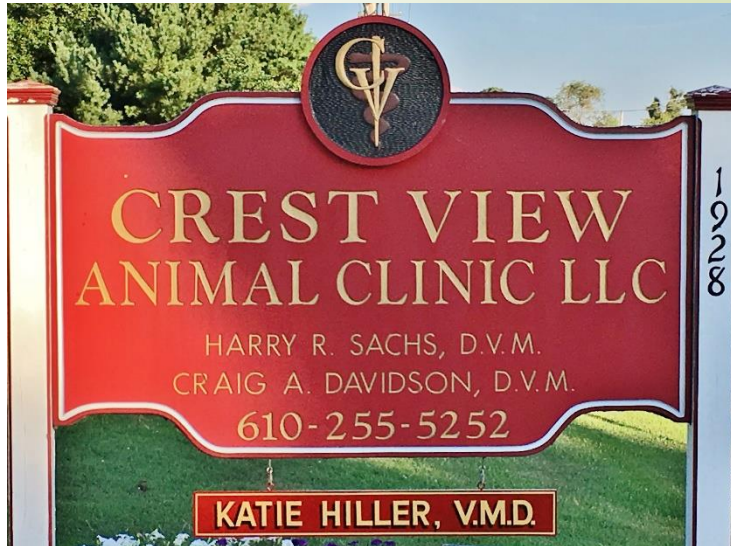


Fall 2016



The Pet Gazette

Time to get into shape?

Many people take advantage of warm summer weather to increase exercise with their dogs. In many cases, this is a great idea. However, unless your dog has exercised regularly during the rest of the year, his or her body needs time to adjust to a more active lifestyle. Before embarking on an exercise program with your dog, schedule an examination with your veterinarian. This can help identify any medical problems that may make it difficult or dangerous for your dog's activity level to increase. Your veterinarian may also be able to recommend which exercises are best for your pet. For example, not every dog needs to run or swim in order to be healthy. (In fact, swimming does not come naturally for every dog; if you take your dog in a boat with you, make sure your pet has a life preserver). Even if you are just planning leash walks, your veterinarian can advise you how to gradually increase the level of these workouts in a way that is safe and healthy for your dog.

What can be hazardous to your pet?

Lawn chemicals and fertilizers, insect repellants and sprays, weed control products, antifreeze, slug bait, ant bait, rat poison, and pool chemicals are just a few toxic chemicals your dog may encounter in your home or on your property. Learn more about dangerous chemicals at the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Animal Poison Control Center: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/>.

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Summer time can be scary for your pet

For our furry friends, a thunderstorm or an intense round of fireworks in the neighborhood can be a highly traumatic event. Dogs with storm phobias can exhibit a variety of behaviors, including:

- Hiding in small, enclosed spaces, under beds or furniture, in closets or bathrooms
- Intense barking, shrieking, whining or howling
- Pacing
- Drooling
- Trembling
- Destructive behavior, like chewing or scratching door frames or window sills
- Attempts to escape the house
- Aggression

When the fear hits

Fear of thunderstorms is made worse for some pets because their people mishandle the early signs of fear either by soothing the pets or punishing them. Soothing a dog "Poor baby!"

Don't be afraid. Come here and get a hug"! This is an action that actually rewards the behavior, while punishing a dog for its reaction makes a scary event even more frightening.

When puppies and young dogs show concern, don't soothe or punish them. Distract them. Give them something positive to do, such as starting a training session with lots of treats or playing a favorite game. In other words, ignore the storm, distract the dog and set the tone by acting unconcerned. It's of the most importance to be gentle, calm and patient with your dog. Dogs who have a negative reaction to storms or fireworks aren't being disobedient—they are truly in a state of panic and are looking for help.

Keeping calm before the (next) storm

Once a dog has developed a full-blown phobia, however, fear of storms can be dangerous to all.

(cont. next page)

Pet of the month



"Biscuit" aka "Snowball" is a 5 year old cockapoo that lets Dr. Davidson and his family live with her. Enjoyed the snow too much in the winter and brought some into the house. A slow melt under room temperature water minimized the mess. Now we will wait to see what trouble she can find in the summer.

Seasonal Allergies

Atopy

Atopy is a common cause of skin problems in dogs, but it is less common in cats. Atopy usually develops in animals younger than 3 years, but older pets can also be affected. Depending on the underlying cause, clinical signs may occur seasonally or year-round. Atopy may respond to medical management, but long-term treatment is often required.

What Is Atopy?

Atopy, or atopic dermatitis, is sometimes called *allergic inhalant dermatitis*. Atopy occurs when allergens that are inhaled or contact the skin and cause an allergic reaction in the body. In dogs (and less commonly, cats), this allergic reaction is focused largely in the skin. Animals with atopy become very itchy; the resultant scratching leads to skin injuries and secondary (subsequent) skin infections. Unfortunately, pets that develop atopy are usually plagued by skin problems throughout their lives.

Many types of allergens can cause a pet to develop atopy. A wide variety of pollens, grasses, danders, insect proteins (such as in cockroaches), molds, and even house dust can cause animals to develop atopy. Animals can even develop allergies to multiple allergens at the same time. Once an animal develops atopy, the condition will continue as long as the animal is exposed to the allergen that is the source of the problem. (cont. next page)



Signs of Atopy

Although atopy technically involves the entire body, clinical signs tend to involve the skin. Affected areas commonly include the face, armpits, groin, ears, and feet. Persistent itching causes the pet to lick, chew, scratch, and/or rub the skin, causing injury. Secondary bacterial or yeast skin infections are also common in pets with atopy. Clinical signs of atopy can include the following:

- Generalized scratching and rubbing
- Redness of the skin
- Hair loss from repeated biting, licking, chewing, and/or scratching
- Skin rash, infections, and irritation
- Scabs and bleeding
- Unusual odor
- Skin thickening and color changes
- Ear infections
- Scales and crusts on the skin

Some animals may have several of these clinical signs, whereas others may have only one—perhaps an ear infection.

Atopic dermatitis tends to be a long-term condition. Often, a combination of therapies is needed to provide comfort for pets with this condition. If you feel your pet is suffering from atopy call for an exam and consultation.

Summer time scares (cont.)

Dogs have jumped through windows, bitten when handled or eaten through walls. If your dog is afraid of loud noises, talk to your veterinarian. He or she may have specific recommendations or refer you to a veterinary behaviorist. A veterinary behaviorist will work with you on a treatment plan that may include counterconditioning, pheromones or products like anti-anxiety wraps and capes in an effort to help your dog relax during storms. If all else fails, your veterinarian can prescribe a sedative to use just on days when there are storms or fireworks.



Our Reception Team

As a business we are fortunate to have such great help keeping the front half of our building running smoothly. Balancing the needs of our patients while understanding the limitations of the schedule is by far the most difficult balancing act in the clinic. The reward is they get to hear everyone's complaints and frustrations.

Chris Lauer has been with our practice since March of 2014. In that time, she has gone from the trainee to the trainer, and been the foundation of our reception staff.

Vicky Roark is new to our practice but not to the business of veterinary medicine. Vicky has stepped in to give Chris some much needed help in the daytime and brings with her new ideas and a lot of experience.

Eileen Gates watches over the front in the evening and we cannot imagine the evening shift without her.

Please thank them for their great and selfless work on behalf of the practice and its patients.

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New Products: **Oravet® Dental Chews**

OraVet® Dental Hygiene Chews, for dogs (only), contain a special ingredient, delmopinol.

Delmopinol works to form a preventive barrier that blocks bacteria, and the future formation of plaque and calculus (tartar) that builds up over time.

Using this chew as a daily oral treatment can help maintain your dog's dental health and help with "dog breath". Ask about using this new product as part of your pet's care

Duralactin®

There are lots of supplements available to try and help our pets through problems with arthritis and inflammation. Recently, we have been trying Duralactin®, a daily supplement for dogs and cats, as an additional tool. Unlike common glucosamine and chondroitin based supplements, Duralactin® works by inhibiting one of the body's inflammatory cells (neutrophils) from migrating out of the blood stream. By decreasing the number of these cells in the inflamed tissues it decreases the inflammation in those tissues. The clinical response that we have seen is encouraging, in many patients. This may be a nice addition to your arthritic pet's regimen.

The best compliment we can receive is a referral from you!



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