DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Diseases of Animals

Introduction; Infectious Diseases; Noninfectious Diseases

INTRODUCTION

The Causes of Disease

Diseases of Animals, disorders that influence an animal's health and ability to function. Animal diseases are of great concern to humans for several reasons. Pet diseases need adequate prevention and quick natural treatment of animal diseases to help pets live long and healthy lives, enhancing the companionship shared by a pet and its human owner. Diseases can reduce the productivity of animals used to produce food, such as hens and dairy cows. Animals that are raised as food, such as pigs and beef cattle, that become ill may affect the economic well-being of many industries. Some animal diseases can be transmitted to humans, and control of these types of diseases, known as zoonoses, is vital to public health. In the wild, animal populations reduced by disease can upset the ecological balance of an area.

Animal diseases are characterized as infectious and noninfectious. Infectious diseases are caused by an agent, such as bacteria or a virus, that penetrates and unnaturally overwhelms the body's natural defense mechanisms, while noninfectious diseases are caused by factors such as diet, environment, injury, stress, toxicity, perverse energy, allergy, emotional factors, psychological empathy, karma, age, lack of good clean care and heredity. Sometimes the causes of a disease are unknown. (yes there are always multiple causes) An animal may also experience one disease or a combination of diseases at any one time.

To identify a disease, a veterinarian (a doctor who treats animals) first determines the animal's characteristics—its species, breed, age, and sex. This information helps to identify a disease because some diseases are more prevalent in certain species, or a disease may preferentially affect one sex or age group. The veterinarian then gathers a complete history of the animal and its problem. This history includes the symptoms the animal is displaying and when they first appeared, as well as whether the animal has been exposed to something new in its surroundings or to other animals. The veterinarian gives the animal a thorough physical examination, which may include measuring its body temperature, listening to its heart, checking its pulse, and feeling its abdomen and lymph nodes. The veterinarian then creates a list of possible diseases that may be making the animal sick. The list may be narrowed by running diagnostic tests such as X rays, electrocardiograms, blood analyses, and bacterial or fungal cultures. Once the diseases are identified, the doctor develops a treatment plan for the animal.
Many microscopic organisms naturally and peacefully exist in enormous quantities within animal bodies. For example, the multi-chambered stomach of a cow contains bacteria that help the animal digest its food. But many other microscopic organisms, known as pathogens, cause diseases in animals. The natural microorganism in its natural environment is not a pathogen. It belongs there. It is there for a function, usually to detox or help repair. It can become opportunistic when the self regulating immune system fails to balance the microorganism. A especially virulent form or an excess of a microorganism might more easily overwhelm the immune system. A true pathogen is one that is not found in healthy animals but only in sick animals. Pathogens include bacteria, viruses, fungi, prions—newly identified mutated proteins—and parasites. Pathogens are easily spread: an animal may consume food or drink something that has been contaminated with infected fecal material, for example. If the ground is contaminated by Salmonella bacteria, for instance, infection can travel from barn to barn on the soles of a farmer's boots. Or an animal may be exposed while walking across contaminated ground. Some diseases are transmitted by biting insects; others are spread by sexual contact.

In addition to reducing the productivity of livestock, some infectious diseases pose a danger to humans. More than 100 zoonoses are recognized. Most cases are transmitted from animals that have close contact with humans, such as pets, farm animals, or rats. Examples of zoonoses include toxocariasis, a disease caused by a parasitic worm transmitted by infective eggs within canine feces; psittacosis, a respiratory disease caused by the bacteria-like Chlamydia psittaci and transmitted from infected birds; hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, spread by contact with rodent feces and urine; and rabies, a viral infection transmitted in the saliva of infected animals, typically foxes, bats, and raccoons, that causes damage to the brain and spinal cord.

As the human population grows and expands into wilderness territories, humans are coming into closer contact with other animals that carry pathogens dangerous to humans. Some of these pathogens are carried by insects, as in the case of yellow fever, spread from monkeys to humans via mosquito bites. Some hemorrhagic fevers, such as that caused by the Ebola virus, are recognized as zoonoses, but the exact transmission route from animal to human is still unknown.

Bacterial Diseases

Salmonellosis is any disease caused by the Salmonella bacteria, characterized by septicemia and severe diarrhea. In its many forms, it is one of the major diseases of wild and domestic mammals, birds, and reptiles, as well as humans. Salmonella bacteria usually enter the body through the mouth, most commonly along with food or water contaminated by infected feces. Transmission also may occur through direct contact with an infected animal. In addition, salmonella bacteria can be spread by contact with objects, such as bowls and
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cutting boards, that have been contaminated by infected animal products, such as eggs or meat.

**Anthrax** is one of the oldest and most destructive diseases recorded in history. Caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*, anthrax can affect virtually all warm-blooded animals and humans. The onset of anthrax may be sudden and death may occur before symptoms are observed. In other cases, typical symptoms include restlessness, lethargy, appetite loss, fever, rapid breathing, and unsteady gait. The disease is contracted from contaminated soil, feed, or water. It can also spread when the skin is penetrated by insect bites or by objects contaminated with anthrax spores.

Leptospirosis, caused by spiral *Leptospira* bacteria, affects cattle, dogs, pigs, sheep, goats, and humans. Ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water are common sources of leptospirosis, and rodents may carry the infection. This infection causes kidney disease and destruction of red blood cells with potential anemia; it may also cause abortion. Brucellosis also causes abortion, as well as swelling of the reproductive organs in males. Caused by the *Brucella* bacterium, it occurs primarily in cattle, pigs, sheep, dogs, and goats, and may be transmitted to humans (see Undulant Fever).

**Tuberculosis** (TB) is a chronic disease of animals and humans, caused by bacteria of the genus *Mycobacterium* and transmitted by inhalation of droplets from an infected animal’s cough or sneeze, or by wound infection. TB infection causes lesions called tubercles to develop in certain tissues, such as the lung or liver. Symptoms include fever, emaciation, and progressive loss of strength.

Kennel cough is a respiratory disease of dogs that is caused by the bacterium *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, with or without the aid of various viruses. Symptoms include a harsh, dry cough, appetite loss, discharge from the nose or eyes, and lethargy. It typically spreads when dogs are grouped together, such as at dog shows or boarding kennels.

**Viral Diseases**

Viruses are unable to grow and reproduce outside of the living cells from other hosts. Viruses attach and invade a cell and replicate, and then the newly created viruses destroy the host cell and seek out other cells to continue replication.

Feline leukemia is caused by the feline leukemia virus. Often fatal, it can seriously impair the immune system and, in some cases, cause the growth of life-threatening tumors. Spread from direct contact with an infected cat, symptoms of the disease include lethargy, weight loss, anemia, and fever. A cat may not appear ill until years after exposure.

**Foot-and-mouth disease** is caused by a virus found in the saliva of cattle, pigs, and other hoofed animals. Highly contagious, it is spread from direct contact with an infected animal. It may also spread in milk or in garbage that contains contaminated meat. Typical symptoms include blisters that appear on the mouth and feet; animals may become lame when their hooves degenerate.
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Canine distemper is a highly contagious disease caused by the paramyxovirus, which is transmitted in discharges from the nose and eyes. Symptoms begin with fever, malaise, and nasal and ocular discharges and may progress to convulsions and other nervous system disorders. Paroviruses affect dogs and in some cases cattle, pigs, and humans. Usually fatal if left untreated, canine parovirus causes inflammation of the intestines, producing diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and loss of appetite.

Fungal Diseases

A fungal infection typically develops slowly and recurs more frequently than a bacterial infection. Histoplasmosis, characterized by a chronic cough and diarrhea, is contracted by inhaling the Histoplasma capsulatum fungus, which grows in soil. In the Central United States histoplasmosis is the most widespread fungal disease diagnosed in dogs, although it also affects other animals. Ringworm, a common skin disease of many species, causes circular patches of hair loss and scaly, reddened skin. It readily spreads by direct contact with an infected animal.

Yeast, another type of fungus, grows in warm and moist places, such as the ear canals of dogs. It may cause otitis externa, an infection of the outer ear. The yeast Candida albicans is commonly found in the intestinal tract of birds and other animals. It may be the primary cause of disease, or it may be a secondary invader in an animal already sick with another infection.

Parasitic Infections

Diseases caused by parasites are widespread in domestic animals and wildlife. Parasites may be internal or external. Internal parasites include Coccidia, a microscopic protozoal (single-celled) organism that causes diarrhea and extreme weight loss in many young animals.

Other internal parasites include the roundworm, tapeworm, and fluke. Larval roundworms can cause considerable damage to lungs and other organs in some animals. For instance, Capillaria worms may attack the lining of the digestive tract of chickens and turkeys; they parasitize the respiratory and urinary tracts of dogs. Adults of the heartworm Dirofilaria immitis, another roundworm, live in the heart of dogs and produce microscopic larval stages, which swim in the blood. Symptoms of heartworm disease include coughing, fatigue, and weight loss. If left untreated, an animal may experience heart failure. Tapeworms may have very damaging larval stages. In echinococcosis, the larval tapeworms may form large cysts in liver, lungs, and other organs of humans and animals.

Flukes may directly damage the liver, lungs, or intestines, or they may act as carriers of other disease agents, as in the case of salmon poisoning of dogs in which the fluke, encysted in the body of a salmon, carries a virulent rickettsial agent.
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External parasites live or feed on the surface of the animal’s body. This group includes bloodsucking insects, such as mosquitoes, gnats, some flies, fleas, and some lice. Some insects are bloodsuckers in larval stages, such as ear maggots of hawk nestlings. Others, including some larval flies and some lice, eat tissue. Great damage to the meat and hides of cattle is caused by larval flies such as the ox warble, which migrates through the tissues and, after boring breathing holes through the skin, leaves the body to reproduce.

Bloodsucking flies can transmit parasitic blood protozoans and some viruses.

Lice are of two types, those with chewing mouthparts and those with sucking mouthparts. Lice cause irritation, carry disease agents, and may cause anemia. Fleas are all bloodsuckers, and may transmit larval tapeworms, roundworms, and other disease agents. The sticktight flea may kill young birds by excessive bloodsucking. Mites may be external bloodsuckers, such as the red mite of birds (it can also affect humans and other animals), or they may be internal parasites, such as the Sternostoma mites of the lungs and air passages of canaries and other birds. Ticks, larger than mites, feed on blood and can carry serious infectious agents such as the bacteria that cause Q Fever and Lyme disease, which can be transmitted to humans.

Prion Diseases

Newly identified protein particles called prions have been found in the brains of animals that have died from diseases such as scrapie and bovine spongiform encephalopathy, more commonly known as mad cow disease. How prions act is unclear, but scientists theorize that prions attach to normal proteins in the brain. Once attached, the prions cause the normal proteins to change into an abnormal shape, leading to progressive destruction of brain cells and death. Prion diseases are thought to spread by means of feed supplements derived from infected animals. In recent years, public health officials have been concerned about the possibility that prion diseases may be transmitted to humans. This happens when humans eat contaminated beef or organs, causing them to contract such rare neurological diseases as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Prevention and Treatment

Controlling the spread of infectious animal diseases begins with isolating, or quarantining, animals with threatening infections, such as salmonella, to prevent further transmission.

Many bacterial diseases can be treated with various antibiotics, such as penicillin and streptomycin. But as with all disease, prevention is more important than treatment, and a major activity for veterinarians is immunization of animals. Immunization commonly involves an injection of a weakened or killed pathogen for a specific disease that encourages the immune system to fight off infection. Many infectious diseases, including rabies, canine distemper, feline leukemia, anthrax, and brucellosis, can be prevented by immunization. In the case of severe outbreaks of infectious disease, public health officials may work with animal owners to destroy large groups of animals. This was the case in the early 1990s, when an outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy triggered the slaughter of many beef cattle in Britain.
Transmission of animal diseases to humans is a constant concern of public health officials. To protect people from disease, veterinarians inspect food animals for wholesomeness; quarantine and examine animals brought into the United States from other countries; test animals for the presence of disease; and actively work to prevent and eradicate diseases that threaten human health.

### NONINFECTIOUS DISEASES

Even if it were possible, a world without pathogens would not be disease-free. Many animal diseases are caused by noninfectious factors such as an animal's environment, genetics, and nutrition. Heatstroke, for example, occurs when an animal is forced to endure high temperatures without access to water, adequate ventilation, or suitable shade. A common scenario involves an animal that has been locked inside a car without air-conditioning during hot weather. Conversely, extreme cold can lead to hypothermia or frostbite. Other environmental hazards include the vast array of products humans use to eliminate pests and weeds from homes, farms, and gardens. For example, rodenticide, poison used to kill rats and mice, can cause fatal internal hemorrhaging in any animal that ingests this toxic substance. Improper use of flea powders, sprays, dips, and collars can also cause illness. Automobile antifreeze is another well-known poison. Its sweet taste appeals to some animals, such as cats and dogs, but consuming only a small amount can result in death. Many plant species are also toxic to animals. Some, such as pokeweed and yew, commonly grow in pastures and yards.

Poor feeding practices can lead to diseases such as nutritional secondary hyperparathyroidism, a condition involving the muscles and bones of dogs that is associated with an all-meat diet. Large, rapidly growing puppies that consume too many calories and too much calcium can develop hypertrophic osteodystrophy, a disease resulting in lameness. Cats need sufficient amounts of an essential amino acid called taurine in their diets. Without it, they may develop eye problems. Not enough iodine intake can cause a goiter, or enlargement of the thyroid gland, in cows, horses, and other animals.

Trauma is a leading cause of injury and premature death in animals, especially pets that are allowed to roam free outdoors. Many animals are hit by cars or bitten by other animals. Farm animals may be attacked by predators, or they may harm themselves on sharp fencing or discarded nails. Untreated wounds can become infected and cause permanent damage.

Hip dysplasia, a painful and debilitating skeletal condition, is a noninfectious disease caused in part by heredity. Certain defects of the heart or palate, the roof of the mouth, may also be inherited. Some animals are genetically predisposed to diseases such as generalized demodectic mange, a skin disease caused by mites and characterized by hair loss and scaling around the eyelids, mouth, and front legs.

An animal's immune system is designed to detect and eliminate invading organisms. Occasionally, however, it behaves as though the animal's own body were the attacker, and it destroys healthy tissue. Diseases caused by this response, known as autoimmune diseases, include pemphigus foliaceous, a skin disease of dogs, cats, and horses; and rheumatoid arthritis, a severe type of arthritis that involves inflammation of the joints. In
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the autoimmune disease hemolytic anemia, the animal's own red blood cells are destroyed by its immune system.

Cancer exists in all animals. It is classified as either benign—that is, relatively noninvasive and unlikely to return after treatment; or as malignant—that is, aggressive and likely to spread. Any organ or system can be affected, either directly or through metastasis—when cancer cells from one part of the body spread to other areas of the body. Some forms of cancer are more widespread in animals of a particular breed, age, or sex, and even individuals of a specific color. For example, cancer of the mammary gland occurs more often in female animals, while melanoma, or skin cancer, is the most frequent tumor of elderly gray horses, and lymphosarcomas, tumors of the lymph nodes, are the most common type of specific tumor in cats. The study of cancer, known as oncology, is a growing field in veterinary medicine.

National Notifiable Animal Diseases List as at April 2008

1. African horse sickness
2. African swine fever
3. Anaplasmosis in tick free areas
4. Anthrax
5. Aujeszky's disease
6. Australian bat lyssavirus
7. Avian Influenza
8. Avian mycoplasmosis (M. synoviae)
9. Babesiosis in tick free areas
10. Bluetongue (clinical disease)
11. Borna disease
12. Bovine Virus Diarrhea Type 2
13. Brucellosis (B. abortus, B suis, B canis and B. melitensis)
14. Camelpox
15. Chagas' disease (T cruzi)
16. Classical swine fever
17. Contagious agalactia
18. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
19. Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
20. Contagious equine metritis
21. Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever
22. Devil Facial Tumour Disease
23. Dourine
24. Duck virus enteritis (duck plague)
25. Duck virus hepatitis
26. East Coast fever
27. Encephalitis (tick-borne)
28. Porcine enterovirus encephalomyelitis (Teschen)
29. Enzootic bovine leucosis
30. Epizootic lymphangitis
31. Equine encephalomyelitis (eastern, western and Venezuelan)
32. Equine encephalosis
33. Equine herpes-virus 1 (abortigenic and neurological strains)
34. Equine infectious anaemia
35. Equine influenza
36. Equine piroplasmosis (*Babesia equi*, *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*)
37. Equine viral arteritis
38. Foot and mouth disease
39. Getah virus infection
40. Glanders
41. Haemorrhagic septicaemia
42. Heartwater
43. Hendra virus infection
44. Infectious bursal disease (hypervirulent and exotic antigenic variant forms)
45. Japanese encephalitis
46. Jembrana disease
47. Leishmaniosis of any species
48. Louping ill
49. Lumpy skin disease
50. Maedi-visna
51. Malignant catarrhal fever (wildebeest-associated)
52. Menangle virus infection
53. Nairobi sheep disease
54. Newcastle disease (virulent)
55. Nipah virus infection
56. Paratuberculosis (Johne’s disease)
57. Peste des petits ruminants
58. Porcine cysticercosis (*C. cellulosae*)
59. Porcine myocarditis (Bungowannah virus infection)
60. Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome
61. Post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome
62. Potomac fever
63. Pullorum disease (*Salmonella pullorum*)
64. Pulmonary adenomatosis (*Jaagsiekte*)
65. Rabies
66. Rift Valley fever
67. Rinderpest
68. Salmonella enteritidis infection in poultry
69. Salmonellosis (*S. abortus-equii*)
70. Salmonellosis (*S. abortus-ovis*)
71. Screw-worm fly - New World (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*)
72. Screw-worm fly - Old World (*Chrysomya bezziana*)
73. Sheep pox and goat pox
74. Sheep scab
75. Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)
76. Swine influenza
77. Swine vesicular disease
78. Transmissible gastroenteritis
79. Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, chronic wasting disease of deer, feline spongiform encephalopathy, scrapie)
80. Trichinellosis
81. Trypanosomiasis
82. Tuberculosis (mammalian or avian)
83. Tularaemia
84. Vesicular exanthema
85. Vesicular stomatitis
86. Warble-fly myiasis
87. Wesselsbron disease
88. West Nile virus infection - clinical
## Bee Agent List

1. Acarasis tracheal mite (*Acaropsis woodi*)
2. American foulbrood (*Paenibacillus larvae*)
3. European foulbrood (*Melissococcus plutun*)
4. Small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*)
5. Tropilaelaps mite (*Tropilaelaps clareae*)
6. Varroasis (*Varroa destructor*)
7. Varroasis (*Varroa jacobsoni*)

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### Dog Diseases

- AA Amyloidosis (Inflammatory)
- Acanthosis Nigricans
- Achondroplasia
- Acral Lick Dermatitis
- Acrochordonous Plaque
- Cone Degeneration, Achromatopsia
- Acromegaly
- Actinomycosis
- Acute Peritonitis
- Addison's Disease (Hypoadrenocorticism)
- Adrenal Cortical Atrophy
- Congenital Afibrinogenemia (Factor I Deficiency)
- Alexander disease
- Allergic Dermatitis (Atopy)
- Allergic Dermatitis Treatment
- Allergic Otitis (Ear Allergy)
- Allergic Rhinitis
- Allergies
- Alloimmune hemolytic Anemia of the Newborn
- Alloxan diabetes
- Alopecia
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Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency
American Canine Hepatozoonosis

Amyloidosis
Anal Sac Disease
Anemia (Congenital Hypoplastic)
Anhidrotic Ectodermal Dysplasia (X-linked Ectodermal Dysplasia, XHED)
Ankylosing Spondylitis (Ossifying Spondylitis)
Anodontia
Anterior Uveitis
Aortic Stenosis
Aphakia
Arnold-Chiari Malformation (Syringomyelia)
Arthritis
Ascarids and Hookworms
Atopic Dermatitis
Atrial Septal Defect
Auto Accidents and Care of Wounds
Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia (AIHA)
Autoimmune Thyroiditis (Lymphocytic Thyroiditis)
Autoimmune Thrombocytopenic Purpura
Progressive Axonopathy
Bacterial Endocarditis
Bacterial Infections: Leptospirosis, Brucellosis, Actinomycosis and Nocardiosis
BARF F.A.Q.
Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy (BPH)
Black Hair Follicular Dysplasia
Blastomycosis
Bleeding

Blepharitis
Breathing Disorders
Urinary (Bladder) Stones
Botulism
Brachycephalic airway obstruction syndrome
Breed Predisposition to Orthopedic Problems

Breed Predisposition to Fragmented Coronoid Process

Breed Predisposition to Developing Canine Hip Dysplasia (CHD)
Breed Predisposition to Osteochondritis (OCD) of the Elbow

Breed Predisposition to Osteochondritis (OCD) of the Shoulder

Breed Predisposition to Panostitis

Breed Predisposition to Legg-Calve-Perthes Disease

Breed Predisposition to Developing Ununited Anconeal Process

Brucellosis
Bullous Pemphigoid
Burns
Bursitis
C3 Deficiency
Calcinosis Circumscripta
Cancer

Candidiasis
Canine Babesiosis
Canine Dermatomyositis
Canine Distemper
Canine Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia (CIT)
Canine Infectious Hepatitis
Canine Leishmaniasis
Canine Leukemia
Canine Monocytic Ehrlichiosis (CME)
Canine Nasal Aspergillosis
Canine Parvovirus
Canine Protothecosis
Canine Uveodermatologic Syndrome
Canine Viral Hepatitis
Canine Wobbler Syndrome
Canine X-linked Muscular Dystrophy
Canned Dog Food
Cataracts
Cerebellar Abiotrophy
Central Core Myopathy
Cerebellar hypoplasia
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Cerebellar Purkinje cell degeneration
Cervical Vertebral Instability
Cesarean Section
Chagas’ disease (American Trypanosomiasis)
Chewing Gums, Fights & Heat Stroke
Chest and Lung Conditions
Cheyletiellosis
Chondrosarcoma
Chronic Eosinophilic Leukemia, CEL
Cleft palate
Circulatory Disorders
Coccidioidomycosis
Coloboma
Color Dilution Alopecia
Comedo syndrome
Congenital Hypotrichosis
Conotruncal Heart Malformations
Conjunctivitis
Constipation
Copper-associated hepatitis (CAH)
Coprophagy (Eating Stool)
Cor Triatriatum Dexter
Corneal Dermoid
Cornification Disorders
Coronavirus Enteritis
Corneal Dystrophy
Craniomandibular Osteopathy (Lion Jaw, Westie Jaw)
Cricopharyngeal Dysfunction
Cryptorchidism
Canine and Feline Cryptococcosis
Cryptosporidiosis
Cushing’s Disease (Hyperadrenocorticism)
Cutaneous Asthenia
Cuterebriasis
Cyclic Neutropenia
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Cystinuria
Defenses Against Infectious Diseases
Degenerative Myelopathy
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Dehydration
Demodicosis
Dermatomyositis (DM)
Dermoid sinus
Dermatophytosis (I)
Dermatophytosis (II)
Diabetes Insipidus (CDI)
Polyneuropathy, Distal Sensorimotor
Diet for dogs with diarrhea (Inflammatory Bowel Disease, IBD)
Digging, Barking, Chewing
Dilated Cardiomyopathy (CDM)
Diseases Transmissible Between Dogs and People
Disease of the Canine Penis and Internal Sheath of the Prepuce
Breed Predisposition to Developmental Orthopedic Diseases
Dog Disease Symptoms
Dog Nutritional Needs
Dry Dog Food
Dysautonomia
Dysplasia Epiphysealis Hemimelica
Dry Heaves
Ear Infections
Ear Margin Dermatosis
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Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD)
Flea Control
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Persistent Pupillary Membrane
Pet Health Insurance
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Platelet delta-storage pool deficiency
Pneumothorax
Poisoning, Plants Poisonous for Dogs
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Polymicrogyria and Asymmetrical Ventricular Dilation
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Portosystemic Shunt (PSS)
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Pug Dog Encephalitis
Pulmonary adenomatosis
Pulmonic Stenosis
Pyloric Stenosis
Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency
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Sarcoptic Mange (I)
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Sebaceous Adenitis
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Sodium-potassium-ATPase High Activity
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Zygomycosis

Feline: Diseases by Name

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 broadly popular.

Valley Fever (Coccidioidomycosis)

The fungus lives only in one area: the Lower Sonoran life zone. An animal or person who is sick is not contagious; infection is only through inhalation of a fungal spore released from dirt but only a few spores are necessary for infection to occur.
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* Bladder Stones in Dogs and Cats

There are many types of bladder stones, and each tends to form in a specific breed or species under specific conditions. Here are some common forms.

* Cushing's Disease (Hyperadrenocorticism)

This condition represents a classical excess in cortisone-type hormone circulation in the body. Both cats and dogs can be affected (though it is primarily a dog's disease) and the onset is insidious. We have assembled an information center to answer all your questions on this relatively common hormone imbalance.

* Diabetes Mellitus Center

Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disease involving the body’s handling of sugar. Learn about some of the basics of this common hormone problem of dogs and cats.

* Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD)

Feline lower urinary tract disease was formerly known as FUS and is actually a set of symptoms that can't be classified as a real disease. See what the symptoms are and what possible treatments there are for them.

* Heartworm Information Center

Heartworm is a parasite that most dog owners and many cat owners have to be concerned about. The more you know, the better protected your pet can become. We have put together an information center to take you through the parasite's biology, the preventive medications, diagnosis, and treatment.

* Hyperthyroidism Center for Cats

Hyperthyroidism is the most common hormone imbalance of cats. This center of linked articles reviews the physiology of the condition, its diagnosis, and the pros and cons of the treatment options.

2 What Exactly is Cushing's Disease

Excess thirst, excess urination, excess appetite, poor hair coat and a pot-bellied appearance. This is a classical disease for which lots of information is available. We have attempted to include an explanation of this complicated problem and all the latest information.

A Chronic Renal (Kidney) Failure Center

The kidneys are made of thousands of tiny filtration units called nephrons. Once a nephron is destroyed by a disease, it cannot regenerate; this means that we all have a finite number of nephrons to last us our whole lives.

Abscesses from Bite Wounds
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

At most clinics, a week doesn’t go by without seeing a cat or two in this condition. Cats fight, bite, and get infected. What do you need to know?

Abscesses in Animals

A common infectious process is called an abscess. If the abscess has not ruptured, it can be surgically lanced by your vet.

Airborne Allergies

We get hay fever; dogs get itchy skin. This condition is usually seasonal - but not always - and many treatments are available. Find out the causes and what you can do to relieve your pet’s discomfort.

Allergies in Dogs and Cats #1

Allergic disease is one of the most common causes of skin disease in dogs and cats. Allergies are classified as contact allergies, inhalant allergies, or food allergies. Some contact allergies may not actually be allergies at all, but are likely hypersensitivities.

Allergies in Dogs and Cats #2

Atopy is generally seasonal and causes itching of the skin and ears. Many different treatments have been used, depending on the severity of the condition. In mild cases, antihistamines, such as diphenhydramine and hydroxyzine, have shown to be successful in only about 10% to 20% of the cases. The advantage of these products is very few side effects.

Allergies in Dogs and Cats #3 Food

To determine positively that your pet has a food allergy, a food allergy trial must be done as skin and blood tests for food allergy are not effective. Simply switching foods from one commercial brand to another is not effective in diagnosing food allergy as many of the commercial foods have some of the same ingredients. To correctly do a food allergy trial, a food must be chosen to which the pet has never been exposed.

Anal Sacs

Is your pet scooting? Smelling a fishy foul odor? Noticing some licking under the tail? Dogs with impacted anal sacs usually scoot their rear on the ground in an attempt to empty the glands. Some dogs will lick their anal area and other dogs will chase their tails. Cats often lick the fur off just under their tails.

Anemia: Inadequate Red Blood Cells

There are three important ways in which the kidney patient loses red blood cells. The first way is bone marrow suppression. The second way is bleeding. The third way is called hemodilution. Maintaining a stable red blood cell quantity keeps the patient energetic and spirited and is crucial to staying alive.
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

**Anorexia**

Loss of appetite is one of the most important criteria in determining if a pet is significantly ill or just having a minor malady. When the veterinarian says the pet has anorexia, it means the pet is not eating.

**Arthritis: Medications for Degenerative Arthritis**

Arthritis pain causes discomfort and loss of mobility in aged pets, and there are numerous remedies on the market. Which ones can be combined? Which are proven reliable and which may only work in some individuals?

**Aural Hematoma**

A hematoma is swelling created by a broken blood vessel after bleeding has occurred inside tissue. Hematomas within the ear flaps (aural hematomas) occur when head shaking breaks a blood vessel. The ear flap may partially or completely swell with blood. This condition is more common in dogs but can occur in cats as well.

**Bartonella and Cat Scratch Fever**

Ted Nugent made cat scratch fever (actually called cat scratch disease) nearly a household name with his song, but most people still know very little about this infection other than it involves a fever spread by cat scratches. In fact, it involves infection by a bacterium called *Bartonella henselae*, which is spread by fleas.

**Bird Flu in Cats**

There is no reason for people with cats as pets to consider getting rid of their cats for fear of catching the bird flu.

**Bladder Stones** (1)

There are many types of bladder stones each with a tendency to form in a specific breed or species under specific conditions. Here is information on some common forms of stone, with more to come in the future!

**Blastomycosis**

Blastomycosis is a systemic fungal infection that affects dogs and cats. Blastomycosis appears in only certain geographic areas in North America, most often the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Tennessee, and St. Lawrence River valleys. Infection with *Blastomyces* occurs when a cat or dog inhales the fungal spores into the lungs.

**Bubonic Plague**

Veterinary News Network indicates a few cases of bubonic plague is not all that unusual. In the United States, about 10 to 15 cases are reported every year.
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**Calcium Phosphorus Balance**

In renal insufficiency, phosphorus is not anyone’s friend. The failing kidney is no longer good at getting rid of excess phosphorus and phosphorus levels in the blood begin to rise.

**Cataracts**

Cataracts are an important cause of blindness in the dog. Through special surgery, it may be possible to restore vision. Would you recognize a cataract if you saw one in your cat or dog?

**Cats and Ferrets Had SARS in Laboratory Setting**

While researching appropriate medicine for humans infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), scientists discovered that cats and ferrets can get SARS from humans, at least in a laboratory. At present, no evidence exists to suggest that these species play a significant role in the epidemiology of SARS outbreaks.

**Cats with Broken Tails**

Cats get their tails pulled or broken through an assortment of traumas. One might think a tail break would involve an obvious external wound but usually this is not the case; instead, nerve damage (from stretching of the cauda equina nerves) is the usual tip-off.

**Cervical (Neck) Disc Disease**

The pet can experience just some neck pain or complete paralysis of all four legs and no pain perception. An acute onset is an absolute emergency.

**Cholangiohepatitis in Cats**

The word cholangiohepatitis breaks down into “chol” (bile), “angio” (vessel), hepat (liver) and “itis” (inflammation). Putting this all together means inflammation of the liver and bile ducts. It is one of the four most common liver concerns in cats.

**Cholangitis and Cholangiohepatitis in Cats**

Cholangitis (inflammation of the bile ducts) and cholangiohepatitis (inflammation of the bile ducts and the liver) are common problems in cats. Cats with cholangitis do not usually appear ill; cats with cholangiohepatitis usually appear ill.

**Chronic Renal Failure Links**

See other sources of information on renal disease.

**Chronic Steroid Use**

There has never been a class of drug that has more application in disease treatment than the glucocorticoid class. Indeed, this group is rivaled only by antibiotics in lives saved. But side effects from the glucocorticoid group are numerous and can be classified into those seen with short-term
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

use and those seen in long-term use.

Chylothorax

When the fluid filling the chest is lymph, the problem is called chylothorax. The fluid is milky when it is drained from the chest, and its whiteness comes being from fat. Chylothorax represents a specific problem and requires specific therapy.

Clostridium Perfringens

When pets get chronic diarrhea, one of the tests that sooner or later comes up is the test for *Clostridium perfringens* enterotoxin. *Clostridium perfringens* is a bacterium and it produces an unpleasant toxin.

Coccidia

Coccidia are parasites that commonly infect young animals housed in groups. Coccidia causes a bloody diarrhea that can be severe enough to be life threatening for a small animal. It’s a common infection.

Colitis: An FAQ

Colitis means inflammation of the colon and that spells diarrhea - often with fresh blood or mucus - and straining and discomfort for the pet, as well as a mess to clean up.

Constipation and Megacolon

Difficulty in passing stool can mean extra effort (constipation) or complete impossibility (obstipation). Management can be surgical or with medication, depending on severity. Find out the difference, and find out what Megacolon is, too, on this informative page.

Controlling Diabetes Mellitus Without Insulin

When the body is not able to produce insulin at all, there is no choice but to give insulin injections. Sometimes, however, the body can produce some insulin, just not enough. In this situation, there may be some room for alternative therapy. Read on.

Corneal Ulcers and Erosions

A scratch or scrape on the eye is extremely painful, causing squinting, redness and excess tears. What do you need to know about taking care of a pet with this condition? Read about the diagnosis and treatment of corneal ulcers and erosions.

Cryptorchidism (Retained Testicles)

Cryptorchidism is a condition in which a male’s testicles have not descended (dropped) into the scrotum. Some cryptorchid animals are sterile and some are not.

Cryptosporidium: A Particularly Nasty Type of Coccidia
Disease in Animals

Cryptosporidium are similar to Coccidia and, until recent advances in molecular biology showed us otherwise, they were believed to be simply another species of Coccidia. They have some particularly unpleasant features.

Cushing’s Disease (Hyperadrenocorticism) (6)

This condition represents a classical excess in cortisone-type hormone circulation in the body. Both cats and dogs can be affected (though it is primarily a dog’s disease) and the onset is insidious. We have assembled an information center to answer all your questions on this relatively common hormone imbalance.

Demodectic Mange in Cats

Demodectic mange in dogs is extremely common, especially in puppies. Demodicosis in cats is much more unusual.

Diabetes Mellitus in Dogs and Cats #1

Diabetes mellitus, commonly called sugar diabetes by many people, is a common disease in dogs and cats. It is characterized by insulin deficiency or dysfunction that results in increased glucose concentration in the blood.

Diabetes Mellitus in Dogs and Cats #2

Treatment of diabetes mellitus involves treatment of any concurrent illnesses, medication to lower the blood glucose concentration, and dietary management. Dogs, as they have insulin dependent diabetes, require insulin injections for treatment. About 30% of cats have non-insulin dependent diabetes and will respond to oral hypoglycemic agents, at least initially.

Diarrhea and Vomiting

Diarrhea is the frequent evacuation of watery stools. Vomiting is the forceful expulsion of stomach contents through the mouth.

Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)

Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) is an extreme complication of numerous already life-threatening conditions leading to the deregulation of the body’s natural mechanisms of blood clotting and blood clot dissolving.

Dust Mites: Minimizing Exposure

Dust mites feed off of skin scales and dander shed by humans and animals. Mites love bedding, carpeting, and anywhere they can find a hiding place with the likelihood of skin dander being present. Dust mites also require a relatively high humidity in the home to truly thrive.

Ear Infections (Otitis Externa)

Did you know the most common cause of recurrent ear infections is allergic skin disease? What do
you do to keep the ear scratching and head shaking from becoming chronic?

**Eosinophilic Granuloma Complex**

Feline allergic skin disease can take some highly ulcerative forms, especially involving the upper lip. EGC is a hard condition to explain, especially since it has several forms, but we’ll give it a try.

**Epistaxis: The Bloody Nose**

Some blood-tinged droplets sneezed on the floor might be the only sign or there might be a steady bloody drip from one or both nostrils. These findings are alarming as well as messy and we want to identify the cause and take care of it promptly. The problem is that there are many causes and not all of them are localized to the nose, and many are serious diseases.

**Euthanasia**

The decision to euthanize a pet should be one that you always look back upon and know that the best decision was made and that you would make the same decision again in the same situation. So how do you know if it is time?

**Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency**

Generally a high digestibility diet is the best choice for an EPI patient. These foods are low in fiber and fat and may be especially helpful for patients with trouble gaining weight. Many animals simply use enzymes mixed with their regular food.

**FIV Vaccine**

There is now a vaccine available for feline immunodeficiency virus, commonly called feline AIDS or FIV. However, there are some concerns about its use.

**Feline Asthma**

If your cat needs to open its mouth to breathe or if its abdomen moves excessively as it breathes (and it’s not purring), then it may be suffering from feline asthma. Asthma is a recurring respiratory compromise that occurs when the lung airways constrict either spontaneously or in response to stimuli that normally should not cause a reaction.

**Feline Cardiomyopathy**

Cardiomyopathy means heart muscle disease: • Cardio = heart • Myo = muscle • Pathy = disease

**Feline Distemper (Panleukopenia)**

Feline distemper, caused by a parvovirus, is a life-threatening disease. The virus is considered ubiquitous, meaning it is in virtually every place that is not regularly disinfected. The infection is highly contagious among unvaccinated cats, usually kittens and young adult cats living in groups. Barn cats, feral colonies, animal shelter groups, pet stores, and rescue facilities are high risk for outbreaks.
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**Feline Hemotropic Mycoplasmosis (Infectious Anemia)**

The infected cat's immune system is busy coating infected red blood cells with antibodies. Coated red blood cells are removed from the circulation by the spleen. This kills the organism, and the iron is harvested and recycled into new red blood cells. The problem is that so many red blood cells are being destroyed that the cat becomes anemic.

**Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome**

A compulsive disorder, feline hyperesthesia syndrome usually begins is also known as self-mutilation syndrome, rolling skin syndrome, twitchy cat disease, and atypical neurodermatitis. What happens is that affected cats have episodes in which the skin twitches, the body jerks around suddenly, and the tail moves far more than usual.

**Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome**

Feline hyperesthesia syndrome (FHS) does not have a single cause. In order to diagnose FHS, ruling out other conditions that resemble FHS is often required. Only by ruling out other conditions can this syndrome be labeled a behavioral disorder.

**Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)**

FIV is a virus that causes AIDS in cats; however, there is a long asymptomatic period before AIDS occurs and our job is to prolong this asymptomatic period.

**Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)**

FIP is a serious disease with near 100% mortality, no good test, no good treatment, and no good vaccine. If your cat is an FIP suspect, we know how painful the lack of knowing can be. We hope these resources can provide facts and understanding during this difficult time.

**Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)**

Feline leukemia virus, a retrovirus, is a common infection of cats. It is the cause of more cat deaths, directly or indirectly, than any other organism and is widespread in the cat population.

**Feline Oxalate Bladder Stones**

Most calcium oxalate stones develop in cats between ages 5 and 14 years. 35% of cats with calcium oxalate bladder stones have elevated blood calcium (hypercalcemia). Burmese and Himalayan cats appear genetically predisposed to the development of calcium oxalate bladder stones.

**Feline Upper Respiratory Infection**

Does your cat sneeze, have runny eyes, and a runny nose? A cold for a cat is usually just a nuisance as a cold usually is for one of us. Sometimes, though, an upper respiratory infection can be serious.
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Flea Anemia

We all know fleas are a nuisance and can lead to itching and dermatitis, but did you know a heavy flea infestation can be life threatening? The owners of most victims were not aware of the problem. Read more about this condition and who’s most at risk.

Food Allergies

Have an itchy pet all year round? Maybe there is a food allergy. Just changing to a new diet probably won’t be enough. Find out what to do here and see if your pet fits the profile for this condition.

Fractures in Dogs and Cats

If this article has caught your attention, it may be that your pet has had the misfortune of suffering a fractured bone. This is a traumatic experience for both you and your pet and there are a few things you should know to help both of you make the best of a bad situation!

Fur Mowing (Feline)

Got a cat with a large balding spot? Wondering why the fur is falling out? Chances are excellent that the fur isn’t falling out at all; it is being licked off instead. Is the cat anxious? Obsessive? Maybe, but it’s likely that the cat is just plain itchy. There is generally a medical approach to this problem.

Glomerulonephritis

In glomerular disease, holes are punched out in the filtration system, allowing molecules that the body needs to keep entering the urine flow and be urinated away. Chronic inflammation leads to the holes in the filtration system.

Halitosis (Bad Breath)

Halitosis, also called bad breath, is as an offensive odor emanating from the oral cavity. Bad breath is a common presenting pet odor complaint. Causes may be commonly be related to the mouth or rarely related to other health problems.

Heart Failure Therapy

When the heart is not able to pump out the volume of blood it receives (backward failure) or cannot pump out enough blood to supply oxygen to the body (forward failure), the goal is to avoid or resolve a life-threatening crisis. Once the short-term disaster is resolved, we look to a more long-term therapy plan.

Heart Murmurs

A heart murmur is one of several types of abnormal sounds your veterinarian can hear when listening to your pet’s heart with a stethoscope. The murmur itself is not treated; the underlying cause of the murmur may or may not be treated.
Heartworm Information (3)

Heartworm is a parasite that most dog owners and many cat owners have to be concerned about. The more you know, the better protected your pet can become. We have put together an information center to take you through the parasite's biology, the preventive medications, diagnosis, and treatment.

Helicobacter 1/5/04

Gastric ulcers are a common disease in people, and 70% of all gastric ulcers in the United States are reported to be caused by Helicobacter, a gram negative spiral-shaped bacteria.

Helicobacter Infection

This bacterium is not new but focus on it by both the veterinary and human medical community certainly is. The role of Helicobacter in stomach ulcer formation is now well recognized. If you have a pet with chronic nausea, you may want to be familiar with this infection.

Hepatic Lipidosis (Fatty Liver)

The liver failure cat is jaundiced, inappetant, frequently nauseated, and generally an obviously ill animal.

Herpes Viral Conjunctivitis: A Feline Problem

Conjunctivitis in cats is usually of viral origin and usually that means a Herpesvirus. Herpesvirus grow in the tissues of the body that interface with the environment, such as the upper respiratory tissues and conjunctivae.

High Blood Pressure (Systemic Hypertension) in our Pets

High blood pressure is an extremely important concern in human medicine. High stress lifestyle, smoking, and high salt diet all contribute to this potentially dangerous condition and virtually everyone in the U.S. knows how serious it can be. But what about our pets? They don’t smoke or worry about the mortgage and they don’t deposit cholesterol in their blood vessels. They do, however, get high blood pressure, especially in age and here is what you probably should know.

Hip Dislocation

Hip dislocation is the common term for the separation of the femoral head from the pelvic acetabulum. The more medical term is hip luxation, and you will probably hear your veterinarian use this term. In order for the hip to luxate, trauma must be severe enough to break the capital ligament. The femur almost always luxates the same way: up and forward.

Horner’s Syndrome

Slight squint, small pupil, raised third eyelid… it all looks pretty strange, as if something is wrong with the eye. In fact, it is not the eye itself that is the problem, but rather it is a nerve problem. Read more about this symptom and its causes.
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Hot Spots (Acute Moist Dermatitis, Pyotraumatic Dermatitis, Superficial Pyoderma)

A hot spot is a superficial skin infection that results when the normal skin bacteria over-run the skin’s defenses as a result of damage to the skin surface.

Hydrocephalus (Water on the Brain)

This condition literally means "water head" and is more commonly referred to as water on the brain. The central nervous system is bathed in cerebrospinal fluid that is secreted by chambers inside the brain. When fluid builds up, there is no room in the brain for extra volume and disaster can result. This condition is particularly common in dome-headed puppies.

Hypercalcemia

Elevated calcium starts with the bones. They receive an inappropriate message to mobilize their calcium. This message is either from excess parathyroid hormone or from high amounts of parathyroid hormone-related protein. When calcium is removed from the bones, all that's left is a fibrous scaffold, which is not really strong enough to support us. Our bones break, even fold.

Hyperlipidemia

Hyperlipidemia is a general term for disorders in which too many fat molecules (called lipids) circulate in the blood. The two most important lipids in pets are cholesterol and triglycerides.

Hyperthyroidism Treatment Options

Three methods of treatment for feline hyperthyroidism are discussed.

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common acquired heart diseases in cats but very rare in dogs.

Hypocalcemia: Low Blood Calcium

Calcium is such a crucial component of our biochemistry that virtually any complete blood panel, whether human or veterinary, will include a measurement of calcium. Our bodies go to tremendous lengths to regulate our blood calcium levels within a narrow range. We need a storage source to draw upon for when we need more circulating calcium as well as a system to unload excess.

Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA)

We depend on red blood cells to bring oxygen to our tissues and carry waste gases away. Without enough red blood cells we die. We can lose blood cells from bleeding, but sometimes our immune system gets confused and destroys them by mistake. What can we do when this happens?

Immunotherapy for Allergies
**DISEASE IN ANIMALS**

Most people know someone who gets periodic “allergy shots” for airborne allergies. What this means is that a special individually-made serum is created using small amounts of allergens (proteins against which the person reacts). It works for dogs and cats, too.

**Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

Does your pet seem to have chronic vomiting or diarrhea? Those can be signs of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

**Interstitial Cystitis**

Many cat owners are familiar with the signs of feline lower urinary disease in the cat. It amounts to bladder pain, straining, and bloody urine. Interstitial cystitis (cystitis simply means inflammed bladder) is a human disease that is also characterized by excruciating bladder pain and straining.

**Intestinal Lymphangiectasia: An Important Cause of Intestinal Protein Loss**

Protein-losing enteropathy is a fancy way of saying that protein is being lost from the body through the intestine. This is a serious problem as the body's proteins are not easily replaced and the only way to replace them involves the absorption of protein constituents from the intestine.

**Iris Coloboma**

The iris coloboma, which is relatively common, does not affect vision, and it does not progress to anything else.

**Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)**

Irritable bowel syndrome is a psychosomatic disease. This means that it is the activity of the mind that causes the symptoms. Most people do not have difficulty imagining having so much anxiety that diarrhea results. Chronic anxiety can similarly result in chronic diarrhea. This is basically what irritable bowel syndrome is all about.

**Itching and Allergy in Cats**

Coping with an itchy pet can be an extremely frustrating experience for you, the pet owner, and can truly test the limits of the human-animal bond. Persistent scratching and grooming by a cat can also result in more skin damage and even cause open wounds.

**Kidney Dialysis: Is it for your Pet?**

Most every animal hospital can provide diuresis: a therapy where extra fluid beyond what the patient can drink is provided, thus giving the kidney its medium so that it can remove toxic waste. This works well but there comes a time when even with plenty of fluids, the sick kidney simply cannot get the toxins out. For most patients this is the end of the line. In fact, diuresis may be another choice, though it is substantially more expensive than diuresis and dialysis centers for pets are still few and far between.

**Kidney Failure: Where to Begin**
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Chronic kidney, or renal, failure is common among geriatric pets. As treatment frequently is long term, owners should understand their options. Topics discussed include definitions, medications used in treatment, diagnostics/helpful testing, and monitoring.

**Lead Poisoning**

The most common cause of lead poisoning in pets is ingestion of lead-based paint. Although lead-based paint is no longer available in the United States, it was used in buildings for many years.

**Lipomas (Fatty Lumps)**

A lipoma is a soft, round, moveable lump or bump of fatty tissue under the skin. Because they do not cause pain, infection, or hair loss, they're usually spotted by owners when petting or grooming their pets.

**Lymphoma**

This form of cancer, also called lymphosarcoma, is the most common malignancy of dogs, cats, and humans. A plentitude of information is available, information that is necessary in order to make intelligent decisions about an affected pet.

**Lymphoma in Cats**

Lymphoma accounts for one third of all cancers developed by cats. When the mediastinal lymph nodes become infiltrated with lymphoma, a mass is apparent in the mediastinum and a cancerous fluid fills the chest, restricting breathing. The fluid can be tapped but it will be back without treatment.

**Malignant Thyroid Tumors (Thyroid Carcinoma)**

In dogs, there is an 87% chance that a thyroid growth is malignant. Cats with thyroid carcinomas are usually hyperthyroid.

**Mammary Cancer in Cats**

In cats with mammary tumors, approximately 90% are malignant with rapid spread to adjacent glands and the nearest set of lymph nodes.

**Marijuana Toxicity**

The usual pet toxicity case involves a dog that has inadvertently eaten a stash of marijuana. In the dog, clinical signs typically begin 30 to 90 minutes after the marijuana has been eaten. Because THC is stored in the body's fat deposits, the effects of marijuana ingestion can last for days.

**Meningioma**

Meningioma is the most common brain tumor of cats and dogs. Meningiomas are generally benign. In dogs, seizures are the most common sign. In cats, signs are more vague and consist of listlessness and behavior changes.
**Myasthenia gravis**

Myasthenia gravis is a disease that interrupts the way nerves communicate with muscles. There is no treatment for the congenital form. The acquired form, which is an autoimmune disease, is treated medically with immunosuppressive agents.

**Naso-Pharyngeal (Nasal Pharyngeal) Polyps in Cats**

Naso-pharyngeal polyps are the most common masses that are seen in the external ear canal in cats. They are benign growths.

**Neonatal Isoerythrolysis in Cats**

Neonatal isoerythrolysis, or NI, is a rare immune-mediated disease that is caused when newborn kittens with type A blood drink colostrum from a mother with type B blood.

**Nicotine (Cigarette) Poisoning in Pets**

Everyone knows the Surgeon General’s warning about cigarette smoking but what about cigarette eating? Nicotine poisoning is a real concern anywhere that a pet may find cigarettes, cigarette butts, chewing tobacco, or even nicotine gum or patches. Dogs, particularly puppies, tend to chew things up first and ask questions later.

**Normal Joints**

A pet does not have to be a senior citizen to require joint care supplements or physical therapy. Degenerative arthritis can result from an injury or can be the result of genetics and joint conformation.

**Notoedric Mange**

Dogs get sarcoptic mange but what do cats get? It turns out they have their very own mange mite: Notoedres Cati. Notoedric mange is a rarity worldwide and many veterinary dermatologists never see a single case in their entire careers. Notoedric mange exists in small regional “hotbeds,” one of which happens to be the Greater Los Angeles area. Our hospital normally sees at least one confirmed case a month, usually in outdoor or shelter cats. Visit this page for an explanation and pictures.

**Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma**

The oral squamous cell carcinoma does not spread as you normally think of a cancer spreading, but it’s so locally invasive that it carries a poor prognosis. The only hope of good survival comes from early detection. Learn what to look for and what important risk factors are.

**Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (Feline)**

The squamous cell carcinoma is not only the most common oral malignancy in cats, it has one of the poorest outcomes.
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (Oral SCC)

When squamous cell carcinoma occurs in the mouth and throat, it's called oral squamous cell carcinoma. In these oral cases, the lesion is usually located on the gums or tonsils.

Overview of Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disease involving the body’s handling of sugar. In order to understand diabetes mellitus, it is important to have some understanding of the normal situation first.

Pancreatits (Feline)

Many people have heard of the pancreas but are not sure what it does, where it is, or what a disaster it can be when it gets inflamed.

Plasma Cell Pododermatitis (Pillow Foot)

Easy to recognize but not as easy to understand, this condition is often called pillow foot in cats for reasons that are obvious. This condition is described as rare. Most cats do not require treatment.

Plasma Cell Stomatitis

Stringent control of plaque is crucial to the management of cats with this painful, chronic condition. Expect an affected cat to require teeth cleaning under general anesthesia at least every 6 months. If medical management fails, all teeth need to be removed.

Pneumonia Management

Most people have heard the term pneumonia and know it is a lung infection of some sort. In fact, pneumonia is not a very specific term and essentially means "lung inflammation of some sort.” Pneumonia is an inflammation in deep lung tissues where oxygen is absorbed into the body and waste gases are removed. It has potential to be life-threatening regardless of its cause.

Pruritus: A Diagnostic Approach

Graphics illustrate a diagnostic approach to working with pruritis in dogs and cats.

Pyelonephritis

Pyelonephritis is an inflammation of the kidney that frequently shows no symptoms and thus it is not usually recognized until the signs become severe. It may not be diagnosed until histopathology is done on the kidney after the pet's death.

Pyometra

Pyometra is the life-threatening infection of the uterus that generally occurs in middle-aged to older female dogs in the 6 weeks following heat. A uterus with pyometra swells dramatically and is filled with pus, bacteria, dying tissue, and toxins. Without treatment, the pet is expected to die.
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Rabies

Descriptions of rabies go back thousands of years as rabies has classically been one of the most feared infections of all time. Rabies is a serious disease, but fortunately it can also be easily prevented in dogs and cats by proper vaccination.

Radiotherapy Facilities

Facilities offering radiotherapy treatment for feline hyperthyroidism are listed here.

Rat Poison

There are several types of rodenticides available. The traditional products are called anticoagulant rodenticides and are discussed here. If one intends to use a rodenticide we encourage you to choose this type over others as there is a readily available antidote for the anti-coagulant rodenticides. Other rodenticides are more toxic and no antidote is available.

Reverse Sneezing (Pharyngeal Gag Reflex)

Reverse sneezing is a disconcerting event in which a dog makes unpleasant respiratory sounds that sound like it is dying -- or will die in the next few minutes. However, reverse sneezing is a simple condition that usually does not need any treatment.

Ringworm FAQ

Ringworm is not a worm at all but a fungal infection of the skin. It's contagious to humans, too. This FAQ provides answers.

Ringworm in Dogs and Cats #2 5/1/03

Infected dogs generally always have a skin lesion at the site of infection, whereas infected cats can carry the fungus and transmit it without actually having a skin lesion. In other words, cats can have the fungus on their coat or transmit the fungus to other animals and people and not have any noticeable lesions themselves.

Roundworms: Cats & Kittens

This common parasite can cause diarrhea and vomiting in cats and dogs, and some pet owners become very concerned when their pet expells a worm up to seven inches in length. Roundworms are also one of the few dog or cat parasites that can be dangerous when transmitted to humans.

Roundworms: Humans

This common parasite can cause diarrhea and vomiting in cats and dogs, and some pet owners become very concerned when their pet expells a worm up to 7 inches in length. Roundworms are also one of the few dog or cat parasites that can be dangerous when transmitted to humans.

Runny Eyes (Epiphora)
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Many dogs and cats have tear-stained faces from chronic excessive tears. Why is this and why is this problem considered one of the hardest to solve in veterinary ophthalmology?

🔗 **Seizure Disorders**

Any involuntary behavior that occurs abnormally may represent a seizure. Seizures may be caused by situations within the brain (such as trauma or infection) or by situations centered outside the brain (such as low blood sugar, circulating metabolic toxins, or external poisons).

🔗 **Signs, Symptoms and Diagnosis of Hyperthyroidism**

Do you have an older cat who is losing weight despite having an excellent appetite? That's the hallmark sign of hyperthyroidism in cats.

🔗 **Surgical Treatment for Feline Hyperthyroidism**

Considering that the average hyperthyroid cat is a geriatric patient with special potential for high blood pressure and heart disease, quite a bit of patient preparation is necessary to reduce anesthetic risk.

🔗 **Tapeworms**

Noticing something like grains of rice that move, something that looks like sesame seeds in your pet’s bedding? Where do tapeworms come from, how can you eliminate them, and why do they come back?

🔗 **The Non-Obstructed Cat**

"Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease" was formerly known as “FUS” and is actually a set of symptoms that can’t be classified as a real disease. Click here to see what the symptoms are and possible treatments for them.

🔗 **Thrombocytopenia**

If your pet has a condition called thrombocytopenia, his platelet count is low. When the platelet count is low, it is harder for clotting to occur.

🔗 **Thyroid Treatment: Radiotherapy**

This method of therapy is generally considered the safest and most effective method of treatment for feline hyperthyroidism.

🔗 **Toxoplasmosis**

Although it is possible to get Toxoplasmosis from cats, no correlation has been found between cat ownership and Toxoplasma infection. There is, however, a very strong association between Toxoplasma infection and working with raw meat as in a slaughterhouse or as a butcher. Be careful handling raw meat.
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

**Transitional Cell Carcinoma**

The transitional cell carcinoma is a particularly unpleasant tumor of the urinary bladder that usually grows in the lower neck of the bladder, causing a partial or complete obstruction to urination. Bloody urine and straining to urinate are typically the signs noted by the owner.

**Tritrichomonas foetus**

Kittens and cats living in groups have an assortment of infectious diseases to contend with. *Tritrichomonas foetus* is yet another infectious organism yielding diarrhea in feline patients, usually with a history of group lifestyle.

**Urinary Blockage**

Every owner of a male cat should be familiar with this emergency condition. The recognition of straining to urinate is the key. Urine flow must be re-established by trained veterinary personnel to prevent death.

**Urinary Tract Infection**

The urinary tract infection (UTI) is one of the most common ailments in small animal practices.

**Vaccinations - Allergic Reactions**

Immunization represents stimulation of the immune system, an inherently inflammatory process. Vaccination reactions severe enough to produce shock are EXTREMELY rare and are a function of an individual pet's immune response.

**Vaccine Associated Fibrosarcoma**

Fibrosarcomas have been recognized for a very long time as difficult, deeply rooted tumors of cats. What has only recently been recognized is the potential for vaccination to lead to the formation of these tumors.

**Vestibular Disease**

Most people think their pet has had a stroke, but in fact a problem with the vestibular apparatus is to blame. The vestibular apparatus is the neurological equipment responsible for perceiving one's body's orientation relative to the earth (determining if you are upside-down, standing up straight, falling etc.).

**West Nile Virus**

This CDC Fact Sheet offers questions and answers about West Nile Virus as it relates to dogs and cats. Dogs and cats can be infected through mosquito bites. DEET-based mosquito repellants are not recommended for pets.

**What Can I Do About My Pet’s Arthritis?**
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Newer concepts of arthritis management involve proper exercise to maintain muscle mass and decrease pain; maintaining lean body weight is critical.

What Is the Thyroid Hormone, and What are T3 and T4?

Do you have an older cat who has a weight loss problem despite an excellent appetite? Has hyperthyroidism been diagnosed but you have questions about the different treatments?

Zinc Poisoning

Now that pennies are made of zinc instead of copper, swallowing them can be harmful to your pet. Many veterinarians are unaware of this syndrome and do not realize that pennies are far more than a simple foreign body. This is a recently described disease and many questions are still unanswered.

Cow disease

A

Abomasal Displacement
Abortion:
  BVD
  General
  IBR
  Leptospirosis
  Listeriosis
  Neospora caninum
  Salmonellosis
Acetonaemia
Actinobacillosis
Actinobacillus lignieresii
Allergic Dermatitis
Arthritis, Septic
Arthritis, Traumatic

B

Bacillary haemoglobinuria
Blackleg
Bloat
Botulism
Bovicola bovis
Bovine Fasciolosis
Bovine Herpesvirus 1
Bovine Pneumonic Pasteurellosis
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
Bovine Tuberculosis
Bovine Viral Diarrhoea
Bronchitis, Parasitic
Brucellosis
BSE
BVD
BVH-1

C

Calcium Deficiency
Calf Diarrhoea
Calf Pneumonia
Campylobacter Abortion
Cardiac Myopathy
CCN
Cerebrocortical necrosis
Chlamydial Abortion
Chorioptes bovis
Circling Disease
Clostridial Disease
Cobalt Deficiency
Colibacillosis
Coccidiosis
Conjunctivitis
Copper Deficiency
Coronavirus
Cryptosporidiosis
Cryptosporidium parvum

D

Damalinia bovis
Deficiency, Nutritional:
  Calcium
  Cobalt
  Copper
  Magnesium
  Selenium
  Thiamine
  Vitamin B
  Vitamin B₁₂
  Vitamin E
Dermatitis, Allergic
Dermatitis, Digital
Dermatophytosis
Diarrhoea, Calf
Dictylocaulosis
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

*Dictyocaulus viviparus*
Digital Dermatitis
Displaced Abomasum
Dirty Cows

E

*E. coli*
*Eimeria*
Encephalitis, Listerial
Endometritis
Enzootic Pneumonia
Epizootic Abortion
*Escherichia coli*
ETEC
External Parasites:
  - Lice
  - Mange

F

*Fasciola hepatica*
Fascioliasis
Fat Cow Syndrome
Fertility
Flabby Bag
Fluke, Liver
Foul-in-the-Foot
Fungal Abortion

G

Gastroenteritis, Parasitic
Grass Staggers
Grass Tetany

H

*Haematothrix eurysternus*
*Haematothrix quadripertusus*
Helminthiasis
Hock Damage
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Husk
Hygroma
Hypocalcaemia
Hypocupraemia
Hypoglycaemia (Ketosis)
Hypomagnesaemia
Hypomagnesaemic Tetany

I

IBK
IBR
Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis
Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis
Infertility:
  BVD
  Metritis
  Reproductive problems
  Retained placenta
  Leptospirosis
  Neospora caninum
Internal Parasites:
  Coccidiosis
  Cryptosporidiosis
  Fascioliasis
  Helminthiasis
  Liver Fluke
  Lungworm

Iritis

J

Johne's Disease
Joint-III

K

Keratoconjunctivitis
Ketosis

L
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Lactation Tetany
Lameness
Laminitis
Leptospira hardjo
Leptospirosis
Lice
Lignogathus vituli
Listeria monocytogenes
Listeriosis
Liver Fluke
Lumpy Jaw
Lungworm

M

Mad Cow Disease
Magnesium Deficiency
Malignant oedema
Mange
Mastitis
Meningoencephalitis (Listeriosis)
Metritis
Metabolic Diseases:
    Hypocalcaemia
    Hypomagnesaemia
    Ketosis
Milk Drop Syndrome
Milk Fever
Moraxella bovis
Mucosal Disease
Muscular Dystrophy
Mycobacterium bovis
Mycobacterium johnei
Mycobacterium paratuberculosis
Mycotic Abortion
Myodegeneration, Nutritional
Myopathy, Cardiac
Myopathy, Skeletal

N

Nematodiriasis
Nematodirus battus
Neospora abortion
Neospora caninum
New Forest Eye
Nutritional Deficiency:
    Calcium
    Cobalt
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Copper
Magnesium
Selenium
Thiamine
Vitamin B
Vitamin B12
Vitamin E
Nutritional Myodegeneration

O

Ostertagia
Ostertagiasis

P

Parasites, External:
   Lice
   Mange
Parasites, Internal:
   Coccidiosis
   Cryptosporidiosis
   Fascioliasis
   Helminthiasis
   Liver Fluke
   Lungworm
Parasitic Bronchitis
Parasitic Gastroenteritis
Paratuberculosis
Pasteurella haemolytica
Pasteurella multocida
Pasteurellosis
Periparturient Paresis
Pink Eye
Pneumonia, Calf
Pneumonic Pasteurloosi
Polioencephalomalacia
Poor cleansing
Pregnancy Toxaemia
Psoroptes ovis

Q

R

44
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Reproduction
Reproductive problems
Retained afterbirth
Retained placenta
Ringworm
Rotavirus
Ruminal Tympany

S
Salmonella
Salmonellosis
Sarcoptes scabiei
Scours, Calf
Selenium Deficiency
Septicaemia (Listeriosis
Septicaemic Colibacillosis
Septic Arthritis
Shipping Fever
Silage Eye
Skeletal Myopathy
Slurry Heel
Solenoptes capillatus
Sole Ulcer
Staggers
Sudden Death Syndrome
Super Foul

T
TB
Tetanus
Tetany, Grass
Tetany, Hypomagnesaemic
Tetany, Lactation
Thiamine Deficiency
Toxaemia, Pregnancy
Transit Fever
Traumatic Arthritis
Trichomoniasis
Trichophyton verrucosum
Tuberculosis

U
DISEASE IN ANIMALS

Udder Inflammation
Uterine Infection
Uveitis

V

Vitamin B Deficiency
Vitamin B12 Deficiency
Vitamin E Deficiency

W

White Line Abscess
White Muscle Disease
Whites
Wooden Tongue
Worms

X

Y

Z