

Companion Animal News

COUNTRY VIEW

Fall 2006

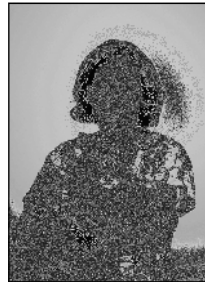
VETERINARY SERVICE



Obesity is a *growing* problem for our pet population. Health risk studies in animals show that being overweight can lead to gait impairments as well as traumatic and degenerative bone and joint disorders. Overweight dogs may have a greater risk of developing certain cancers. Overweight animals have low activity levels and are at increased risk for suffering heat intolerance and stroke. Other health problems common to overweight pets are difficulty breathing, congestive heart failure, fertility problems, diabetes, and skin diseases. On the other side of the scale, pets maintained at optimal weights are more active, more fit, and may live an average of one to two years longer than obese pets. Dogs with an ideal body score may live up to 15% longer than heavier dogs of the same breed living in the same environment eating similar diets. Calorie restriction and regular exercise are the primary factors shown to promote longevity. At Country View Veterinary Service, we refer to a standard body conditioning scoring system (BCS) to evaluate a patient's weight. The scores are based on a nine point scale with 1/9 being extremely thin and 9/9 being very obese. An ideal body condition score is a 4-5/9. The ideal pet should have normal body contours including a waist thinner than the chest and ribs that can be easily felt but not seen at the skin surface. Here are some suggestions for you to maintain them at a healthy weight:

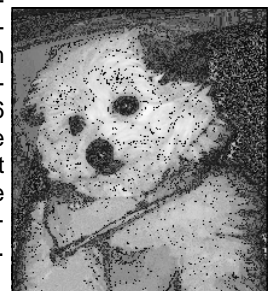
- Consider the food they are eating. Less expensive foods have more fillers and by-products added to keep manufacturing costs low. This reduces the nutritional value.
- Consider the amount you are feeding. Most over-the-counter pet foods are not designed for weight loss. You can safely decrease the amount fed to your pet by 20-25% less than what is recommended on the label to promote weight loss. Do not reduce the amount by more than 30% because it may not be healthy for your animal.
- Consider the treats being fed to your pet. This includes edible toys (rawhides), treats from the kids (off the table), and treats from friends. These extra calories can add up quickly. Try changing their treats to vegetables with high water and/or fiber content or simply limiting the quantity of food rewards offered. As with any weight loss program, decreased caloric intake should be coupled with increased exercise. If your pet is a senior or very out of shape, begin increasing exercise slowly, just as we would for ourselves. If they are still not losing weight after you have tried exercise and calorie monitoring, do not become frustrated. Contact us because a metabolic problem may be the cause for their weight gain. Taking the time to manage your pet's health is ultimately the best reward you can offer them.

Litter Box Problems are a common source of frustration for cat owners. Urinary tract infections are sometimes to blame and a medical exam is always warranted. Many times, the behavior is triggered by interactions with other cats, whether a new family member is added or if cats outside aggravate or cause the cat anxiety. The litter boxes themselves may be a problem. Most cats detest scented litters. Always look for an unscented variety. A general rule to follow is to maintain one litter box per cat plus one extra with at least one litter box per floor of the house. The boxes should be in low traffic areas and kept meticulously clean. Rarely do the cats urinate out of spite towards their caregivers. Underlying disease issues can contribute to the general anxiety or discomfort felt by your cat. Commercially available cat pheromones can improve the serenity in your home. Medications to improve your cat's behavior may be warranted. Please let our staff help you solve your cat's litter box troubles and rule out medical causes.



Arthritis plagues many of our active pets. Injuries, imperfect body development and simple aging changes can alter the health and comfort of our animals. The shoulders, elbows, hips and knees are commonly affected sites of degenerative joint changes. Limping, hesitating to stand, resentment to handling or a decline in playfulness may be signs of pain. Arthritis cannot be completely cured but there are many effective drugs available for our pets. Joint supplements such as glucosamine are well tolerated and help the body repair from injury. A newer class of non-steroidal medications offer pets long lasting relief from pain and inflammation. Deramaxx, Rimadyl, and Metacam for our canine companions are frequently prescribed oral medications that provide relief from arthritis pain and may offer them an enhanced quality of life.

Puppy Classes are offered Thursday evenings at Country View Veterinary Service. Dr. Susan Krebsbach teaches a five week training and socialization course for puppies 8 to 16 weeks old and their families. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact our front desk staff and they will be happy to answer your questions regarding this fun and educational class. New sessions will be starting soon.



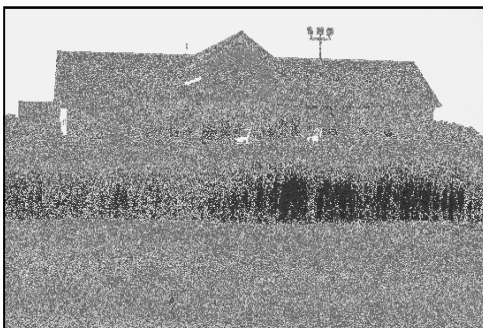
Equine News

COUNTRY VIEW VETERINARY SERVICE



VACCINES It is time to think about Fall Vaccines. Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis (EHV) vaccines are given now and a Rabies booster is necessary if your horses did not receive one in the Spring. **Foals** begin receiving immunizations at 6 months of age and require booster vaccines at 7 and 9 months of age. **Pregnant mares** require Rhinopneumonitis boosters every two months during pregnancy beginning at 5 months gestation.

FEED ANALYSIS Country View Veterinary Service is now offering a diet analysis program for your horses. Assessing the nutritional quality of your hay now will help you make healthy feed purchases. Evaluating hay nutrient and calorie content allows us to determine what types and amounts of grains or concentrates you will need to provide a nutritionally balanced ration for your horses. For those of you with senior horses, remember that many of them have difficulty digesting or chewing hay and sweet feed products. As their intestinal tract ages, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to utilize all the nutrients provided to them. Many senior horses thrive during the months on pasture but then develop diarrhea or weight loss when given hay as a primary feed. Choosing when to switch to a senior diet, an extruded diet with hay, or to a diet solely made of a complete feed are important decisions you will need to make as your equine companions age. Ask us about



developing a diet suitable for your horse whether they are overweight, growing or just a year older.

DENTISTRY Fall is a good time of year to evaluate your horses overall health. Physical exams and dental exams are important. We are pleased to offer our patients advanced dental procedures including diastema repair, dental radiographs, and dental floating. Addressing areas of abnormal or painful dental wear will enable your horse to chew more efficiently and comfortably.

**During October and November,
all equine dental floats
are discounted 10% off
the standard cost!**

Ask us about our barn cat spay/neuter special

SADDLE EVALUATIONS Rachele, one of our certified veterinary technicians, is on the road offering saddle fitting evaluations for your horses. She will come to your stable and assess issues involving the horse, the rider and the saddle. Behavioral problems such as irritability, bucking, rushing or a reluctance to move freely can be traced to a poor saddle fit. Many problems can often be alleviated before investing in expensive equipment. Horses' bodies change with age and with different exercise programs. To perform as athletes, we need our horses to be healthy and comfortable. As a riding instructor and trainer, Rachele can objectively evaluate how you, your saddle and your horse all fit together and she will work with you to optimize your riding potential. Appointments with Rachele can be scheduled through Carrie, our large animal receptionist.



Grooming

by Amy

Call us to
Schedule an
Appointment!
835-0551



Yogi

A Certified Veterinary Technician is Important to Your Pet's Health

A certified veterinary technician (CVT) has many duties within the clinic. Here at Country View Veterinary Service, CVT's assist doctors, treat patients, and help clients in many ways. We usually start our day with treatments administered to hospitalized animals. Many overnight patients receive IV fluids or are recovering from a surgery or illness. After early morning care of patients is completed, we begin admitting surgery patients for the day. As appointments arrive, we ask many questions about the patient's health. We measure vital signs and check vaccination histories before the veterinarian sees the patient.

When owners adopt new pets, we counsel them regarding appropriate pet behavior, pet training, necessary vaccines, and a variety of other health issues. We educate our clients on various issues such as fleas and ticks, heartworm disease prevention, intestinal parasites, nutrition, and we answer many other questions, too. In addition to these roles, a technician is responsible for performing laboratory analysis, drawing blood from patients, handling animals, taking and developing x-rays, filling prescriptions, surgery preparation and monitoring of anesthesia, dental care, and answering the phones as needed. Technicians get involved in almost all aspects of the clinic.

Certified Veterinary Technicians become licensed after completing a two year training program. Anatomy, physiology, laboratory testing and learning hands-on medical skills are all part of the curriculum. Attending continuing education regularly is part of our job and keeps us current on all the newest medical advances. Our job is to assist veterinarians in many ways and to help our clients enjoy their pets.

COUNTRY VIEW VETERINARY SERVICE



Fall means it is time for our
DENTAL SPECIAL

We are offering a *10% Discount*
on all Dog and Cat Dental Cleanings
scheduled during October and November
Call us to make an appointment for your pet.

Pet Odors can adversely affect your pets and the relationship you share with them. While many people enjoy cologne, some dogs and cats prefer to put more unsavory scents on their bodies. These often are washable. Some skin odors are not. They may be due to over-productive skin glands, inappropriate grooming habits, or skin infections. Ears are a common source of yeast and bacterial overgrowth. This can cause great discomfort for animals and may lead to more serious problems. Anal glands often contribute to pet odor and distress. Seeing your pet scoot their bottom along the ground is a sure sign of discomfort. This may be due to intestinal parasites or from inflamed anal glands. Anal glands frequently require veterinary attention to alleviate the discomfort. The mouth is another source of pet odor. This can be due to infection, diet, kidney disease or metabolic disease. If you notice a new aroma following your pet, it is important to identify the source. Many times the odor may be a sign of a medical problem and warrants a careful physical examination.

Our Certified Veterinary Technicians

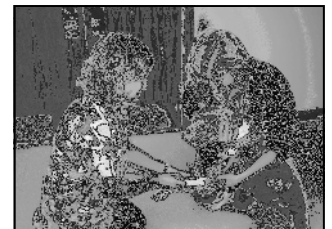
Rachelle Bailey-Eugster, CVT
Diane Jones, CVT, Lissa Jones, CVT
Lacey Lund, CVT, Becca Manor, CVT
Dana Murrish, CVT, Melissa Svendsen, CVT
and Jennifer Kroll (CVT Student)

Clinic Hours

Monday 7:30 - 7:30
Tuesday 7:30 - 6:00
Wednesday 7:30 - 7:30
Thursday 7:30 - 6:00
Friday 7:30 - 6:00
Saturday 7:30 - 1:00

Emergency Coverage
is *always* available.

Phone: 608-835-0551



Country View Veterinary Service



1350 S. Fish Hatchery Road
Oregon, WI 53575

- Services Offered at
- Country View Veterinary Service**

- 24- Hour Emergency Care
- Full-Service Small Animal Medical and Surgical Hospital
- Full- Service Large Animal Practice
- Certified Veterinary Technicians
- X-Ray, Ultrasound, and Endoscopy
- In-house Laboratory
- Climate Controlled Large Animal Hospital
- Equine Internal Medicine Referrals
- Advanced Dentistry Utilizing State-of-the -Art Dental Equipment
- Breeding Services
- On-Site Farrier Services
- In-house Grooming Services
- Equine Feed Analysis and Ration Balancing
- Puppy Socialization and Training Classes
- Boarding

Our Doctors

Judy Batker, DVM

Larry Mahr, DVM

Emily Leuthner, DVM, DACVIM

Brian Hoelscher, DVM

Christine Olson, DVM

Kristine Collins, DVM

Andrea Lanphear, DVM

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