



fanzine

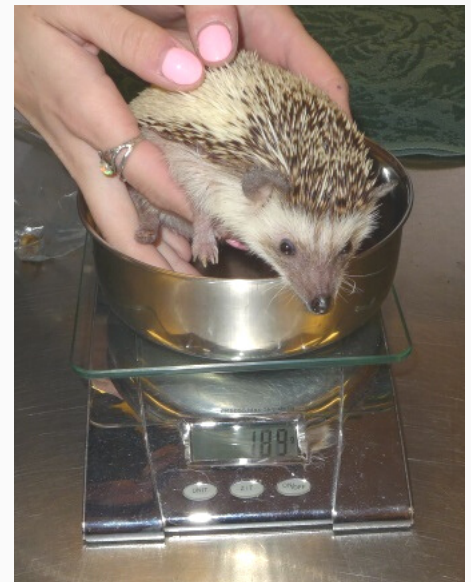
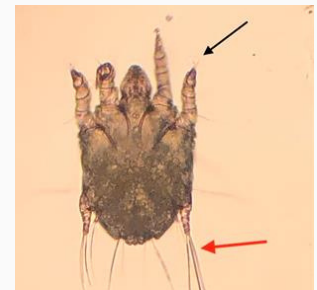
CASE OF THE MONTH DAISY MOON KLABON



Daisy Moon, a 3yo female Hedgehog was brought in in early February for red irritated skin. Daisy is possibly the sweetest hedgehog I've seen in my almost 7 years as a vet. She let me do a thorough exam without curling into a ball. She let us weigh her and even give her treats! Skin issues are probably the most common reason I see hedgehogs. Owners will notice significant quill loss, red irritated skin on their bellies and faces, and white/brown crusts at the base of quills. Hedgehogs will usually appear healthy otherwise but, some can lose weight if they are uncomfortable. Hedgies may be uncomfortable, but this is not a life threatening disease if addressed quickly. Mites can be found with a skin scrape or quill pluck. The most common cause for these skin issues is a mite infection, specifically *Caparinia tripilis* mite. Skin scrapes can be tricky on hedgehogs unless they are very well socialized as they tend to just roll into a ball and hiss.

A quill that has fallen off can sometimes harbor mites, and may be enough for me to make a diagnosis. If mites can not be found on a shed quill we perform a quill pluck. To do this we grasp a single quill with hemostats near the base of the quill, hold the adjacent skin taught and pull quickly upward. Then, this quill is placed on a microscope slide and a drop of mineral oil is placed on it. While these mites are icky to look at they are very easily treated. Ivermectin injections under the skin once every 10 days for 3-4 treatments usually resolves most infestations. During treatment, the bedding and cage should be cleaned regularly. I recommend replacing bedding with paper towels until infestation is resolved. Sometimes very sick hedgehogs will need additional heating and even supplemental feeding. I often get asked where these mites come from. While we do not know for sure, it is suspected that some hedgehogs can be carriers that will develop outbreaks when they are ill or stressed. Contaminated bedding may also be another source. Another common concern, is will these mites will affect other pets or even owners? Fortunately, these mites tend to be species specific and do not cause infestations in people or other pets. A few mites can be found on an owner after handling a hedgehog that is infested. Wearing gloves and washing hands after handling resolves this.

The most important things to monitor in hedgehogs, and any exotic pet, are weight and appetite. Exotics are very good at concealing illness until they are too sick to hide it anymore. One of the earliest signs of illness is weight loss. If we can catch a sick exotic before they tip over the edge, our chances of helping them make a full recovery are much higher. I recommend every exotic pet owner invest in a scale and weigh their pets biweekly to weekly. A gram scale is usually an appropriate sized scale and they are readily available in the food storage areas of Walmart or Target. It is easiest to weigh exotics by putting a bowl or Tupperware on the scale, taring/zeroing out the scale, then placing your scaly or furry friend in the bowl. Keeping a written list allows you to monitor for excessive weight loss. 10% of body weight loss is always concerning and should be investigated.





FUREVER REMEMBER



BALOO MERICKEL



Baloo was a larger-than-life character, with his long, lanky legs and his goofy smile. His tail never stopped wagging and he was happiest when he was at work at Copper Mountain, or teaching the new avvy dog recruits the secrets of mountain rescue.

Baloo became a Summit County celebrity after surviving a fall from a parking garage, jumping right back into work as if nothing had happened after healing from surgery to his wrist and jaw. He was every inch a true working dog and a hero in the avalanche community.



Baloo recently passed after a short battle with an aggressive cancer, and while words cannot express our sorrow at his loss, we know that his legacy in Summit County – like his fighting spirit right until the end – will never fade or be forgotten.



FRISCO FUN FACT



Frisco Fun Fact

Featuring: Kodi

When Kodi isn't teching at FAH, you can find her in the back country with her 2 pups following along her skis! Baldy Mtn, Boreas pass, and Vail pass are some of her favorites.



HOSPITAL NEWS

HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY
FROM FAH!



We love our
clients and their
pets!



Now for a *limited* time, when you sign up, or renew, your pet for a Paw Plan, they bring home a FREE BANDANNA KIT!

Follow the steps to enhance your pet's cuteness, and don't forget to tag us on social media!

Many of you have asked, and yes Diane is still creating her one of a kind collars! Check out her etsy page for several options, sizes and colors.

PetCraftsByDiane.etsy.com





LOCAL SHOUTOUT

DOGSONG ANIMAL TRAINING AND BEHAVIOR, LLC

Most of us have experienced exacerbation with our dog as we cheerfully call, “come!” only to discover that our sweet canine companion has gone deaf! It can be pretty frustrating, and often quite embarrassing. As our dogs’ teachers, we must train for success in the face of distractions and distance. So what goes into a reliable recall? First and foremost, it is critical that we have a strong history of bonding and trust with our canines. Returning to our recall request should predict wonderful things will happen for our dogs, like high value treats, and praise, and lots of petting- if your dog enjoys that sort of thing. Yet, the first time a dog is punished out of our frustration and exacerbation when s/he finally arrives may be the first time we put our trust relationship at risk. Our dogs see their world as safe, and not safe. It is our obligation to assure them that their world is safe. Returning to their handler should be well worth the effort of moving away from whatever distraction captivates them at that moment, regardless of how long it may take. This is a time for celebration, not punishment! Once our dog is reliably responding to the recall, we can train for a quicker response.

A simple step-by-step training protocol can be the foundation needed for that reliable recall:

1. Teach the dog that giving eye contact is a reinforce-able event. Ultimately pair the dog’s name with the behavior of giving eye contact. Your dog learns that her/his name is the cue for “give me eye contact, please.” “Ping-pong” the dog between two or more people by cueing her/his name and when she turns to look, praise and reward. Play hide and seek- call your dog and celebrate when s/he finds you. After you get a high history of reinforcement on eye contact for the dog’s name, in familiar and relatively



non-distracting environments, begin to “take it on the road.”

2. When you are out on leashed walks, in familiar and novel environments, reinforce your dog for “checking-in” with you.

Occasionally cue your dog’s name in an upbeat tone of voice, and when s/he turns to look at you, praise the dog and offer a treat for coming back to you.

3. A long line, though challenging to manage, can be a great next step in raising the criteria by offering more freedom and distance from you. Again, revisit the training you did in step 2 in novel environments. Be sure to carry plenty of high-value treats. Recall more frequently. Celebrate your mutual successes. If your dog cannot give you attention when

you recall, move closer and try again.

4. Ultimately, you will want to test the reliability of your training with your dog.

A fenced larger space is a great place to start off-leash work. Patience, persistence, consistency, and a good sense of humor will go a long way to achieving your training goals. Your dog’s behavior reflects all the good work you have done, and what you need to continue to work on. It is simply good information. Learning happens throughout the lifetime of our dogs. Training is stimulating, enriching, and bond-building for both you and your dog. And when that off-leash recall finally happens in the face of high-level distractions, both you and your dog can celebrate a job well done!