



ANDOVER
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Around the Barn

Andover Animal Hospital

243 Newton Sparta Road
Newton, NJ 07860
Phone: (973) 940-BARN (2276)
Fax: (973) 940-0309

www.andoveranimalhospital.com

Hours

Monday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Tuesday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Wednesday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am - 12:00pm
Sunday: Closed

Harvey E. Hummel, VMD
Shelley L. Parker, DVM
Wendy Turner, DVM

Understanding FIV

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, or FIV, is a virus in the same family of viruses as HIV in humans. These viruses, called "lentiviruses," are species-specific, so FIV cannot be transmitted to humans from cats, nor can HIV be transmitted from humans to cats or other animals. FIV was first identified in 1986, and has been found worldwide. According to the Cornell Feline Health Center at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, FIV is found in 1.5% to 3% of healthy cats in the United States.

FIV is primarily transmitted through bites, so unneutered male cats that are allowed outdoors are most likely to contract this virus. Occasionally, an infected mother cat can spread the virus to her kittens, either during birth or from drinking her infected milk. Non-aggressive contact between cats is not typically a cause of transmission, so it is possible for infected cats to live with non-infected cats without spreading the virus. When a cat is initially infected

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Barn Cats

Rodents have been the bane of farmers since farming began. Losses from rodents begin with them eating your grain, and get worse from there.

Rodent droppings can contain harmful bacteria, such as Salmonella, which can infect chickens, pigs and other animals, then cause illnesses in people when they eat the meat or eggs. Rodents can carry diseases such as hantavirus, which they shed in their urine, droppings and saliva. People can become infected when they breathe air that has been contaminated with the virus. Finally, rodents can carry parasites like fleas, which can harbor tapeworms and bacteria, and ticks that can carry diseases such as Lyme disease and anaplasmosis.

For many people who own farms, cats are one of the first lines of defense against rodents. Most people agree, if you have a good barn cat, chances are it is earning its keep.

Keeping your barn cats healthy will help them be more productive hunters. Be sure they have safe shelter, protected from wind, rain and snow.

Always be sure they have a source of clean, fresh water. It's important to feed your barn cats, because cats that need to kill rodents for their food tend to kill fewer rodents than cats who are hunting for fun.

Spaying or neutering barn cats prevents unwanted litters, and also keeps them on task. Unneutered males tend to roam and fight, and unspayed females entice feral males to your farm; both of these cases increase the risk of exposure to disease.

Vaccinating your barn cats protects them from painful illnesses, and in the cases of diseases like rabies – it protects you and your livestock as well. Vaccinating cats from feline-only diseases helps to keep all of your barn cats safe. In the event that an infected feral cat visits your farm, a disease outbreak could wipe out your barn cats, and some pathogens can remain in the environment for a long time. The cost of vaccines and an annual exam are relatively inexpensive, and they're an investment because they help prevent disease and keep your farm healthy.

Cats that eat rodents are highly susceptible to intestinal parasites, such as hookworms and whipworms. These parasites can live in the soil for a long time, and can infect your indoor pets and even cause a threat to humans, especially children. Parasite prevention in dogs and cats helps to halt the lifecycle of intestinal parasites, making your farm a safer place for the cats, dogs and humans that live there.

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) are among the most lethal feline diseases, and they're very common. Infected cats don't always

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Bobcat Fever

Ticks! The incidence of tick-borne diseases is increasing throughout the country. Most everyone has heard of some common tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease and anaplasmosis. Another disease carried by ticks is called cytauxzoonosis, or "bobcat fever," and it can be fatal to domestic cats.

Cytauxzoonosis can be spread by the Lone Star tick and the American dog tick. Originally discovered in Missouri, incidence of the disease has spread and has now been reported in a number of states.

Bobcats are considered the main reservoir for this disease, and it is usually not fatal to them. It appears to effect all kinds of cats, and has been documented in Florida panthers, mountain lions and even tigers. It is not known to infect humans or dogs.

Veterinarian Leah Cohn, a small animal disease expert at the University of Missouri, calls the disease "the Ebola virus for cats," stating that it often causes a quick and painful death. Initial signs include depression, lethargy and lack of appetite. As the disease progresses, cats develop a high fever and often vocalize as though they are in pain.

Previous treatments had a low success rate, but this year, Dr. Cohn and Adam Birkenheuer, of North Carolina State University, revealed a treatment that is effective in about 60% of infected cats.

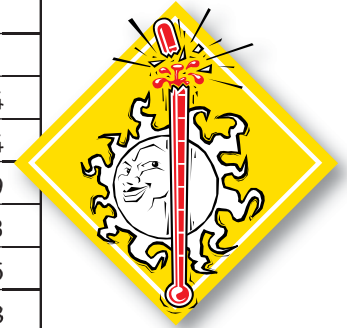
Although bobcat fever is not common, its very existence is a reminder that tick prevention is key. Outdoor cats are at higher risk due to increased likelihood of tick exposure. Keeping dogs and cats current on tick preventives helps keep your pets and family safe from a number of tick-borne diseases. Never use products intended for dogs on your cats, as the active ingredients in some dog products are toxic to cats. Be sure to read all labels carefully. Ask your veterinarian if you have questions about tick and other parasite prevention in cats.

Heatstroke and Cars

Every summer, there are news reports of pets dying after being left unattended in parked cars. These tragic deaths should never occur. Even in the shade and with the windows down, the inside of a car can reach deadly temperatures within minutes. This chart shows how quickly the temperatures inside a parked vehicle can change:

Estimated Vehicle Interior Air Temperature vs. Elapsed Time

Elapsed time	Outside Air Temperature (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0 minutes	70	75	80	85	90	95
10 minutes	89	94	99	104	109	114
20 minutes	99	104	109	114	119	124
30 minutes	104	109	114	119	124	129
40 minutes	108	113	118	123	128	133
50 minutes	111	116	121	126	131	136
60 minutes	113	118	123	128	133	138
> 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140



Courtesy: Jan Null, CCM, San Jose State University / Learn more at www.noheatstroke.org

The normal body temperature for dogs ranges from 100 to 102.5 degrees. Generally, a temperature over 103 degrees is considered elevated. Heatstroke occurs when a dog's body temperature reaches 105 degrees or more, and exceeds the body's ability to dissipate the heat.

Unlike humans, dogs only have minimal sweat glands in areas such as their paws and nose, so their primary method of dissipating heat is through panting. Panting is less effective in poorly ventilated areas and increasing temperatures – like the inside of a parked car. To compensate, the heart starts pumping faster. As the dog's body temperature continues to increase, the heart loses the ability to circulate the blood effectively. The combination of poor blood flow and increased body temperature can ultimately damage all of the major organs, leading to shock and death.

Be aware of the signs of heat stroke in dogs. They include panting, drooling or excessive salivation changing to dry gums as the condition progresses, a rapid pulse, weakness and confusion. If you notice these signs, immediately attempt to cool the dog using lukewarm water (do not use cold water or ice), and seek immediate emergency veterinary care!

Any age, breed and sex of dog may be affected by heatstroke, but older dogs, puppies, brachycephalic dogs (those with "pushed in" noses such as pugs) and dogs with chronic health conditions, such as obesity and heart disease, are at higher risk.



"What greater gift than the love of a cat."

– Charles Dickens



Longevity

Who among us wouldn't jump at the chance to extend the lifespan of our pets?

Two University of Washington researchers, Dr. Daniel Promislow and Dr. Matt Kaeberlein, have initiated a study of aging in dogs, which they've called The Dog Aging Project. Their goal is to "help dogs live the longest, healthiest lives possible by taking advantage of recent breakthroughs in the science of aging."

The study of aging and age-related diseases is known as geroscience. Because aging increases the risk factors for almost every non-genetic chronic disease, a better understanding of aging could help in the discovery of disease prevention and cures. The causes of aging are very complex, and with humans, it can take decades to gauge how early life exposures affect aging. Scientists can observe the same thing in dogs in just five to seven years. "Everything is sped up. We can learn a lot in a relatively short amount of time," states Dr. Promislow.

"The Dog Aging Project has two major aims," according to their website, "... a longitudinal study of aging in dogs and an intervention trial to prevent disease and extend healthy longevity in middle-aged dogs."

The intervention trial involves a drug called rapamycin, which seems to make mice live longer and improve heart function. The drug is currently used in humans help prevent organ transplant rejection. The researchers would now like to see if the drug can improve heart function in large breed dogs. The first phase was a safety trial, and found no severe adverse effects. Phase two will be a larger scale study involving middle-aged dogs from across the country, and possibly, around the world.

The longitudinal study of aging is intended to be the first large-scale study of aging in dogs. They plan to enroll 10,000 pet dogs and study them throughout their lives. The study will look at genetics, epigenetics (how cells are turned on and off) and other biological factors and environmental factors such as water quality, air quality and social settings. They want to involve the global scientific community, because they expect the volume of data will be too much for their team of about ten scientists to process.

This project is not yet fully funded, but they're actively raising funds and moving forward.

Intrigued? Go to DogAgingProject.com to learn more. You can enroll your dog on the website. If your dog is accepted in to the study, it will be followed for the rest of its life with routine veterinary exams and non-invasive tests.

Obesity in Labradors

Labs love food – almost any Labrador Retriever owner can attest to that fact. That food drive can be an incredibly useful tool for the savvy dog trainer, and Labs are known as friendly, intelligent, highly trainable dogs. The food drive can also lead to obesity, which shortens many dogs' lives. New research has revealed a genetic link to obesity in the Labrador Retriever and Flat-Coated Retriever.

The study, published in the journal *Cell Metabolism*, examined 310 pet and assistance dogs. Researchers searched for variants of three known obesity-related genes. They found a variant in a gene known as POMC is strongly associated with increased body weight, adiposity (fat) and food motivation.

According to the American Kennel Club (AKC), Labrador Retrievers have been the most popular breed in America for 25 years straight. They're also a popular breed for assistance dogs, and the study found the POMC gene mutation "... is significantly more common in Labrador retrievers selected to become assistance dogs than pets," which may explain why those dogs are so highly trainable with food rewards.

This research could lead to a better understanding of obesity in humans, and the study's authors note it may also open a path for research in to novel therapeutic approaches to treating certain forms of obesity in dogs.



"Ask your doctor if the embarrassing head cone is right for you."

BARN CATS *continued from pg. 1*

show symptoms, but can easily spread the diseases. Testing your cats for these two diseases is an important aspect of barn cat health.

Many shelters have “barn cat” programs. Cats available through these programs are typically not well suited for indoor life as pets; some are feral or were found as strays and are unable to adapt to indoor life, others may have litter box “issues.” Their adoption fee is usually low, and they’ll have been spayed/neutered, vaccinated, treated for fleas and mites and tested for FIV/FeLV.

You’ll need to confine your new barn cat in a safe cage inside your barn for the first few weeks until it acclimates to your farm.

Adopting a barn cat (or two) from a shelter is a good way to save cats who are unlikely to have any other options, but you must be committed to providing life-long care. Barn cats can be a valuable asset to help manage rodents, which helps keep your livestock and family healthier. Investing in vaccinations, annual exams and parasite prevention for barn cats is money well spent.

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FELV *continued from pg. 1*

with FIV, the lymph nodes will become inflamed and there may be a fever. This stage may be mild and pass unnoticed, even by diligent owners. After the initial infection, cats may live for years carrying the disease with no apparent signs of illness, or with sporadic bouts of problems.

Over time, the immune deficiency can manifest in many ways. Cats may have a dull hair coat, skin problems, inflammation of the mouth and gums, poor appetite and progressive weight loss, diarrhea, bladder problems and neurological problems. Also, certain

cancers are more common in FIV+ cats.

FIV is diagnosed with a blood test that detects antibodies for the virus. It may take two to three months after infection for antibodies to appear, so false negatives are possible in the early disease stages, and your veterinarian may suggest a cat be retested under certain circumstances.

The best way to prevent FIV is to keep cats indoors so they will not be exposed.

If your cat does test positive for FIV, he can still live a long and happy life. You should keep the following tips in mind:

1. Keep him indoors so it can't

expose other cats.

2. Spay/neuter to reduce the risk of fighting and spreading to kittens.
3. Cats are masters at hiding symptoms of illness, so regular veterinary exams are important for all cats, but especially FIV+ cats.
4. Feed a healthy, balanced diet.
5. Microchip your cat, because many shelters euthanize FIV+ cats whose owners do not claim them.

