



October/November Newsletter

Canine Dog Flu

Canine influenza was first discovered last year and has been identified in dogs in shelters, boarding facilities, humane societies and race-tracks. While this disease first emerged in Florida, several cases have been reported in Southern California this year.

All dogs, regardless of breed or age, are susceptible to infection because this is a newly emerging virus and dogs have not acquired a natural immunity to the disease and there is no vaccination available

for preventing the disease. Canine influenza is a highly contagious disease, which mimics 'kennel cough' and causes acute respiratory infection. In the milder form of disease, dogs develop a cough that lasts for 2-3 weeks even with antibiotics and cough suppressants. Some dogs also develop a nasal discharge and low-grade fever. In the more severe form of disease, dogs develop signs of pneumonia such as a high fever and increased respiratory rate. Even though almost all dogs exposed to the

virus contract the disease they might not show any signs or symptoms and fully recover without any treatment. On the other hand, fatalities have been reported at a rate of 1 –10 percent. The incubation period for the disease is 2 to 5 days after exposure and infected dogs can shed the virus for 7-

(cont. on page 2)



Upcoming Events: Horse Health Day—October 23rd

Mark your calendars and plan to be at Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic on Sunday, October 23 for Horse Health Day! Our large animal veterinarians will present an entire day of seminars and demon-

strations from 9 am to 4 pm. Topics include: preventative care, reproduction, nutrition, limb ultrasound, first aid, endoscopy, colic, basic handling and medication administration, lameness, dental

care, Cushing's Disease and hoof care. Lunch will be provided so if you plan on attending please RSVP to 685-4673 by October 17th. We plan on seeing you then!

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Dates to Remember:

- *Horse Health Day*
Sunday, October 23rd
9am to 4pm

Canine Dog Flu (cont.)

10 days after clinical signs appear. Canine influenza is not believed to be contagious to humans or other species of animals.

To limit the chances of your dog contracting canine influenza, limit contact with other dogs and areas where dogs frequent, such as dog parks. Also make sure your dog is following a vaccine schedule recommended by a veterinarian. Although there is no vaccine for canine influenza, there are vaccinations that decrease the likelihood and severity of other canine respiratory

infections. If your dog exhibits any signs of disease, contact us at 916-685-2494 to schedule an appointment.



Hospital News

Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic is pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Heather Malka, our newest Small Animal Associate Veterinarian!

Chocolate Toxicity

With Halloween and the holiday season approaching, it is important for pet owners to educate themselves on the potential severity of chocolate poisoning. Chocolate, in addition to having a high fat content, contains caffeine and theobromine. These two compounds are nervous system stimulants and can be toxic to dogs. The levels of these two toxins vary in concentration between different types of chocolate, white chocolate having the lowest concentration and baking chocolate having the highest. Depending on the type of chocolate ingested and the amount eaten, various problems can occur. The high fat content in chocolate may result in vomiting and possibly diarrhea. If toxic levels are ingested, you may notice restlessness, hyperactivity, muscle twitching, increased urination, excessive panting, increased heart rate and blood

pressure and sometimes even seizures can be observed.

Chocolate toxicity is usually diagnosed based on the owner witnessing the animal ingest chocolate. Treatment depends on the severity of the clinical signs and may include continuous intravenous fluid therapy, medications to help control vomiting and sedatives to counteract the stimulant effects of chocolate. Occasionally medication to reduce heart rate and high blood pressure is indicated. Most pets treated for chocolate toxicity recover and return to normal within 24-48 hours of treatment. If your dog ingests chocolate, remove your dog from the source and call us at 916-685-2494 immediately. Home care for pets that have ingested toxic levels of chocolate is primarily aimed at reducing gastrointesti-

nal upset and making certain that there is no access to additional chocolate sources. Once nausea and vomiting ceases, a bland diet may be recommended for a couple of days. If your pet is not eating and drinking, continues to vomit, has persistent diarrhea or still seems hyperactive, consult your veterinarian for additional recommendations.



Ethylene Glycol Toxicosis (Antifreeze Poisoning)

With the cold winter months around the corner, it is important for everyone to realize the danger of antifreeze poisoning. When the time comes to fill your car this winter, know that as little as 3 tablespoons spilled on the ground can kill a cat or 20 pound dog.

Ethylene glycol poisoning affects the nervous system and causes severe kidney failure and almost completely ceases urine output. Dogs and cats that roam unsupervised are more likely to encounter ethylene glycol in antifreeze which has not been disposed of properly. Ethylene glycol has a sweet taste and animals will consume it readily. Unfortunately, many owners do not realize that their pet has consumed the chemical and do not become aware of the problem until the pet shows symptoms of kidney failure like loss of appetite, lethargy and vomiting two to three days after ingestion.

Treatment is often futile after severe kidney failure has developed and the best chance for survival is if treatment is administered in the first 8 hours after ingestion. If treated promptly and appropriately, pets that have consumed ethylene glycol will not develop kidney failure and will have a good chance of survival.

As little as 3 tablespoons of antifreeze spilled on the ground can kill a cat or 20 pound dog.

Signs of ethylene glycol poisoning include: nausea, vomiting, increased thirst, lethargy, and lack of coordination. Pets may even act as if they are intoxicated. These signs develop within 30 minutes to 12 hours after ingestion. Several diagnostic tests may need to be performed to recognize ethylene glycol toxicosis including: physical examination, urinalysis, blood gas analysis, blood testing or abdominal ultrasound. Treatment may include: vomiting induction, hospitalization, intravenous fluids to correct dehydration, activated charcoal and sodium bicarbonate administration, and other medications to treat kidney failure and to prevent the breakdown of ethylene glycol. However, once severe kidney failure has developed more than 80 percent of pets die despite diligent medical treatment.

There are several measures that can be taken to help prevent ethylene glycol poisoning. First of all, containers of antifreeze should be tightly closed and kept away from pets. If any antifreeze is spilled it should be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly with large amounts of water. There are also antifreeze products available that do not contain ethylene glycol, such as Prestone Low Tox or Sierra Antifreeze. Do not allow your pet to roam unsupervised. Pets that are allowed to roam are more likely to encounter a source of ethylene glycol.

If you witnessed or suspect that your pet has ingested any antifreeze or ethylene glycol, please call us immediately at 916-685-2494. As mentioned previously, an animal's best chance for survival depends on immediate treatment.



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