

# Paw Prints Newsletter

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## DID YOU KNOW...

- ▶ The only mammals with prostates are human and dogs.
- ▶ A dog takes 10-30 breaths every minute
- ▶ Cats age 10 years in the first six months of their lives.
- ▶ There are 244 bones in a cat's body – about 40 more than in the human body.
- ▶ The Lhasa Apso was once used by monks as guard dogs in temples.

## Holiday Do's and Don'ts

The holidays are a special time for bringing family members together. In all the excitement, however, our furry friends can find themselves in some troubling situations. Here is a list of do's and don'ts to help you avoid a trip to the vet's office this holiday season.

### DO'S

- ▶ Tell guests to avoid giving table scraps to the pets. Oftentimes, toxic foods such as chocolate may be ingested because of a well-meaning guest. Sometimes, if enough non-toxic food such as turkey is given to a pet, it can cause just as much gastrointestinal upset as if the pet ate a small amount of toxic food.
- ▶ Inform your guests house rules regarding pets as soon as they enter your home – whether they are allowed upon the furniture, outside, etc.

- ▶ If you have a real holiday tree, put a barrier around the water basin to prevent your pet from drinking it. If that is not possible do make sure to keep that basin clean at all times and change the water often.

- ▶ Keep ornaments that may be tempting to your pet out of reach.

- ▶ Keep all holiday treats, particularly chocolate, out of reach of your pets. Note that many pets can open drawers and jump onto various levels of counters to reach a high spot. They may not do this normally but a special tasty treat can be a motivating factor.

- ▶ If you have a cat that likes to climb trees do attempt to barricade the tree while the cat is not supervised. This may mean closing the door to the room with the tree when no one is at home.

### DON'TS


- ▶ Don't use tinsel or garland for decoration as your pet may ingest these.

- ▶ Don't buy poinsettias. If you must have these plants do make sure that they are out of harm's way.

- ▶ Don't place candles in areas close enough for your pets to reach or knock over and cause a house fire.

- ▶ Don't use glass ornaments on your tree if you have pets that may bump into them or break them causing lacerations from the fragments.





**Our Canine and Feline vaccine protocols are now available online.**

**Please visit [cherrydalevet.com](http://cherrydalevet.com) and click on the Pet Health Program Tab to review. Please call us with any questions or comments.**

# Cherrydale Loyalty Rewards Program

We are proud to introduce what we believe to be the most comprehensive, yet simplistic program for all our current and future Cherrydale Family members – the Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic Loyalty Rewards Membership Program.

This membership is based on a very simple concept – the concept of wanting, and therefore, complying with the best preventative and medical care the veterinary field has to offer for your pet.

Upon becoming a member, you will receive a card for each pet you enroll. Your Loyalty Reward membership card

will have your name and the name of your pet printed on the back.



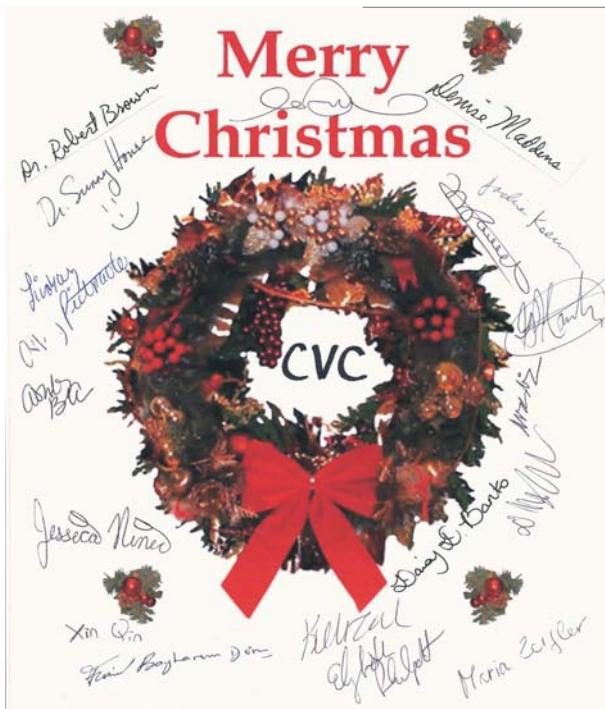
The Cherrydale Loyalty Rewards Program offers benefits to its members to enhance the already outstanding customer service Cherrydale is known for.

For one, members will enjoy priority access to medical care any time of

the day, during our convenient and extended seven days a week business hours. On an emergency basis, no fees will be charged.

In addition, a 15% discount will apply to ALL products and services your pet will get at Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic, including prescription food, boarding, surgeries, exams, lab Fees, etc. Certain procedures may even offer up to 25% discount.

If you have any questions about this program or to enrol, do contact us via phone, email or by visiting the clinic.



## Happy Holidays from Cherrydale

The Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic staff heartfully thanks all our loyal clients for your patronage through the years, especially during this past year of stressful economic upheaval.

We thank you for your commitment in seeking the best care for your cherished companions, and choosing us to provide it.

We hope you have a blessed, peaceful and joyful holiday season and a more prosperous 2010.

In gratitude,  
The CVC Staff

# Canine and Feline Diabetes

## Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes is a disorder of sugar (glucose) metabolism. Dogs and cats, as well as people, use glucose for energy. To use glucose, however, a hormone called insulin is needed. Insulin is what tells the cells in the body to utilize the glucose that circulates through the blood.

Without adequate insulin, glucose will build up in the blood stream to very high levels, causing many metabolic disturbances. In addition, since the cells cannot use the glucose, they lack an adequate energy supply and the body essentially starves despite adequate food intake.

## Signs of Diabetes Mellitus

The most common sign of diabetes are increased thirst and increased urination. Dog and cat owners may notice them drinking more or having to fill the water bowl more often.

In addition, dogs may start having urinary accidents in the house, especially overnight or during long periods left indoors. Cat owners may notice that the litter box is filling up much more quickly than

before and the 'clumps' may be bigger than normal. Dogs and cats will likely have an increased appetite yet be losing weight, as their bodies cannot utilize the energy that is in their food.

## Diagnosis

Diabetes is diagnosed with blood and urine testing. These tests will show a high blood glucose level and likely glucose present in the urine. Occasionally, a much stressed animal will have a high glucose level, even have glucose in the urine. A test called Fructosamine is often run to confirm this. It measures long-term glucose levels, and confirms that they have been abnormally high for a prolonged period of time.

## Treatment

As the cause of the disease is a lack of insulin, the treatment is regular insulin injection twice daily. The highest concentrations of glucose come after eating a meal, so the insulin is always given with a meal. Many animals respond well to therapy and their sugar levels are maintained in the normal range. Some animals, especially cats, need time to find the correct insulin dose that will keep them



regulated. This process can sometimes take weeks to months.

## Complications

Hypoglycemia or low blood glucose, occurs when there is not enough sugar intake or too much insulin given. Diabetic Keto-Acidosis-is a syndrome that occurs in diabetic animals who have a sudden and overwhelming demand for energy which their bodies cannot meet.

## Monitoring

Blood work is performed every three months in diabetic animals to monitor their organ function and glucose levels. In addition, a glucose curve will be performed when needed to ascertain their response to their current insulin dose.

Happy Holidays!





## Motion Commotion

The run up to the holidays sees us travelling to and from relatives often with our pet in tow. Travelling with pets can be wonderful so long as your pet travel well.

The most common problems are motion sickness and anxiety. Often, the anxiety can actually be a result of motion sickness even if the pet does not show other signs of nausea.

Several options exist to help combat motion sickness and anxiety in our pets during travel. First of all, make sure that your pet always travels on an empty stomach. Once your pet is in the car, open a window to allow in cool fresh air, as this is known to alleviate motion sickness. There are also medications that can help with motion sickness and anxiety.

Please be guided by your veterinarian in what they feel is the best solution for your pet.

## Bon-Voyage.. Maiko Funayama



We regretfully announce that Maiko Funayama will be leaving Cherrydale to pursue

her dreams of becoming a veterinarian. Maiko has been an immensely valued team member since she arrived two years ago.

She has shown an exemplary work ethic while

constantly maintaining a positive attitude. She is always willing to help in any way no matter what the circumstances. She will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best and know that she is going to achieve whatever dreams she sets her heart and mind to do.

Good luck, Maiko! Have a safe journey home. We miss you already.

## Holiday Closing/Hours

The following are our Holiday Hours here at Cherrydale: We will continue to have our normal business hours during this holiday season with the exception of the following;

- ▶ Christmas Eve---Closed
- ▶ Christmas Day---Closed
- ▶ New Years Eve---Closing at 5pm
- ▶ New Years Day---Closed
- ▶ We Will re-open with normal business hours on December 26th and on January 2nd 2010.



### Clinic Hours

M-F: 7:00 am - 9:00 pm  
 Sat: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Sun: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic

4038 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22207  
 Phone (703) 528.9001  
 Fax (703) 243.8586  
 Email [hospital@cherrydalevet.com](mailto:hospital@cherrydalevet.com)

### Our doctors

Robert C. Brown, DVM (Director)  
 Farid Boughanem, DVM (Medical Director)  
 Jackie Keenan, DVM  
 Sunny House, DVM  
 Dharati Szymanski, DVM  
 Laura Whitehead, DVM

*Serving the community since 1972*

DOG	HUMAN
3 months	5 years
6 months	10 years
1 year	15 years
2 years	24 years
4 years	32 years
8 years	48 years
10 years	56 years
15 years	76 years
20 years	98 years



Pets age faster than humans. To keep them healthy and disease free, have them examined twice a year.