



The Golden "View"

Your place for the latest happenings at

GoldenView Veterinary Hospital (GVH)

Winter 2012

A Message from Dr. Kris:

A Healthy Mouth Is More Than Just Clean Teeth And Fresh Breath!

I can't believe that it is 2012 already and that National Pet Dental Health Month is upon us again! To celebrate, we at GoldenView Veterinary Hospital, encourage you to take advantage of our February promotion and save 15% on the cost of your pet's Dental Cleaning and Assessment and Full Mouth Dental Radiographs. Additionally, all products to help you maintain your pet's dental health at home will be on sale throughout the entire month.

Keeping your pet's mouth healthy is an important step in maintaining his overall health and longevity. Periodontal disease caused by infection below the gum line is the most common disease of dogs and cats, and can adversely impact the function of the liver, kidneys and even the heart. The severity of periodontal disease cannot be judged by the amount of calculus/tartar on the crowns of the teeth. It requires

probing around each tooth to find any areas of attachment loss, and dental radiographs to find pockets, and loose, missing, infected or fractured teeth and tooth roots. As you can imagine, this **requires** general anesthesia. Please **beware** of the "Anesthesia-Free" dental cleaning offers that have become so prevalent! Just removing calculus from the visible tooth crowns does nothing to address periodontal disease and it creates a false sense of security. Anesthesia-free methods **DO NOT** provide the opportunity for thorough cleaning or for proper examination of the oral cavity. Pet owners who rely on anesthesia-free dentistry are leaving a smoldering problem that may well cause chronic pain and disease. If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to call or e-mail me at gvh@goldenviewvet.com.

2012 will also bring a new series of Client Education Seminars and Workshops. The first of these was held on Thursday, February 2nd and explored the topic of Laser Therapy and Massage Therapy. Join

us for the next gathering on March 23rd which will be a Bird Toy Making Workshop, and then again on May 13th to learn the truth about Pet Nutrition.

For more information about our Client Education Series and Workshops, please visit our website at www.goldenviewvet.com. If you have a topic that you would like more information about, please let us know! Maybe it will be the topic of our next seminar!

Dr. Kris



ARE YOU ORDERING YOUR PET MEDICATION ONLINE?

Check our online prices! In most cases, we are lower than the national online pharmacies—AND our products are guaranteed!

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Need a safe place to leave your bird or exotic pet? TRUST GVH to provide the highest standard of care available! Knowledgeable, experienced caregivers with a special touch!

Did you know... Our facebook page had a facelift!

Check out the new graphics, Facebook deals and learn more about our patients and staff! Perhaps your pet will be one of our Featured Facebook Friends!! LIKE US on Facebook (GoldenView Veterinary Hospital)



Creature Feature: Leopard Geckos

The Geico ads have contributed to a rise in popularity of geckos. What's with the British accent though? Geckos are native to Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, which gives one an idea of the kind of environment they require. An aquarium works well for housing (a 20 gallon long is better than a high one). The substrate in the enclosure can be sand or newspaper, with sand being more natural. Rocks and logs provide an attractive enclosure as well as encouraging climbing and exercise. Be sure there is a hiding box in the enclosure for sleeping or escape.

Leopard Geckos are nocturnal (active at night) so minimal UVB lighting is necessary. A spotlight with the appropriate wattage bulb can provide daytime light and heat. The daytime temperature gradient should be 80°F to 90°F (directly under the spotlight) At night a temperature in the low 70's is acceptable. Heating pads and hot rocks are not recommended.

Leopard Geckos are fairly easy to feed. They thrive on insects. Well nourished, calcium loaded crickets with occasional mealworms and waxworms make a delicious staple diet. Adult geckos can occasionally receive a pinkie mouse as a treat. Juveniles are fed daily

and adults are fed every other day. Supplementation with calcium and a reptile multivitamin is a MUST. A shallow water dish should be provided and water always changed daily to avoid bacterial and fungal growth. Humidity and moisture aid in shedding so providing a shed box is recommended.

Annual veterinary wellness exams are recommended to catch any potential problems early when they are most treatable.

Housing 2 males in the same enclosure is not advised and males should have a harem of 3-4 females in breeding colonies. Lucky Geckos!



An interesting fact: the sex of the Leopard Geckos is determined by the temperature at which the eggs are incubated.



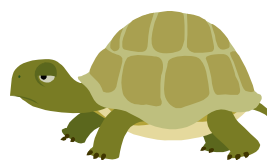
Complete product line available at GVH

Annie's Fund

We've had some new Annie's Fund recipients! A rescued Greyhound, Walker, had received dental care at another clinic. Many teeth were pulled but all the roots were left, creating significant pain and infection. Dr. Kris performed dental radiographs and found and extracted 14 roots that had been left behind. The procedure required 6 hours of anesthesia. Walker is feeling much better now!. With Dental Month here, this is a great illustration of the importance of full mouth radiographs, and the proper dental training Dr. Kris and each staff member has received.

Our friend, Zuul, a previously featured Annie's Fund recipient, found a new home in November. He is doing very well and has a new buddy, Quincy the cat to hang out with.

Annie's Fund allowed us to donate a dental cleaning and assessment with full mouth radiographs to Foothills Animal Shelter. They chose a young adult cat, Olivia, to receive this procedure. We hope this helps her find a new home quickly! If you are interested in adding a new friend to your home, check our community resource, Foothills Animal Shelter.



ONLINE STORE

Get the convenience you want from the veterinarian you trust! You can request prescription refills or order non-prescription products from your Pet Portal 24/7. When you buy from GVH's Online Store, you can be confident that all products come from reputable sources and are properly shipped and stored. All products are guaranteed and handled by FDA-approved facilities. **COMPARE PRICES—WE ARE LOWER THAN MOST ONLINE PHARMACIES!** Access your Pet Portal through our website at www.goldenvet.com and let us help you and your pets!

GVH'S

ANNUAL BIGGEST LOSER CONTEST!!

Does your dog, cat or exotic pet need to "slim down?"

Sign up NOW for the GoldenView Weight Loss Challenge!

The pet that loses the largest percentage of body weight wins a

\$100 Gift Certificate!

- ◆ Monthly weight check required
- ◆ Progress is tracked for you
- ◆ Contest ends April 30, 2012

Feeding Your Parrots Well—Easy and Economical Ways to Provide Optimal Nutrition

By Patti, CVT

Feeding parrots well is both easy and complex. The majority of the disease processes we see in our veterinary practice are related to improper or inadequate nutrition. For the parrots that live at GVH, as well as our boarding guests, we feed a diet rich in vitamins and minerals necessary for their best health.. Fifty percent of the fresh diet is dark green leafy vegetables (kale, collards, etc) and other highly colored nutritious vegetables combined with a cooked bean/whole grain mix and topped off with freshly sprouted seeds and beans. We also add a small amount of high Vitamin A fruits and some berries. Too much work? We are only cooking once every 3 months and chopping/preparing the vegetable mix once a week. We are happy to share out time saving tips with you and discuss how you can easily incorporate excellent nutrition for your birds into your busy lives.

PET NUTRITION "DEMYSTIFIED"

.By Betsy, CVT

Misleading media commonly creates confusion and myths about what are good and bad ingredients in our pet foods. In order to get to the bottom of these myths we first need to look at the guidelines set for ingredients, what makes a quality ingredient, how much of these ingredients are in the foods we buy, and if they have an over all benefit for our pets.

Every pet food with distribution in the United States must be regulated by AAFCO. (The Association of American Feed Control Officials). AAFCO is a voluntary membership association of local, state and federal agencies charged by law to regulate the sale and distribution of animal feeds and animal drug remedies. AAFCO's statement on the pet food label identifies: what species of pet the food is intended for, what life stages it will support, and whether food trials have been conducted. Not all foods are required to have feeding trials or to support only one specific life stage. AAFCO also regulates guaranteed analysis and the use of specific key words such as "Organic" and Natural."

Ingredients on a pet food label are listed by weight prior to processing. Chicken, for example, listed as the first ingredient tells us two things. The chicken weighed more than the rest of the ingredients before the food was processed and the word "chicken" used alone guarantees that it is at least 95% whole chicken. Grains have been questioned as to whether they are necessary in our pet diets. Much controversy surrounds this questioning, but in response, many pet food brands now offer grain-free diets. Corn has gotten the most attention in the past as a main cause of allergies in our pets. Corn, in reality, is far down on the list of most common identified allergens in pets. The three most common food allergens are: beef, dairy and wheat. Contaminants, however, that come into contact with grains can also be the allergen. Chemicals, insecticides or parasites such as, grain mites in storage silos, can also be the source of an allergy.

Quality ingredients are not all created equal and amounts may vary with clever word placement. AAFCO regulates specific words and how pet food labels are allowed to display them.

"Organic", "natural", "holistic" and "human grade" are all examples of how ingredients are described on pet food bags. Only "organic" and "natural" are recognized and regulated by AAFCO. Other regulations include the guaranteed amounts of ingredients as described by specific key words. "100% beef" listed on a can of food means that it must contain at least 95% beef product. Beware of other words like: dinner, recipe, entree or formula. These words only guarantee that 25-94% of the contents are the whole product.

Overall, pet food nutrition is the most important part of our pet's life next to regular veterinary visits. As owners, have complete control over what our best friends eat. Remember these guidelines when you select your pet's new food or read the pet food labels when you walk down the aisle.

GVH WILL HOLD A "PET NUTRITION DEMYSTIFIED" CLASS MAY 17, 2012

6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Learn more about proper nutrition, reading labels and marketing tricks that can mislead the consumer!

GVH Events

Client Education Series!

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Toy Making for Your Bird

We will show you how to pick safe materials, recognize safe design and help you construct toys to take home for your feathered friends.

2 PM-5 PM

Fee \$35 (includes materials to make toys you will take home)

CLASS WILL BE AT FOOTHILLS ANIMAL SHELTER

Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, June 16, 2012

PARROT TRAINING WORKSHOP

Featuring Sid Price

1 PM-5 PM

Hands on parrot training class!
Limited to 15 participants to ensure private instruction.

Fee is \$95.

CLASS WILL BE HELD AT FOOTHILLS ANIMAL SHELTER.

Pre-registration is required.

- ◆ **Thank you to all who donated to the Old Dog House Tractor Fund!**
- ◆ **We were able to raise \$910 to help this senior dog/hospice organization.**
- ◆ **You can still donate directly to The Old Dog House at www.olddoghouse.org**

Charity Spotlight: Ferret Dreams

Are you aware there is a rescue group for ferrets here in the Denver metro area? Ferrets lose their homes for the same reasons other pets do—moving, unmet expectations, illness in the family (or the pet), etc. Ferret Dreams exists to educate current and potential ferret owners about the proper care of these delightful companions. They are not for

everyone and it is the goal of Ferret Dreams to make sure the best homes are equipped with the best information for long term success.

Ferret Dreams has worked with over 500 ferrets since it's start in 2005. Not only do they provide daily care and foster care until adoption, they also work with area veterinary hospitals, including GVH, to

provide medical care for all ferrets in their program. Even with courtesy discounts, food and medical care costs can quickly overwhelm any 501(c)3 organization. For more information about ferrets and how you can help, visit www.ferretdreams.org





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www.GoldenViewVet.com

Current Resident or:

Monthly Promotions

February

National Pet

Dental Health Month

Save 15% off dental cleaning and
assessment



PLUS \$25 off full mouth Dental
radiographs & 10% OFF

All Dental Home Care Products

March

Wisdom Panel month!

Find out your dog's
TRUE DNA!

\$15 Off Regular Price

www.wisdompanelpro.com



April

Parasite Prevention

\$7.50 OFF

your pet's parasite prevention
program.

Good towards fecal test, heart-
worm test, dewormer or
heartworm preventative!



For more information on our monthly promotions, visit www.GoldenViewVet.com!!