dock diving dogs (and yes, your dog can give it a try!), Purina Incredible Dog Team, tips on training your dog, Indiana Wild with Alligator Aaron and his scaled, finned, feathered and furry friends, door prize giveaways every 30 minutes, and so much more bow-wow-riffic stuff!

For more information, please call 317-782-0724 or email greatindypetexpo@gmail.com.

San Diego, CA, Gaslamp Quarter

December 11, 1pm – 5pm

The annual Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade Presented by Downtown Ace Hardware will be occurring in the Gaslamp Quarter on Sunday, December 11th, 2011 from 1:00 – 5:00pm. Pet owners all over San Diego are encouraged to show-off their best holiday costumes alongside their favorite companion. All pets are welcome, whether furry or scaly. The Pet Parade begins promptly at 3:00pm, departing and ending at the Gaslamp Hilton Park (at Fourth Ave. and K St.). In order to become a part of this exciting event, entry to the Pet Parade is just \$10 and includes a goodie bag stuffed with unique pet product samples, and special discounts to some of the Gaslamp Quarter's pet-friendly restaurants and shops. The event will also include a Pet Expo at Gaslamp Hilton Park from 1:00 – 5:00pm, featuring products and services to satisfy even the most high-maintenance pet. More information about Gaslamp for the Holidays and its associated events can be found on www.gaslamp.org. Walk beside your pet and other pet enthusiasts in a fun and entertaining parade.