



Animal Emergency
and Trauma Center

Hospital Happenings

Congratulations to Lisa Bailey! Lisa recently completed her Veterinary Assistant Certification and is continuing her studies in the field of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Burgess recently began his training in ultrasound through the Sound-Eklin Training Center in Dallas, TX. Once all modules have been completed, he will have received over 100 hours of ultrasound training.

AETC would like to thank Lindee Wood for her many years of excellent customer service. Lindee had worked at AETC since 2006. Lindee recently retired and will be missed. We wish her all the best in this next phase of her life.

Welcome to new staff members:

Heather Cauldron, *Reception*

Lauren Miele, *Licensed Veterinary Technician*

Patty Tennis, *Reception*

Dr. Brad Green, Dip.ACVM (WA SpecialtyVetMed) is currently taking internal medicine referrals. He is assisted by Jennifer Bakotich and Al Bishop. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 360-200-5697

Dr. Steve Porkorny, Dip.ACVR is available for referral ultrasounds by appointment. Appointments can be scheduled by contacting WA SpecialtyVetMed.

SEASONAL TIP

Cars become Ovens in the Summertime



Summertime in the Pacific Northwest can be beautiful. It can also be deadly for pets left in vehicles on sunny days.

Due to the mild spring, we have already seen cases of severe hyperthermia in pets left in parked cars. Most people do not realize how hot it can get in a parked car in just a few minutes. Couple this with the canine physiology for heat exchange (panting vs sweating) and/or body conformation (Pugs, Boxers, Bulldogs) and it can lead to disaster.

Early recognition is the key to treatment. Prior to transfer to a veterinary facility, the pet should be sprayed or immersed in water. Convection cooling with fans can also be done. Pets often require intensive care for several days.

Please leave your dog at home when running errands in the summertime.

Case of the Quarter



"Sassy"

9 year old unspayed
Australian Cattle Dog

Presented for being
lethargic and not
eating for 4 days.

Physical exam found her to be weak, depressed, and dehydrated. She had a tense, distended abdomen and had been drinking lots of water despite not eating. She had been through "heat" 3 weeks prior.

Abdominal radiography showed a large, distended uterus. A complete blood count showed a 89,000 white blood cell count (6000-17,000 is the normal range). A cytological vaginal smear showed large numbers of bacteria and white blood cells. A chemistry panel showed increased kidney values.



DIAGNOSIS: pyometra (infected uterus) and endotoxemia (bacterial toxins in the blood were affecting her kidneys).

TREATMENT: Aggressive IV fluids, antibiotics and surgery to remove the uterus and ovaries.

Sassy made a full recovery.

Grape and Raisin Toxicity is well documented in dogs but a large number of pet owners are unaware of the potential consequences of ingestion. Although the exact substance that causes the toxic reaction is not yet known, it has been shown that even small amounts of grapes or raisins can prove fatally toxic for a dog. Dogs of any breed, age, or gender may be affected. The most serious complication is sudden kidney failure. However, kidney failure is not seen in all dogs following ingestion of grapes or raisins. The exact toxin has not been identified but is currently thought to be a fungal toxin from a fungus that may be present on some grapes. Nobody knows why only dogs are affected but it is known that cultured dog kidney cells are the most sensitive to toxins.

This is an emergency requiring immediate treatment. If you are positive your dog has ingested grapes or raisins, you will need to induce vomiting as soon as possible, before the toxins can be absorbed. The dog must be seen by a veterinarian immediately where further treatment can be administered. Activated charcoal will likely be administered. Gastric lavage ("stomach pumping") may also be performed. IV fluid therapy and monitoring of kidney function may also be indicated.

Without explicit evidence of ingestion, diagnosis is often based on symptoms and history of potential exposure. Once kidney failure has progressed to the point that urine cannot be produced, the dog will die. In some cases, even timely treatment will not be enough if the toxin has already been absorbed. Time is of the essence in this situation and the prognosis is guarded in all cases.

Keep grapes and raisins out of reach for your dog and make sure all family members are aware of the potential toxicity. Acting immediately is the best prevention for avoiding a complicated and often fatal situation.

