

Derm Digest

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Animal Dermatology Clinic
Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

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FDA Cautions Pet Owners About Buying Meds Online

The Food & Drug Administration has issued a warning to pet owners who purchase pet medication without the care and guidance of a veterinarian.

“Discount pet drugs-no prescription required” may sound appealing to pet owners surfing the web for the lowest cost, but it may come at price.

According to Martine Hartogensis, DVM, deputy director of the Office of Surveillance and Compliance in the FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine, some of the internet sites selling pet drugs represent legitimate, reputable pharmacies. But the FDA has found companies that sell unapproved pet drugs and counterfeit pet products, make fraudulent claims, dispense prescription drugs without requiring a prescription and sell expired drugs.

A foreign or domestic pharmacy may claim that one of its veterinarians on staff will “evaluate” the pet after looking over a form filled out by the owner, then prescribe the drug. “A veterinarian should physically examine the animal prior to making a diagnosis to determine the appropriate therapy,” says Hartogensis.

One of the drugs of special concern are nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Veterinarians often prescribe NSAIDs to relieve pain in dogs, but should not be purchased without a veterinarian’s involvement because dogs should undergo blood testing before starting NSAIDs, dogs need to be monitored by a veterinarian while on NSAIDs and your veterinarian should discuss possible side effects of NSAIDs with the owner.

To see the full article please go to www.fda.gov/downloads/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm115432.pdf

Flea Bite Hypersensitivity



Fleas are small, brown and wingless insects that feed on the blood of their hosts. Often dogs and cats are the hosts and most often affected on the rump, back legs and tail. Cats can have crusted sores on the back, head and neck and ulcers on the lip. Fleas are also found on opossums and raccoons and other species of animals related to dogs and cats.

Many dogs and cats have fleas and show little discomfort. But it is when they develop an allergy to the flea bite that signs of discomfort become visible such as scratching, biting or chewing and depending on the degree of allergy it can range from minor to severe. Other signs include hot spots, hair loss, dandruff, poor coat and rashes.

Interestingly, dermatologists report that adult fleas are only found on 50% of the pets at examination, yet, at close examination allergic pets will show evidence of fleas, such as dried blood or flea eggs. Therefore, the absence of fleas does not mean that the pet is not suffering from a flea bite allergy.

continued, page 2

Flea allergy, continued

Pets constantly groom themselves and may remove the flea from his body but not after the flea has bitten him up to 50 times daily! It is these bites that continue to irritate the pet up to 10 to 14 days after the bite occurs.



Enlarged photo showing detail of a flea.

Owners are reminded that their fastidiously clean homes indeed do not harbor fleas but their pet may have been in area outside the house that contains fleas. Even in a hot and dry locale where one does not normally encounter fleas, microclimates such as golf courses or parks within might maintain a constant damp environment that may allow fleas to thrive.

There are drugs that will reduce itching, but it will not kill fleas. Complete control of fleas and their juvenile forms is critical for management of signs of Flea Allergy. There are numerous oral and topical therapies that can be prescribed by your veterinarian for best control of fleas in your environment.

*Source: David D. Duclos, Canine & Feline Skin Diseases
Rusty Muse, DVM, ACVD Animal Dermatology Clinic*

On the lighter side...

Excerpts from a dog's diary:

8:00 am - OH BOY! DOG FOOD! MY FAVORITE!
9:30 am - OH BOY! A CAR RIDE! MY FAVORITE!
9:40 am - OH BOY! A WALK! MY FAVORITE!
10:30 am - OH BOY! A CAR RIDE! MY FAVORITE!
11:30 am - OH BOY! DOG FOOD! MY FAVORITE!
12:00 noon - OH BOY! THE KIDS! MY FAVORITE!
1:00 PM - OH BOY! THE YARD! MY FAVORITE!
1:30 PM - ooooooo. bath. bummer.
4:00 PM - OH BOY! THE KIDS! MY FAVORITE!
5:00 PM - OH BOY! DOG FOOD! MY FAVORITE!
5:30 PM - OH BOY! MOM! MY FAVORITE!

Excerpts from a cat's diary:

DAY 752 - My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild satisfaction I get from ruining the occasional piece of furniture.

Tomorrow I may eat another houseplant.

DAY 761 - Today my attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded, must try this at the top of the stairs. In an attempt to disgust and repulse these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favorite chair...must try this on their bed.

DAY 765 - Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body, in attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of, and to try to strike fear into their hearts. They only cooed and condescended about what a good little cat I was...Hmmm. Not working according to plan.

DAY 768 - I am finally aware of how sadistic they are. For no good reason I was chosen for the water torture. This time however it included a burning foamy chemical called "shampoo." What sick minds could invent such a liquid? My only consolation is the piece of thumb still stuck between my teeth.

DAY 771 - There was some sort of gathering of their accomplices. I was placed in solitary throughout the event. However, I could hear the noise and smell the foul odor of the glass tubes they call "beer.." More importantly I overheard that my confinement was due to MY power of "allergies." Must learn what this is and how to use it to my advantage.

DAY 774 - I am convinced the other captives are flunkies and maybe snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously a half-wit. The bird on the other hand has got to be an informant, and speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move. Due to his current placement in the metal room his safety is assured. But I can wait; it is only a matter of time.

Employee Spotlight: Lisa Petty, BS, RVT



Lisa Petty is the original Indiana employee! She worked with the doctor in a temporary location for months while construction was taking place on the Indianapolis clinic.

"I graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelors Degree in Veterinary Technology in 2001. Before joining the Animal Dermatology Clinic team in October of 2009, I worked in private practice for 6 years and in veterinary dermatology for 4 years. I am so proud to be part of a group that works diligently every day to provide the best care for our patients through client education and advanced specialty medicine. I enjoy the balance of client education and veterinary medicine I get to see and perform each day. My hobbies include any outdoor activities, travelling to warm destinations and a new interest in competing in triathlons. I have a chocolate Labrador named Corbi and two mischievous cats, Louie and Grover."

Did You Know?



There are 701 types of pure breed dogs.

A house cat spends 70% of its day sleeping!

Dogs sweat only through their tongues.

Dogs can be trained to detect and upcoming epileptic seizure.

One out of four American households owns a cat.

"Did you ever notice when you blow in a dog's face he gets mad at you? But when you take him in a car he sticks his head out the window."

~Steve Bluestone

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.

Barktoberfest Indianapolis, IN

When: Saturday, October 9, 2010; Noon - 4:00pm
Where: Creation Café; 337 W 11th St (along the canal)
Contact: 955-2389 (*no registration required but reservations are recommended*)

Bring your pet and come dressed in your favorite Halloween costumes to enjoy lunch at Creation Café. This fundraiser is a great way for you and your friends and family to try a variety of beers and enjoy some great food and weather in a fun, festive atmosphere.

Great Indy Pet Expo

When: Saturday, November 13-14, 2010
Where: Toyota Exposition Hall - Indiana State Fairgrounds; 1202 E 38th Street

Bring your pet to visit local pet supporters and animal welfare groups for a fun-filled day all about your pet. Stop by IndyHumane's booth to learn more about our organization and get your IndyHumane re-tail items.

Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends (AARF) at the Black Cat Beer Bonanza!

When: Sunday October 24, 2010 8pm – 11pm
Where: Atlanta Brewing Company; 2323 Defoor Hills Rd NW, Atlanta
 The Halloween-themed event will raise awareness about the plight of black cats, which, along with black dogs, are often overlooked in rescue and adoption programs. The event will also raise money for AARF's cat adoption program for 2010. Cost: \$200 in advance, \$25 at the door. Your ticket will include a brewery tour, a tasting of award-winning, locally produced craft beers, and light appetizers. Contact: 678-318-1886, info@aarfatlanta.org, www.aarfatlanta.org

5th Annual Race to the Rescues Pasadena, CA

When: October 24, registration starts at 7am
Where: Rose Bowl, Area, Pasadena CA

A 5k, 10k & Kids Fun Run to benefit 10 non-profit dog/cat rescues and animal welfare Foundations. Run, Walk, Shop or Adopt to help save the life of a homeless dog or cat!

Meet celebrity hosts Jane Lynch, the star of "Glee," Carrie Ann Inaba from "Dancing With The Stars" and Danielle Fishel from the Style Network's "The Dish."

Please go to www.racefortherescues.org to get detailed information about race entry fees, making a donation and more!

Million Mutt March: Taking Strides to Help Homeless Pets Louisville, KY

When: Sunday, October 17
Where: Cherokee Park - begins at Hogans Fountain
 This event is a rally and march in support of positive, solution-oriented change for animals in Louisville. Please join us as we show our city and regional leaders that our companion pets are a priority.
 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. - Registration
 \$5 includes gift for dog or cat (your choice); \$20 registration also includes t-shirt
 Pre-register below and reserve your pet item and/or t-shirt size today!
 10am to 10:30am - Speakers and Rally at pavilion
 10:45 am - Million Mutt March begins!
 11:30 a.m. - Derby City Disc Dogs demonstration
 Enjoy the food, drinks, and pet friendly vendors
 2 p.m. - Event officially closes down

More information see www.nokill-louisville.com

3 Dog Walk at Pacifica Del Mar

When: October 17, Sunday 10:00am
Where: Pacifica Del Mar
 Canines will take action and walk for a cure during this 10 block dog walk. The walk begins at 10am at the Three Dog Bakery store; strolls through the Del Mar Village and ends at the beautiful L'Auberge Resort. On the resort's dog friendly patio walkers will enjoy a dog costume contest, dog fashion show, vendor booths, raffle prizes and more. The "3 Dog Walk" is sponsored by Three Dog Bakery in Del Mar and DogtownSanDiego.com with proceeds going to Komen San Diego. For more information, please visit www.dogtownsandiego.com.

2010 Haute Dog Howl'oween Parade & Pet Adoption Fair (Long Beach)

This is the World's largest Halloween pet event!
When: October 31, Sunday 2:30pm
Where: Long Beach, CA 2nd St, Livingston Park

Parade on 2nd St. Livingston Park vendor & adoption fair starting at 2:30pm: \$10 per dog to be in the parade benefits local animals, environmental and youth projects. 600+ costumed dogs in last year's parade! Vendors and rescue groups still sought. Contact JustinRudd@aol.com for details. 12 rescue groups and 53 vendors, so far! Entry forms are now online: www.Howloween.info