



MAIN STREET

ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Seasonal Newsletter

Spring 2019

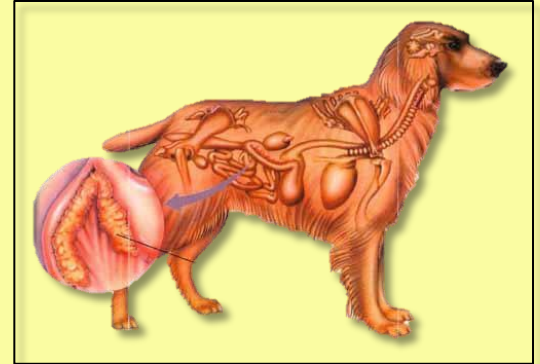
"Want some hints for which kind of dog to adopt? I've got some Pointers."

Main Street Animal Hospital 341 S. Main Street Doylestown, PA 18901 215-230-9633 MSAHDoylestown.com

Welcome to Main Street Animal Hospital's seasonal newsletter, your quarterly source for pet health news, updates from around the hospital, savings opportunities, and staff profiles.

Featured Article: Diabetes

As in humans, diabetes (officially known as diabetes mellitus) is characterized in animals by the limited production of insulin, the hormone responsible for lowering blood sugar and promoting the absorption of glucose into tissue. Diabetics will display important symptoms besides their extremely high blood sugar levels. Most commonly, pets that have become diabetic begin to lose weight, drink water more often, and urinate more frequently, passing some of the sugar in their urine. These effects can often be complicated by an increase in appetite and in dogs could possibly lead to the development of cataracts or overly fatty livers, all due to the increased level of sugar in the blood. Unchecked cases could eventually become fatal.



While some forms of diabetes can be genetic, other factors increase the likelihood of an animal developing the condition. These include obesity and poor diet. Additionally, since insulin is produced by the pancreas, chronic pancreatitis can also induce diabetes.

Detecting diabetes - which is more common female dogs and male cats than vice versa - is usually a matter of analyzing the urine and blood for the telltale elevated sugar levels. Treatment is similar to what is done for humans: regular insulin injections, except for acute cases that require more intensive care. Your veterinarian will walk you through how to deliver insulin injections so that you can manage your pet's diabetes without leaving your house. You may also consider switching to a diet that keeps blood sugar more stable as well.

If you suspect your pet is displaying symptoms of diabetes, contact your veterinarian to set up an appointment.

An Update on Grain-Free Diets

Recently, you may have heard a lot of news about dog disease and grain-free diets. Here are some more details about the situation.

Last year, veterinarians began observing that dogs on "boutique" diets were being diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, a type of heart disease. Dogs with the disease show some similar symptoms to humans with heart disease: weakness, coughing, shortness of breath, and fainting.

The diets in question include homemade or raw diets, those with exotic meats, and those that are grain-free. Though the specific cause has not yet been identified, veterinary nutritionists are recommending that owners feeding pets with these diets consider other options.

<https://petnetworknews.com/2013/05/pancreatic.jpg>

A Fun Fact About Dogs and Cats

Cats have around 244 bones in their bodies; dogs have about 319. Wondering why those numbers aren't exact?

The number of bones in the tail varies based on the length!



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