

the Snoot Report

Autumn
Edition

Snoot Snyder,
Vetcetera Spokesdog

News for Pet Owners from Vetcetera Pet Healthcare Centre

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Pet Emergencies – An Owner's Guide

by Dr. Julie Buzby Snyder



Though by definition emergencies are never expected, it is wise to be prepared for such events in every area of our lives. While the best advice in

most pet emergencies is to immediately contact your veterinarian or emergency hospital, you must know when to call for help and what to do until you can get that help. Knowing normal pet vital signs will help you identify abnormalities and better inform your veterinarian about your pet's status. Please see the chart at the bottom of this article for normal pet parameters.

How you respond in crisis could potentially save your pet's life. Pet first aid will be addressed in this article and then in a complimentary hands-on seminar at Vetcetera in October. Topics to be covered include pet vital signs, shock and CPR. Practical home tips for initial treatment in many pet crises will be given.

With few exceptions, veterinary first aid is quite similar to human first aid. The acronym "ABC" is used to remember the basics. It stands for airway, breathing, and circulation. Though we will discuss pet CPR at the seminar, I would recommend leaving this to a veterinarian if possible. Mouth to nose artificial

ventilation can be performed as well as chest compressions in times of crisis. A pet would need 20-30 breaths and 80-100 chest compressions per minute. Thankfully, cardiopulmonary arrest is uncommon in veterinary medicine.

What constitutes a pet emergency? The following is a list of the most serious and time sensitive situations:

- difficulty in breathing
- cardiac failure
- massive hemorrhage
- profound shock from any cause
- anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions)
- penetrating wounds of the chest or abdomen
- loss of consciousness
- poisoning/toxin exposure
- massive trauma (including hit by car)
- seizures
- burns
- heat stroke
- bite and fight wounds
- continuous vomiting and diarrhea
- urinary obstruction (as discussed in the previous *Snoot Report*)

Though the above circumstances may or may not be life threatening depending on severity, they all have the potential to be life threatening.

It is critical in an emergency situation to stay calm. It is very helpful to the veterinarian if you can quickly assess your pet's status. Time is of the essence, but in the time it takes a family member to dial the phone, you

should be able to evaluate your pet's heart rate, pulse quality respiratory rate, mucous membrane color, capillary refill time and mental status. We will practice these techniques in our hands-on seminar. Providing this information to the veterinarian will allow him/her to better advise you on the emergency plan for treatment.

Many people make the mistake of getting bitten by pets that are injured. Whether it be your own pet or a poor stray, animals are frightened and often extremely painful in emergency situations. Attempting to move them without extreme caution and common sense can result in human injury and potential rabies exposure. Besides preventing injuries to the handler, further injuries to the pet must be avoided. If broken bones or back

trauma is suspected, the pet should be moved very carefully, even on a makeshift stretcher if possible. Basic rules of thumb include keeping the pet warm, as quiet as possible and restricting movement to a minimum. Cats and small dogs should be placed in a suitable container – such as a

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cardboard box with blankets underneath and potentially over top of the patient.

Many injuries can result in shock. Shock is a complex reaction of the body to situations such as sudden blood loss, heart failure, decreased circulation, severe allergic reactions, and combinations of these processes. If not treated quickly and effectively, shock can cause irreversible injury to body cells and can be rapidly fatal. Signs of shock include rapid breathing and heart rate, weak

pulse, pale mucous membranes (gums), severe depression, listlessness, and cool extremities (limbs and ears).

For emergencies during office hours, if possible please call before arriving as it allows us to better prepare for treating your pet. **Emergencies always take top priority.** To review after hours protocol, contact the Valley Central Emergency Hospital at **610-435-5588** to seek advice from a technician and/or doctor overnight, on weekends and holidays. ♥

PET NORMAL VITAL SIGN PARAMETERS

			
Temperature:	101-102.5	101-102	100
Heart Rate:	80-130	110-140	44
Respiratory Rate:	22	6	12
Membrane Color:	pink	pink	pink
Capillary Refill Time:	1-2 sec	1-2 sec	1-2 sec
Pulse Quality:	strong	strong	strong

I would like to express our sincere thanks to all who have been so supportive, even excited, about the impending arrival of our baby. Baby Snyder is officially due on November 7. I appreciate your understanding regarding my maternity leave and look forward to

returning to Vetcetera on January 2, 2002. Having relocated to this area away from my family and friends, I am thankful for the many clients who have become my extended family here in Schuylkill County. — *Dr. Julie Snyder*

Doctor Carol Johnson Joins Staff

Dr. Carol Johnson has joined the Vetcetera staff to serve as relief vet during Dr. Julie's impending maternity leave. Dr. Carol is a native of Lancaster County. She, like Dr. Julie, possesses



Dr. Carol Johnson

an abiding love for all of God's creatures. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Juniata College in 1983 and her VMD from the University of

Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1987.

Since entering practice, Dr. Johnson has had diverse experiences in mixed animal practice, wildlife rehabilitation and the care of exotic species. Yet she prefers to focus her skills upon the care of domestic companions, including dogs, cats and pocket pets.

Most recently, while practicing in Lancaster County, Dr. Johnson was able to participate in frequent acts of community service by visiting classrooms in elementary schools with her therapy dog. With Yona, a gentle black labrador, Dr.

Johnson taught schoolchildren how to avoid dog bites. She also appeared several times on Channel 8's 12:30 Live with Lori Burkholder.

Dr. Johnson currently resides in Berks County. She shares her home with Yona, a second lab named Honey and three cats. She is a person of faith – a committed Christian focused on serving Christ to the best of her ability. In addition to church life, her interests include work with her therapy dogs, hiking, reading and home decorating. She hopes to participate in short-term missions projects in the future. ♥



Ask Snoot

Q: What do you think about the new injectable heartworm preventative? I am seeing lots of commercials for it and wondering if I should switch to this convenient product for my dog.

A: I have a unique perspective in answering this question. Last October I had a large angry looking lump develop on my right hip. Surgical removal and subsequent biopsy revealed something Dr. Julie called a "severe focal necrotizing and granulomatous panniculitis," otherwise known as an injection site reaction. This occurred secondary to my rabies vaccination and it happens in 1 out of 10,000 dogs. Reactions can occur secondary to anything and this was just a rare bizarre occurrence not associated with wrongdoing, but it is part of the reason my mom takes vaccination very seriously.

ProHeart 6 (Moxidectin) was approved by the FDA this summer as

a sustained release injectable for dogs over 6 months of age. One injection provides 6 months of protection and is comparable in cost to 6 months of Heartgard Plus. For the manufacturer to guarantee the product a dog must be tested negative, the injection given, then tested negative 6 months later. It is approved for treatment of hookworms, but not roundworms or whipworms.

Personally, I love my monthly Heartgard Plus and don't see the need to improve upon the "number one choice of veterinarians for heartworm disease prevention" with rarely observed side effects. I don't recommend injecting anything unnecessarily into your dog. If your dog would have any reaction, there is no way to remove a 6 month sustained release chemical from his system.

I know it is a busy world for humans, but I still recommend putting the stickers on your calendar and taking the minute each month of the year to give your pooch oral heartworm preventative. We believe it is the safest way to go and guaranteed effective. ♥

YOU MADE THE CALL

Good work to everyone who solved the case of Lucy, our sick beagle from last issue.

DIAGNOSIS: Pyometra (a "pus filled" uterus)

TREATMENT: Lucy was started on antibiotics, rehydrated and stabilized for 24 hours prior to being anesthetized for surgery. Her ovaries and uterus were removed surgically, the routine spay procedure, though the procedure was complicated by her enlarged, infected uterus. Although medical management may be attempted, surgical removal of the female reproductive tract is the treatment of choice. Post operatively she remained hospitalized for two days as she recovered. She was discharged on ten more days of antibiotics with a good prognosis.

MORAL OF THE STORY: We can't stress enough how critical it is to have your pet spayed or neutered as an integral part of preventative medicine. Spaying and neutering is not just about controlling the pet population. Spaying before the first estrus (heat cycle) provides a marked reduced risk in development of mammary (breast) cancer. It also obliterates the risk of uterine diseases to include: pyometra, uterine torsion, cystic endometrial hyperplasia, uterine rupture and uterine cancer. We recommend spaying between 5 and 6 months of age. This is a one time expense and should be considered a must by responsible pet owners. Just like in a human hospital, there are risks with anesthesia and surgery that we would be glad to discuss with you in detail, but the benefits greatly outweigh the risks.

YOU MAKE THE CALL

Quincy, a five-year-old male neutered black Labrador retriever presented to Vetcenter with a three-week history of intermittent subtle lameness. The owners are unable to identify which leg is lame as the husband and wife give conflicting opinions. Quincy is predominantly an indoor dog but is regularly exercised. Lately he has no interest in playing ball and is sluggish on their walks in the woods. He is on heartworm preventative year round and Frontline from March to November. He is eating and drinking normally and doesn't seem "sick."

Physical Exam: Temperature of 101.8 (Normal is 100.5 to 102.5), normal gum color, heart rate and respiratory rate. No abnormalities noted on palpation of the abdomen, auscultation of the lungs or check of the skin/coat. Several joints seem subtly swollen on exam and he is painful on their palpation. He is gaited in the parking lot and is markedly lame in the right forelimb and stiff in both hind limbs.

Diagnostic Tests: Complete Blood Count: No significant abnormalities. Radiographs of swollen joints showed the fluid in the joint but no abnormal bony findings. There is another panel of blood tests that should be done to confirm the diagnosis: WHAT?

HINT: If left untreated this disease can cause fever, lack of appetite, lymph node enlargement, progressive kidney failure, and neurologic signs.

What's your diagnosis? Look for our diagnosis, treatment and outcome in the next issue of your *Snoot Report*.



Pet First Aid

Seminar and Hands-on Workshop
Thursday October 4, 2001 at 7:00 PM

Available to current clients on a first-come-first-served basis.

Seating is limited. To participate, please register by calling us at **345-3250**

no later than October 2.

Light refreshments will be served. Come prepared to take notes and ask questions!



The "Snoot Report" is dedicated to the pets who have touched the lives of all who knew them.

In loving memory of

Muffin Barket
Doodles Bowen
Lucky Bowen
Frisky Bradley
Kathia Brown
Tom Brown
Blackie Butler
Inky Butler
Tristan Buzby
Blackie Chiaretti
Oscar Cooper
Rascal Croll
Foofy Dewald
Misty Dry
Spooky Eckert
Gus Edris
Midnight Fessler
Glory Fisher
Cat Frantz
Zach Frantz
Cookie Gitman
Becky Gogno
Molly Hatfield
Gizmo Heiser
Dude Henning
Jasmine Herring

Thumper Hillside SPCA
Princess Horning
Sagin Jones
Mina Keenan
Rusty Linchorst
Alaska Llewellyn
Tyler Malone
Maxy Manbeck
Hunter McGuire
Spike McNulty
Tee Miller
Tiger Ney
Bleu Rhine
Teddy Bear Scherer
Smoki Skorupski
Samantha Skripko
Cassie Sleva
Angus Staller
Tigger Stephens
Blair Tihansky
Fluffy Unger
Hexe Wapinsky
Mary Jane Whitley
Mickey Wolfe
Ozzie Wolfe



GOD BLESS AMERICA

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea..."

— Psalm 46:1-2

ANNOUNCING



Carol Farabaugh

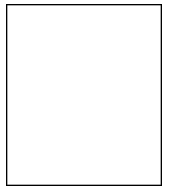
Carol Farabaugh joins us as our second receptionist. Please help us make her feel welcome to our extended Vetcetera family.



Pet Healthcare Centre

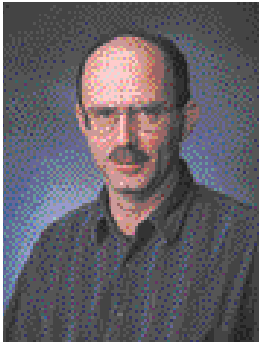
RR 2 Box 1295

Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972



Pet Care Prayer Team News

by Ray Krammes, Vetcetera Chaplain



As chaplain of our prayer team, I want to thank everyone for bringing their pets and prayer requests to our attention. We are delighted to be able to serve you and your cherished pets by taking your concerns to Our Creator.

The interest of Our Heavenly Father for all of creation finds expression in the teachings of Christ that “not

one sparrow will fall to the ground apart from the Father’s will” and we are “of more value than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:29-31; Luke 12:6-7) The fact that not a single sparrow falls to the ground without His presence should spur us on to greater freedom in bringing our requests to Him.

Vetcetera opens for prayer on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM. The atmosphere is casual in dress and format. All are welcome. Please feel free to drop in or call in your prayer concerns.

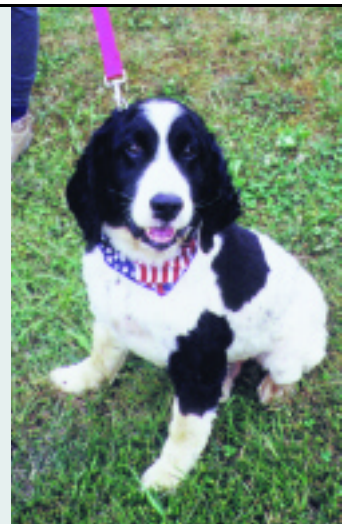


Pet of the Month – King the Spaniel

King is a beautiful black and white English Springer Spaniel. King was rescued from abusive conditions by the Hillside SPCA. When he arrived, his fur was so thick and matted that he did not have complete motion of his hind legs. His former owner had short-chained him to a leaky dog box that had no floor. Scared and starved for companionship, King quickly bonded to anyone who provided a gentle touch or kind word.

Because of overcrowding at the SPCA, King was moved into foster care with English Springer Rescue. He was picked up by his foster family on August 3 and brought straight to Vetcetera for a physical exam, blood work and health panel. King was a model patient through all the tests and checks – just happy to have someone furnish some attention. King quickly won the hearts of all!

King's foster family reports that he rides quietly in a car, walks fine on a leash, and gets along with his foster canine buddies. King has been without human companionship for so long that he would rather sit quietly beside you than romp and play. King is scheduled to be neutered in September and will be available for adoption shortly thereafter. If you would like to open your heart and give this charming boy a permanent home, please call Eileen and Tom Gibson at 570-345-4631.



King



The “Snoot Report” is a quarterly publication for friends and clients of Vetcetera Pet Healthcare Centre. We welcome your comments. Call us at 570-345-3250.