



Countryside Animal Hospital



PAW PRINTS



SUMMER 2020

FELINE LYMPHOMA

Diagnosing and Treating Cancer in Cats.



Lymphoma is the most frequently diagnosed cancers we see in cats. Lymphoma is cancer of the lymphocytes, which are cells in the immune system that travel throughout the body in the blood and lymphatic vessels. Their job is to deliver oxygen and nutrients to cells, absorb fat from the intestinal tract, and remove tissue debris, bacteria, viruses, and other harmful agents from the body.

Lymphoma often occurs in cats testing positive for feline leukemia virus (FeLV). Most common are intestinal, mediastinal, and renal lymphoma.

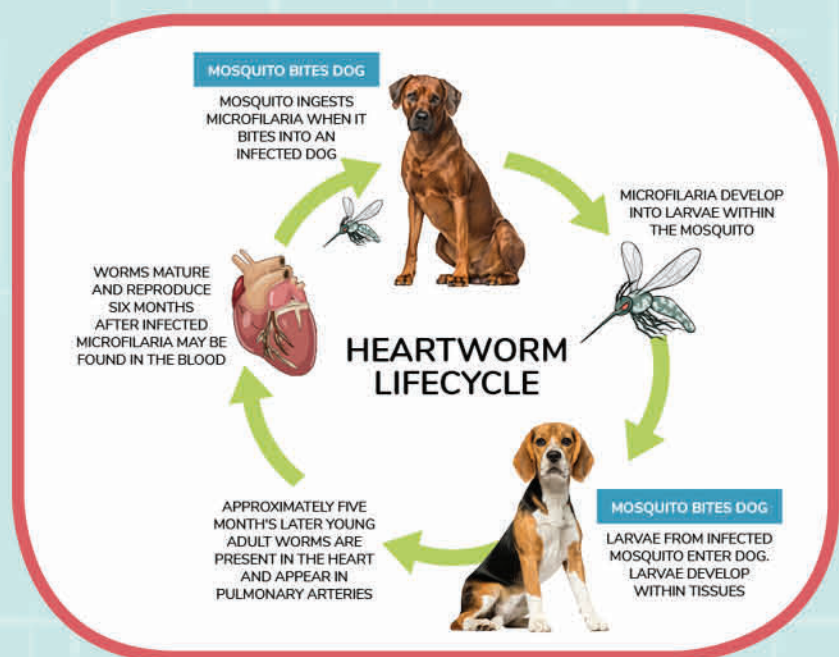
Intestinal lymphoma, which affects the gastrointestinal tract, tends to present in seniors over age nine. Weight loss, vomiting and diarrhea are symptoms. Appetite may be increased, decreased or normal. Mediastinal lymphoma affects lymphoid organs in the chest and can affect younger cats, often around age five. Respiratory issues are the first symptoms. With renal lymphoma, signs of kidney failure may be present, including increased thirst, decreased appetite, weight loss and vomiting.

If we suspect lymphoma, diagnostic tests usually begin with a complete blood cell count, blood chemistry panel, and urinalysis. Additionally, we may take chest x-rays or do an abdominal ultrasound to see if the spleen is enlarged. Most important is a microscopic analysis of lymph node tissue samples to confirm lymphoma. A pathology report will also tell us whether the lymphoma is high-grade (rapidly dividing cells) or low-grade (more slowly dividing cells).

Treatment for lymphoma is usually chemotherapy. Cats tolerate chemotherapy better than humans and generally suffer few side effects and may go into remission. The likelihood that your cat will develop lymphoma is greatly reduced by preventing the FeLV virus, so be sure to keep vaccinations up to date. Having a PAW (Pet Annual Wellness) Plan for your cat is the best way to ensure your kitty gets regular vaccines, exams, and bloodwork to prevent and detect disease.

THE HEARTWORM CYCLE

Hearthworm is a common parasitic infection spread by mosquitos that takes the lives of many dogs each year. Be sure your pet is protected year-round from this deadly disease! We will help you find a prevention plan that's just right for your pet and you.



LITTER BOX ETIQUETTE

Training Humans to Get it Right!



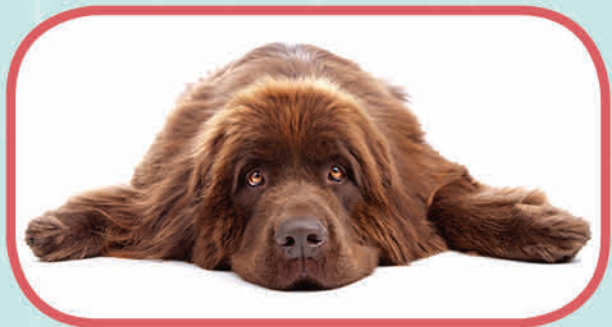
Contrary to what many people believe, a cat does not instinctively know that the plastic box with funny-smelling gravel in it is the appropriate place to eliminate. Fortunately, we humans can be trained to communicate the message properly.

Your cat asked us to pass on these rules:

1. When I'm new to your home, put me in the box frequently until I get the hang of it.
2. Put my box in a private place away from any activity.
3. Just like you don't want to eat in the bathroom, keep my litterbox far away from my food and water. That's just gross!
4. If I don't like your litter, try something that feels better, such as fine-grained litter instead of gravel.
5. Giving me a covered box might make it feel more private.
6. If there are other kitties in the home, we'd each prefer to have our own box.
7. I hate going into a dirty bathroom as much as you do, so please keep my box CLEAN every day. If you don't, I'll just go somewhere else in the house. I mean it!
8. If I suddenly start missing or hunching over the box, I may have a health issue such as urinary or kidney problems. Please call my vet!

CUSHING'S DISEASE IN CANINES

Tiny Tumors. Causing Big Problems.



Cushing's syndrome—also called Cushing's disease—occurs when your dog's body produces too much of a hormone called cortisol, a naturally produced steroid. Cortisol is produced and stored by the adrenals, two small glands that sit on top of the kidneys. Around 85 percent of cases are caused by a benign tumor in the pituitary glands. Most other cases are the result of adrenal gland tumors.

Cushing's most commonly affects dogs middle-aged and older. Symptoms can be difficult to spot in the early stages, but some indications may show up in routine bloodwork. At home, you might see symptoms such as:

- Increased thirst or hunger
- Hair loss
- Pot-bellied appearance
- Skin infections
- Increase urination that can result in indoor "accidents"
- Thinning skin
- Increased panting
- Lethargy

We use a combination of blood tests to diagnose Cushing's and to differentiate between disease caused by the pituitary or the adrenals. In some tests, we measure cortisol levels over a period of hours after injections are given. Ultrasound tests can also help us locate tumors.

Although surgery to remove tumors is sometimes done, Cushing's disease is usually treated with medication. Maintaining the proper balance between medications and their side effects is critical, so a dog with Cushing's must be monitored regularly through blood tests. Though it is a serious disease and usually a lifetime condition, with proper treatment and monitoring we can manage the disease to give your dog the best possible life.

Our PAW (Pet Annual Wellness) Plans for dogs include regular exams and bloodwork that can help detect problems such as Cushing's disease early on. Ask us for details.

Call us at (480) 775-9966 today to make an appointment!

BIG CHALLENGES

Orthopedic Issues in Large Breed Dogs

Behind most of the health challenges for large breeds is the fact that they grow and age rapidly. While a six-year-old Chihuahua may still be considered young, a six-year-old Great Dane is already a senior. Researchers believe that large breeds live shorter lives because they must grow rapidly to reach adult weight, and rapid growth involves faster cell division. With each cell division, there is a greater chance of anomalies occurring.

Orthopedic problems represent some of the most common anomalies in large breeds due to the accelerated growth of bones and joints. Below are some of the more common issues:

Dysplasia: Hip joints are “ball and socket” type joints where the femur fits into the hip socket and is surrounded by cartilage. Rapid weight gain can lead to abnormal development here, putting excess wear and tear on this joint—a condition we call Hip Dysplasia. This causes pain and instability in the hind legs. Similarly, Elbow Dysplasia can occur in a dog’s elbow joint on the front legs. Both of these conditions lead to arthritis—another common condition affecting large breeds.

Osteosarcoma: Osteosarcoma refers to bone tumors, usually occurring in the limbs. The tumor becomes progressively more painful as it grows and the underlying bone is destroyed. Lameness is intermittent at first but becomes constant.

Cervical Spondylomyelopathy (CSM): Commonly called “Wobbler Syndrome,” CSM refers to a narrowing of the bony canal through which the spinal cord passes. This results in compression of the spinal cord and causes cervical pain and a wobbly gait known as ataxia.

Let us know about any limping or lameness so we can find the cause and begin treatment. The good news is that large breeds are living longer and healthier lives due to advances in veterinary medicine. Remember that your king-sized buddy is aging more rapidly than smaller breeds, and we will need to see them more often.



AUGUST 15TH IS NATIONAL CHECK THE CHIP DAY! Call us about your pet’s microchip.



8701 S. Rural Road
Tempe, AZ 85284

www.countrysideanimal.com

Re-FUR a Friend and save!

REFER A NEW CLIENT
AND YOU’LL EACH
SAVE \$25 ON YOUR
NEXT VISITS.

Ask us for details.

Not valid with any other offer.
One coupon per client.
Expires 8/31/2020.

Our Pet Annual
Wellness Plans
now include
four yearly
routine exams!

SPREAD OUT YOUR PET’S
HEALTHCARE COSTS PLUS
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS
WITH PAW PLANS.

Call us today so we can
help you find a plan
that’s just right for
you and your pet.

**Save \$24 on
Heartgard**

PURCHASE 12 MONTHS OF
HEARTGARD PREVENTATIVE
AND SAVE \$12 AT CHECKOUT
PLUS RECEIVE A \$12 REBATE
IN THE MAIL

Pets must be tested for
heartworm annually
before we can prescribe
a preventative.

Call (480) 775-9966
today to make your appointment!

SUMMER

Keep it cool.



Countryside
Animal Hospital

**Call (480) 775-9966 today
to make an appointment!**