



Animal Emergency
and Trauma Center



Hospital Happenings

Alice has been promoted to customer care representative.

AETC welcomes the return of **Diane** as a customer care representative. Welcome back, Diane!

AETC welcomes **Kacey**, our newest LVT. Welcome to the team, Kacey!

Aleah, another LVT, has joined our team on the weekends. Thanks for your help, Aleah!



SEASONAL TIP

Ibuprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that has analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and antipyretic effects. Common brand names include Advil, Midol, and Motrin although there are many generic formulations.

In humans, ibuprofen taken at standard dosages appears to have a wide margin of safety. However, in dogs, cats, and ferrets, ibuprofen has a narrow margin of safety. In one review of the ASPCA Poison Control Center data, ibuprofen was the most common generic drug exposure. Most exposures were acute – usually the result of a dog chewing open a bottle of tablets. Some formulations of ibuprofen have a sweet coating and readily eaten by dogs.

Symptoms of ibuprofen toxicity can range from gastrointestinal signs (sublethal doses) to acute kidney failure and/or central nervous system symptoms (higher doses).

Treatment includes decontamination (if ingestion is recent), gastrointestinal protectants, intrave-

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SEASONAL TIP

nous fluid therapy for 48-72 hours, monitoring of kidney values, and sedation if neurologic symptoms are present. The prognosis depends on the amount ingested, severity of symptoms, and treatment. Prompt and aggressive decontamination and supportive care are essential to improve chances of recovery.

Case of the Quarter



Lulu is a 8 year old ShihTzu that was presented to AETC for evaluation of lethargy, anorexia, and bloating. She had also been drinking excessive amounts of water. She had been seen at her family veterinarian's office and had a temperature of 103.0 degrees

(100.0-102.0 is normal). She was placed on antibiotics but seemed to get worse. Her last estrus cycle had been about one month prior to the onset of symptoms.

On physical exam Lulu was depressed,



lethargic and dehydrated. Her abdomen was distended and there was dry discharge around her vulva. Pyometra was suspected. Radiographs, ultrasound, and blood analysis were ordered. An enlarged uterus with fluid-filled cavities was seen on radiographs and abdominal ultrasound. Blood analysis showed a marked elevation in her white blood cell count 45,910 (5000-16,600 is normal) and low blood sugar. Stabilization procedures and surgery were recommended to remove the uterus. Lulu did very well postoperatively and was discharged the following day.



Pyometra (uterine infection) can occur in middle aged to older intact female dogs. Hormonal changes to the uterine lining during repeated estrous cycles cause the uterus to be more susceptible to bacterial infection. While medical treatment can be attempted in valuable breeding animals, surgical removal of the uterus has a much higher success rate.

