



The Pet Dominion Quarterly

Launching Our New Website

Many of you have already clicked around our newly updated and upgraded website. If you haven't yet we invite you to check it out.

www.petdominion.com

The new website has many convenient applications including downloadable forms and documents, an article library with information and how-to on many subjects, policy and procedures information, and best of all Pet Portals. Get to know more about the amazing staff that cares for your pets in veterinary and boarding capacities.

This newsletter will be the last issue that will come to you in the mail. There is a section in our website where you will can read or print current and past issues of the newsletter in .pdf format. If you do not have access to the internet please contact us. We will have a limited amount of print issues we can still send you. 🐾

Pet Portals

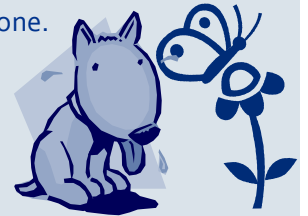
Pet portals is an online service that links you directly to us and your furry pal's medical records and needs. You will receive a free customizable page that links to our hospital software so you have 24/7 access to your pet's vaccine status and other reminders. You can also email us with questions, request appointment times and send prescription refill requests. You will receive email reminders as well as regular mail reminders when your pet is due for something.

To get a pet portal simply log on to our website and click the Pet Portals button on the right hand side of the screen. After supplying a little information to sign up your pet portal should be ready in 24 hours. They will send you an email to get started logging in. We are very excited to offer this convenient new way to stay current with your pets' medical needs. 🐾

The Scoop on Poop From Our Veterinarians



- ♥ Please **don't** walk your pet before their appointment. We need those urine and stool samples!
- ♥ If your pet is having diarrhea please bring us a sample in case we can't get one.
- ♥ We need a stool sample from all puppies and kittens and we hate to have to get it with a wand in the rear end. Please bring it with you!
- ♥ Patients with urinary tract infections will need to have a sterile sample collected. Please try not to let them eliminate before coming in.



What is Leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis is a disease caused by spirochetes (spiral shaped bacteria) that infects both animals and humans. Risk factors are present in rural and suburban areas and include exposure to water outdoors, wetlands, and public open spaces. Numbers of reported cases will often increase in years of heavy rainfall. Leptospire are passed in urine and enter the body through a wound on the skin or through mucous membranes i.e. by drinking out of a contaminated water source. Animals who have been vaccinated or have adequate antibody titers will usually pass the organism quickly, so have been exposed but never develop clinical signs. Animals who have not been vaccinated may become clinically ill or in some cases will pass the organism but likely develop chronic kidney and liver disease due to inflammation caused by the replication of the leptospire.

Clinical signs include fever, hemorrhagic tendencies, vomiting and diarrhea, muscle pain, kidney and liver enlargement, increased drinking and urination, icterus or a yellowing of the skin, and coughing or respiratory distress. Treatment includes IV fluid therapy to support failing kidneys, and antibiotics. Survival of the animal depends on the severity of the infection and the level of organ failure.

The canine vaccine we use at Pet Dominion protects against four serovars, or strains, of leptospira including two of the most commonly diagnosed strains. Like any vaccine there are other serovars that your pet may come into contact with so 100% protection is not guaranteed. The new generation of vaccines are safer and cause less adverse vaccine reactions. It is appropriate to discuss your dog's risk level with the vet before deciding for or against vaccinating for Leptospirosis. 🐾

New At Pet Dominion

We're always working hard to stay at the forefront of veterinary medicine. Currently we are switching from isoflurane gas to sevoflurane gas as our anesthetic agent for induction and maintenance of general anesthesia. Sevoflurane is sweet-smelling and is preferred for masked or box induction because it is less irritating to mucous membranes. It is rapidly replacing isoflurane and halothane in human anesthesiology as well as the veterinary field. Sevoflurane has a fast onset and offset, shortening the duration and increasing the precision of your pet's anesthetic experience. We are happy to offer the safest and most up to date anesthetic protocols. 🐾

Fun Animal Fact

Brought to you by Erin, RVT

Cats can spend up to 5 hours a day grooming!

GDV. Quick and Deadly

Gastric dilation/volvulus (GDV) or commonly called 'bloat' is a condition that mainly affects large and giant breed dogs. It involves the stomach becoming dilated with air and often twisting to an abnormal position and cutting off circulation. This very quickly causes shock and death so it is important for dog owners to be able to recognize the signs and act fast if bloat is suspected.

It is unknown what exactly causes bloat but deep-chested larger breed dogs are at increased risk. It is thought that contributing factors include eating a large volume during a meal, eating once a day, eating rapidly, exercising following a meal, being underweight, eating from an elevated platform, being male, and advanced age. Signs to watch out for are nonproductive retching and abdominal pain and distention. Other signs include pale gums, panting, rapid heart rate and collapse.

Treatment includes aggressive therapy for shock, decompressing the stomach, and surgery to reposition the stomach and remove any dead tissue. A gastropexy is a procedure that tacks the stomach to the abdominal wall so that rotation is prevented. This procedure can easily be performed preventatively for at risk dogs.

Any delay in treatment decreases chance of survival. It is important to consider how you would proceed should your pet bloat, as surgery and supportive care at an emergency facility can be prohibitively expensive and may not be successful. In some cases the only feasible route to spare your friend from prolonged and intense suffering is humane euthanasia. It is not a choice we hope you'll ever have to make but we would like to make everyone aware of this serious condition. 🐾

Favorite Websites

Veterinary technicians Franca and Joana pick their favorite animal websites. Check them out!

We are AAHA accredited. Visit their helpful website.

www.aahanet.org

Enjoy a camping trip with your best furry friend.

www.campingpet.com

Attractions, dining etc. where your dog can join you.

www.dogfriendly.com

Product Spotlight

Medical Technologist and RVT Pam spotlights products that we find helpful and we think you should know about.

It's summer swimsuit shape-up time for us and our dogs and cats too. Obesity is a 'growing' problem for our pets. We use a body condition score (BCS) system to evaluate if your pet is thin, overweight, or just right. The BCS is a number from 1-9 with 4 or 5 being ideal. Once your pet's BCS is established, if it is too high we have tools to help figure out how to reach an ideal weight.

A computer program developed by Purina allows us to input the BCS and weight of your pet. It calculates amount of food and treats your pet can have to achieve a slow, safe weight loss. You can select your food of choice or use our recommended weight loss diet for dogs and cats, **Purina OM** (overweight management) in canned or dry. This veterinary diet contains high levels of protein to help your pet lose fat while maintaining lean muscle. After each month on this diet your pet should be re-weighed and evaluated for progress. 🐾

Featured Pet

by Inga, Hospital Manager and RVT



Roxie is a three year old French Bulldog. For a little dog she has a huge personality and we always look forward to seeing her.

Some of her favorite activities are car rides, playing with the hose, wrestling with her pal Tucker, chasing squirrels, walks when it's not too hot outside and waking everyone up early to make her breakfast. Roxie's favorite treat is dehydrated sweet potato 'chewies', yum! Her nickname is 'Momma' or 'Big Momma'.

Roxie is concerned about the wellbeing of her fellow Frenchie's and so modeled for a painting called 'Sleeping Frenchie' which raised over \$600 for the French Bulldog Rescue Network. Way to go Roxie!