

# Hollywood Insider 2017

2017



## Spring Toxins

As Spring arrives, our favorite plants will soon be blooming! However, some of these plants are toxic for dogs and cats. Be aware of which of these you have at your home, and use caution when your pets are around them.

- Tulips & Hyacinths (the bulb)
- Daffodils (entire plant)
- Lillies – Tiger, Day, Asiatic, Easter, and Japanese Show (entire plant – HIGHLY toxic)
- Crocus (entire plant)
- Lily of the Valley (entire plant)

- Garden additives – blood meal, bone meal, rose and plant fertilizers, pesticides/insecticides, iron

Many of these can cause gastrointestinal upset (vomiting, diarrhea), but some can cause much more severe conditions such as GI bleeding and/or kidney failure.

If you think your pet has eaten one of these plants, or you are not sure, it is best to bring your pet to a veterinarian right away to start treatment or therapy.

Symptoms do not always begin immediately, and it may be best to start treatment before symptoms arise.

Learn more at the Pet Poison Helpline website

<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/pet-owners/basics/top-10-plants-poisonous-to-pets/>



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### The Bark Around Town

We are now offering a Military Discount, as our way of giving back to our service members who give so selflessly to us!

All you have to do is present your Military ID to our front desk. Dependent ID's are accepted as well. ID must be in good standing and not expired.

## Ear Infections

Have you ever smelled your dog's ears? A foul odor is one of the most common signs that pet owners notice before bringing their pet in for an exam. If you've experienced this before, you know the smell!

Other signs you may notice could be excessive head shaking, dark or yellow-colored waxy buildup inside the ears, and/or scratching at the ears and whining as in pain.

Ear infections are caused by an overgrowth of either bacteria or fungus. Many of these organisms are part of the dog's "normal flora," meaning it is found in a normal ear but at a low number. When conditions are right, these organisms will thrive and overpopulate. The ear is perfect for this, as it provides a warm, dark, moist environment that many of these organisms love. Dogs with floppy or large ears are more prone to ear infections because of

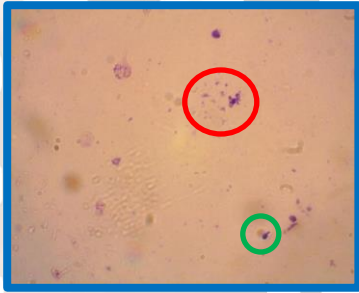
this. Dogs with erect ears are less prone, but always still at risk of an ear infection.

Our veterinarians test for an ear infection by performing an ear cytology. We collect swab samples of the "gunk" in the ears and stain it with a special stain that helps us to see bacteria and yeast more clearly under the microscope.

Once we know what is causing the ear infection, our veterinarians will prescribe an ear medication that will treat your dog's specific infection. It is very important that you follow the label instructions and complete the treatment as prescribed. If not, the infection could come right back, except this time it could be resistant to the previously prescribed medication. We do not want this to happen! Most ear infections are treated and resolve quickly. Some ear infections are more tricky and may require additional medications.

The key to ear infections is PREVENTION. We recommend using an ear flush that dries the ear canal, such as Hexadene flush or Malacetic Otic flush. These can both be purchased over the counter here at PetStar. We recommend using one of these cleaners after bathing your dog, or to clean the ears out if your dog goes swimming in the lake. We also recommend cleaning the ears out once a week, regardless of a bath or swimming, especially if your dog is prone to ear infections.

If you think your dog has an ear infection, we highly recommend bringing him in for an exam so that we can start treating the infection. Ear infections are painful and miserable, and we don't want our babies to suffer!



Yeast (green circle) and cocci bacteria (red circle) on an ear cytology, viewed through the microscope

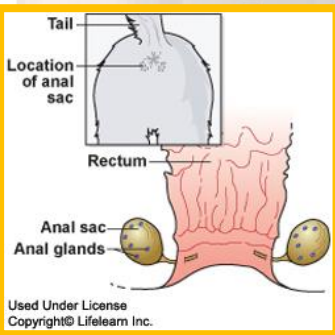


Photo from Lifelearn Inc.

## Anal Glands – What are They?

Anal glands are grape-sized sacs located between the external and internal sphincter muscles on each side of the anus at 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock position. These small sacs secrete a foul smelling grainy substance, but serve a very important purpose. These glands provide lubrication when passing stools as well as giving your dog their own unique scent.

Have you ever noticed two dogs raising their tails on high alert when greeting one another? This action applies pressure on the anal glands, which leads to the traditional sniffing that dogs do to greet each other. This is the equivalent to us, as humans, shaking hands.

Many dogs require manual assistance with their anal glands at some point during their lives. Other dogs go on throughout their lives without needing help and can do it on their own. If not expressed, the glands can become clogged and bacteria can build up and lead to infection or an abscessed gland, if not treated.

Some important signs when your dog is trying to tell you he needs help expressing these glands include scooting his rear across the floor, excessive licking or chewing near the rectum, or a foul "fishy" smell coming from the caboose. If you notice any of these symptoms, it could be time to take Fido to the vet to

have his anal glands expressed. Unless your pooch has developed a problem, it is recommended to avoid over-expression of the glands and allow his body to function as it was designed to do.

A high quality diet can help your dog express his own anal glands. Inexpensive dog foods may lead to softer stools which don't apply enough pressure for your dog to express them when having a bowel movement.

Anal gland expression can be done here at PetStar for \$15.25. An appointment is recommended but not required. Give us a call today if you would like to bring your pup in for this service!

## Ask the Vet!

**Q:** *Can cats get heartworms like dogs can?*

**A:** Yes! Heartworms can be transmitted to cats through a mosquito bite. Cats vary from dogs in their reaction to heartworms. The cat's body has a strong immune response to the presence of heartworms in the system. Cats can present with severe respiratory signs or even sudden death secondary to heartworm disease! Unfortunately, unlike dogs, there is no approved treatment for heartworms in cats. Thankfully, though, heartworms are 100% preventable with the use of monthly heartworm preventatives like Revolution. It is very important, especially in Louisiana, that you keep your furry felines on a heartworm preventative.

~Dr. Kristy Mounts

## A Cat With An Appetite (for things she should not eat)

Maggie Willis, a 1 year old female cat, presented to PetStar on February 22<sup>nd</sup> for vomiting. She was not eating and her stomach seemed swollen. Her owner noted that she had a history of eating the cotton pieces off of q-tips, and had vomited them up before.

Initial radiographs were sent to a board certified radiologist and the findings were concerning for a partial mechanical obstruction, although a discreet foreign object was not identified. We decided to try IV fluids and medications overnight and to repeat radiographs the next day to see if her digestive system was moving things along or not.

The next day, repeat radiographs supported the foreign body diagnosis. Maggie was taken to surgery that day.

Dr. Mounts performed an exploratory laparotomy, where she discovered a foreign object within the stomach as well as a string foreign body extending from the pylorus to the mid-jejunum. There were multiple perforations. Dr. Mounts performed a gastrotomy, removing the foreign object within the stomach (chewed-up q-tip) and releasing the string. The rest of the surgery was a bit tricky, but Dr. Mounts resected over 12 inches of jejunum and 3 inches of duodenum (types of small intestine). She then performed an intestinal anastomosis.

Maggie stayed with us in the hospital throughout her recovery, as she was not 100% stable for several days following surgery. However, she continued to improve each day and

on March 6<sup>th</sup>, Maggie was released to go home. She even got a bath before her family came to take her home!

Maggie was back to her playful, energetic self. We were all so glad to see her happy and well!! We hope she doesn't eat any more q-tips!!



## Photo Showcase!



Champ LaTech



Cooper & Kingsley Givens



Apollo & Milo Hopper

Like us on Facebook and submit your favorite *pet* pictures for your chance to be in our newsletter!

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*http://ruston.petstar.vet*

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*Give Your Pet the STAR  
Treatment*



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At PetStar, our primary focus is to provide you with the most advanced and compassionate veterinary care. Our dedicated veterinary team members cater to your pet's needs in a new, state-of-the-art facility. We have three staff veterinarians supported by a team of well-trained and caring assistants and administrative staff. PetStar offers a unique combination of general veterinary care and boarding, as well as advanced procedures in small animal medicine, surgery and dentistry.

The PetStar Newsletter is dedicated to each of our friends that we have lost along the way. It has been a pleasant journey, and you will always be a part of the PetStar family. You will remain forever in our hearts.

## Coming Next Month...

- Heartworms
- Rabies Virus
- Walk the Dog!
- Meet the Bengal!



## Meet the Newfoundland!

The Newfoundland originated in Canada as a working dog. The breed descended from the no extinct breed Greater St. John's Dog. They were used by fishermen to help pull in fishing nets, and were also used to haul wood.

They have a thick water-resistant coat and are great swimmers, which makes them an excellent fit for water search & rescue as well. They have also been known to try to rescue people from water that did not actually need to be rescued!

Newfoundlands have also earned the nickname "nanny dog," as they are known for being great with children. They are said to be one of the happiest breeds. They are calm, loyal, and courageous.



*Photo from ePet Health*

"Newfies" are also great with other pets, are

highly intelligent, and very lovable.

However, Newfies require constant attention, often have separation anxiety when left alone, and do not do well in the heat.

Newfoundlands are known for their very large size and very thick coat.

Is this breed right for you?

### Breed Characteristics:

Life expectancy: 11 years  
Height: 26 – 28 inches  
Weight: 110 – 150 lbs  
Colors: black or brown  
Group: working, companion, rescue