

Paw Prints Newsletter

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DID YOU KNOW...

- ▶ Cats spend 15% of their day grooming themselves & 70% sleeping.
- ▶ The Basenji is the only breed of dog that cannot bark.
- ▶ On average, cats have 24 whiskers. They are arranged in four rows of three on either side of the cat's face.
- ▶ Chow Chows and Shar-Peis have blue-black tongues.
- ▶ Two dogs survived the sinking of the Titanic.

Canine Influenza: H3N8

Several cases of the H3N8 strain of Canine Influenza have been reported in the Northern Virginia area. The strain causes respiratory signs in dogs such as coughing, sneezing and nasal discharge, as well as fever and lethargy. The severity of the disease varies from case to case although 80% of cases will be mild.

A very small percentage of patients will develop severe disease such as pneumonia and an even smaller number will die. Canine influenza is most often spread from dog to dog but can also be transmitted by humans coming into contact with many dogs.

It is important to keep your dog away from other dogs while they are showing signs of disease and avoiding contact with other dogs yourself if your dog has the flu.

Is there a test for H3N8?
There is a test available for this disease, however it

takes two weeks so most patients will have recovered by the time the test results are available. Although the H3N8 strain can be carried on human clothing and transmitted to dogs, the disease itself cannot be transmitted to human nor cats.

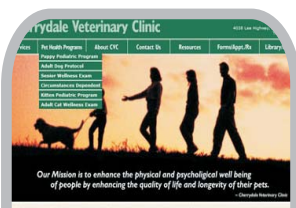
Currently, there are no cases reported in Arlington County. However, several boarding facilities in this area are requiring the H3N8 specific vaccine that Intervet/Schering Plough has developed. The vaccine has been demonstrated to decrease the incidence and severity of the disease, as well as minimize the shedding of the virus.

Currently the vaccine is not considered a core vaccine required for all dogs. However, if your dog will be visiting a boarding facility which requires the vaccine, it is available at Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic.

Be aware that the first time a dog is vaccinated, it will have to receive two doses 2-4 weeks apart as it will not have adequate protection until 10 days apart after the second dose of the vaccine.

In general, if you notice any respiratory signs in your dog, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated or not, please contact us at Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic so we may further assist you.





Our Canine and Feline vaccine protocols are now available online.

Please visit cherrydalevet.com and click on the Pet Health Program Tab to review. Please questions, call us

Seasonal Allergies

Many pets are affected by seasonal allergies this time of the year. The most common signs are skin irritation and intense itching, usually on the feet and underside as these are the parts most frequently in contact with the allergens.

Your pet may also develop "hotspots" – an inflamed, infected area of skin that is worsened due to a pet's licking and scratching. Hot spots are easily identified as the area of the skin that is hairless, ulcerated, and generally moist.

Pododermatitis is another moist infection

that occurs between your pet's toes when they lick and chew at their feet. Dogs and cats can also have a more generalized reaction to allergen such as redness throughout the body, itching, welts and hair loss.

As the ears are just an extension of the skin, ear



infection is also extremely common at this time of year. If your pet frequently shakes its head, scratches its ears or has a smelly ear discharge that returns despite cleaning, then it may have an ear infection.

Your pet's eyes can also be prone to seasonal allergies that can cause redness, itchiness and inflammation. Cornea injury is also common as your pet's nail may cause damage while scratching.

If your pet is affected by seasonal allergies, seek treatment sooner rather than later, as the intense itching can cause secondary self-induced injury.

Prescription Diet Update (Hill's and Purina)



In our effort to bring you the highest quality nutritional diets for your pet's special needs, we are happy to inform you that both Hill's and Purina Prescription diets are now enhanced and improved, with better nutritional and palatability standards.

Many of you may have noticed a different consistency in the texture of the Hill's diets. This is the new

improved version. The Purina Diets with the improved formulation are DM, OM, EN, and NF. As of September 21, 2009, Purina Feline canned EN will now be available.

As with any diet change, we recommend a gradual transition to the new formula over a 7 to 10 day period. Please contact us with any dietary issues or concerns.

Advancements in Veterinary Medicine

Veterinarians are often asked questions about how cats and dogs are diagnosed nowadays with diseases that were unheard of decades ago. The answers frequently converge to the same conclusion: the extended lifespan of our furry family members has been made possible through an improved quality of life, ranging from a better diet to a wide array of diagnostic and therapeutic tools.

Years ago, this was not possible. Veterinarians did not have access to sophisticated diagnostic tools. Not too long ago, for example, getting an ultrasound for your pet entails hours of travel to a veterinary teaching institution. Today, things have dramatically changed especially in the metropolitan area. A Veterinarian Oncologist, for example, is available within a short driving

distance, or an MRI can be ordered and performed within a day.

At Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic we are committed to accommodate our clients any possible way – from house call services, Sunday appointments, to our latest endeavor: Telemedicine services.

Telemedicine provides our clients a wider range of specialized and advanced procedures and services, including ultrasound studies, internal medicine consultations, cardiology workups (ranging from electrocardiograms to echocardiograms) performed in our office.

Also through telemedicine, some of the best board-certified specialists in the country can provide further evaluation if needed.

This new concept is very simple and revolutionary. For example, a dog

suspected with liver disease can have an ultrasound performed at Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic by one of our own doctors.

The images are then sent to a board-certified radiologist through a highly sophisticated and secured channel anywhere in the country, along with any other radiographs for interpretation.

The radiologist will provide us with a preliminary verbal report within two hours from the time the images are sent. This is usually followed by a formal written report within 2 to 5 days.

Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic is committed to bringing its clients state-of-the-art technology, knowledge and expertise veterinary medicine has to offer.



Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if my pet hates to go to the Vet? What can I do to make it comfortable?

One of the advantages of being a client of Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic is that we have a house call service. This service is available

Monday to Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Your pet will be much more comfortable in his or her surroundings. Please call us at 703-528-9001 or visit us on the web at www.cherrydalevet.com to schedule an appointment for you.

SPECIAL OFFER

Dentals are 10% off through the month of October. Take advantage of this great offer today.

World Rabies Day is September 28



People across the world will unite on September 28 for World Rabies Day in an effort to raise awareness about rabies prevention in humans and animals. While the disease rarely strikes in the United States, it still poses a threat.

A recent survey conducted showed that pet owners do not completely understand the risks and deadly effects of rabies.

The study showed that 94% of dog owners get their pets vaccinated against rabies but only 75% of cat owners do. This discrepancy may be explained by the finding that 57% of cat owners thought their indoor pets were not at risk, while only 37% of dog owners felt the same. It is not a surprise then that cats are almost three times as likely to get rabies as dogs, making cats the pet most likely to contract the disease in the United States.

To learn more about this disease and what our counterparts around the globe are doing to combat it, please visit www.WorldRabiesDay.org.

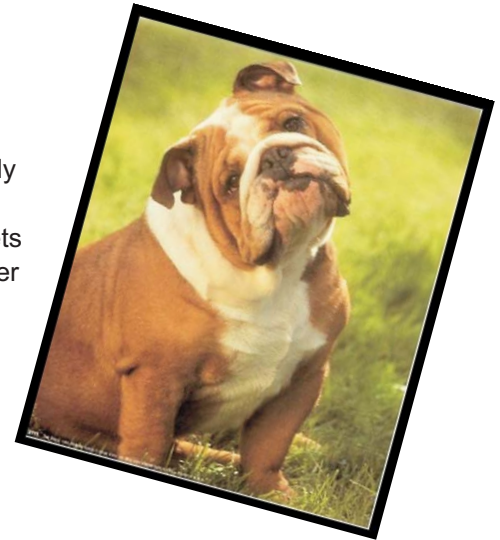
DOG	HUMAN
3 months	5 years
6 months	10 years
1 year	15 years
2 years	24 years
4 years	32 years
8 years	48 years
10 years	56 years
15 years	76 years
20 years	98 years



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

It is Not Just Puppy Fat

Pet obesity is a rapidly growing problem with almost 50% of our pets characterized as either overweight or obese. Obesity can lead to a diminished quality of life by predisposing them to diseases such as diabetes and arthritis.



Studies have shown that overweight dogs have shorter life span than their lean counterparts. As a pet parent, you can prevent obesity in your pet by closely monitoring his diet and exercise.

Just like people, in order to stay healthy and lean, your pet needs to eat a well balanced diet and exercise daily.

Special treats like table food and bones should be avoided. Instead, cut up carrots or apples into bite-sized pieces as a healthy reward for your pet.

If your pet is already overweight, your veterinarian can discuss several weight loss options. With your help, your pet can live a long, lean and healthy life.



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

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Our doctors

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

Serving the community since 1972