

Stressed-Out Felines

What in the world do our cats have to be stressed about? As it turns out, many things. When we domesticated the cat and brought him into our homes, we really did not consider the psychological needs of our feline companion. Kids, dogs, other cats, our activities, loud noises, inappropriate placement of food or litter, the wrong type of litter, lack of timeout space, etc., can all have negative effects on our cat's psyche. Cats are masters at hiding stress, so the impact can come out in ways we don't recognize, like urinating or defecating in appropriate places, impaired social interactions, or excessive grooming causing fur loss. Stress has even been associated with inflammation of the urinary bladder.

Consider "catifying" your home. Here are a few suggestions:

- Provide a timeout area where your cat can escape to be alone and feel safe.
- Litter boxes should be in a private area, not by the food. Provide at least 1 litter box /cat.
- Provide a cat condo or high perch where they can get above activity.
- Provide separate feeding areas if there is more than one cat.

Please let us assist you with further suggestions to make your home a stress-free zone for your cat.

Anesthesia-Free Dentistry

In an ideal world, our pets would cooperate like humans and patiently allow dental cleaning, including probing with very sharp instruments under sensitive gums. They would spit on command and hold an x-ray film between their teeth. Unfortunately, even the nicest of our patients can't comply in this manner.

Well-meaning and unscrupulous operators alike have been promoting anesthesia-free dentistry (AFD) as an alternative to the traditional veterinary-recommended procedure. AFD is often performed in grooming facilities.

Reduced costs and lack of risk are the advertised benefits.

Unfortunately, the only actual benefit to AFD is comestic. Visual

tartar above the gum line is scraped away, giving the impression that a thorough cleaning has been performed. Most of the pathology is missed, giving a false impression that effective treatment has been delivered. This only serves to allow true disease to progress unfettered.

Some of the worst dental cases we have seen were in pets where well-meaning clients had been using AFD on a regular basis. The American Veterinary Dental Society opposes AFD and so do we. Ask about our weekly discounted dental clinics. Have your pet's dental needs treated effectively and at a reasonable cost.

Why Laser?

We are continually committed to bringing the most advanced therapies to our beloved patients. That is why we have recently added therapeutic laser to our array of medical options.

Our new Companion LiteCure Laser is among the most powerful on the market, delivering a non-visible wavelength of light painlessly to our pets in a matter of minutes. Laser has many beneficial uses in human medical facilities as well as our hospital. Post-surgically, it is shown to reduce swelling and pain, as well as promote healing. In fact, the use of laser in skin wounds can decrease healing times by almost one-half. Other uses include pain reduction for arthritis or back pain, improved fracture repair, dermatological conditions, dental disease, and more.

Ask if laser therapy could benefit your pets. They will surely appreciate it.



**Memorial Beach
Veterinary Hospital
15 Healdsburg Avenue
Healdsburg, CA 95448
707-433-6916**



Happy "tales" from your friends at Memorial Beach Vet Hospital