

# Hollywood Insider 2017

2017



## Pancreatitis:

### What is Pancreatitis:

The Pancreas is an organ sitting just under the stomach with the responsibility of secreting digestive enzymes to break down food and also to secrete insulin. Pancreatitis or “inflammation of the pancreas” involves premature release of the digestive enzymes which begin to digest the body itself instead of food. This begins a series of problems as living tissue is attacked and destroyed.

### What Causes Pancreatitis?

Often times we never find the true cause of Pancreatitis, however, we have found some things that increase the chances of your animal of developing Pancreatitis.

- Fatty Meals ( Any type of table food, or high in fat diet)
- Concurrent hormonal imbalance predisposes a dog to pancreatitis. Such conditions include: Diabetes mellitus, hypothyroidism, and hypercalcemia.

The first two conditions are associated with altered fat metabolism, which predisposes to pancreatitis, and the latter condition involves elevated blood calcium that activates stored digestive enzymes.

- The use of certain drugs ( sulfa containing antibiotics, certain anti convulsing medications, and certain chemotherapy drugs.)

- Trauma to the pancreas that occurs from a car accident or even surgical manipulation can cause inflammation and thus pancreatitis.

### Signs of Pancreatitis:

Classic signs include vomiting with loss of appetite, diarrhea, painful abdomen, and/or Fever.

### Testing for Pancreatitis:

If suspected, our Team of Veterinarians will recommend running general bloodwork to check the overall function of the internal organs. If they suspect a chance of pancreatitis, the pancreatic enzymes called Amylase and Lipase will be elevated on the bloodwork. When their levels are especially high, it's a reasonable sign that these enzymes have leaked out of the pancreas, and pancreatitis is present, but these tests are not as sensitive or specific as we would prefer. Amylase and lipase can elevate dramatically with corticosteroid use, with intestinal perforation, kidney disease, or even dehydration. To officially diagnose Pancreatitis after elevated enzymes, the next step is a test called Canine Pancreatitis Lipase or “CPL” which will provide a definitive positive or negative result.

### Treatment:

The most important aspect of treatment involves aggressive IV fluid therapy to restore the

circulation of the pancreas and prevent or correct dehydration. This process requires hospitalization along with anti-nausea medications, antibiotics ( most likely administered IV) and in some cases pain medications. This therapy is continued until the patient is able to drink and eat without vomiting. Low-fat diets are crucial to managing pancreatitis and their use should be continued for several weeks before attempting return to regular diet/dog food. Some dogs can never return to regular dog food and require the help of prescription low fat foods indefinitely.



Fill their bowl with a healthy diet geared to their individual needs!  
Talk to us at your next visit!

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### Inside this issue:

Anxiety in Pets	2
Employee Spotlight	2
Doctor Q & A	3
Case Story – “Kruz And The Baby”	3
Photo Showcase	3
Adopt-a-Pet – “Luke and Leia ”	4
Meet the Devon Rex Cat!	4

## The “Bark” Around Town

Upcoming events in July:

### Hope For Paws:

Thursday – 6th – NHFP Meeting – Waskom & Brown – 816 University Parkway – 5:30  
Saturday – 8th – PetSmart Adoption – 7061 Youree Dr – Shreveport – 10:30 – 2:30  
Thursday – 20th – Chili’s – 932 Keyser Ave – 4:00 – 10:00

### Humane Society:

July 8- Bath Day at Tractor Supply from 9-1.  
Green Market every Saturday (July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29) from 8-12 with an adoptable.

## Employee Spotlight: Hannah LaCaze



Hannah started working at Petstar Animal Care, Natchitoches in 2016. She came to us with no previous experience; however it didn't take her long before she was jumping in the mix of things assisting with exams, surgeries, and kennels.

Hannah has initiative and a great work ethic. She recently attended a Continuing Education class along with Dr. Landry and Britney (RVT) furthering her knowledge of Oral Hygiene in pets. She also performs regular dental cleanings or Dental Prophylaxis in animals. Since joining the Petstar Team in 2016, Hannah has decided to continue her path in Veterinary Medicine by majoring in the Vet Tech Program at Northwestern State University. Hannah has become a valuable team member and we appreciate all her hard work.

Stop by the office to tell her thanks for going the extra steps to provide your animals with excellent care.

Great Job Hannah!

## Anxiety in Pets: They Get Scared Too!

Anxiety is an overwhelming feeling and apparent in pets just as it is in humans. It's not uncommon for our pets to experience some type of apprehension in a new environment. The causes of a pet's fight or flight reflex can be very similar to those that affect us, for example; storm anxiety. Some of the other causes are things like separation anxiety, fear of strangers or new animals, anxiety due to past traumatic experience (shelter animals), and even anxiety with going new places such as the Veterinarians Office or groomer. These are just a few things your dog could be having a hard time coping with.

*How do I know if my pet has anxiety?*

Dogs, when scared or nervous will begin to tremble, with tail tucked and even attempt to hide or escape. As the anxiety escalates, the pet

becomes more worked up and may become overly vocal, may make desperate attempts of escaping and even causing harm to itself, and even involuntary urination and defecation are signs. Certain behaviors can arise during times of increased anxiety or stress such as self-mutilation (excessive licking or biting to the point of harming itself) or destruction of surrounding material objects.

*What Can I do to help my Pets Anxiety?*

Also similar to Humans, there are numerous options for treatment in pets with fears or anxiety. Certain medications or alternative behavioral training methods can be used. Those who suffer from Storm phobias can start with a simple Thunder shirts/jackets which offers a "hugging" sensation that is

meant to provide comfort. Sometimes the scenario may call for a fast acting sedative for those experiencing more severe storm phobias or even trips to the vet or groomer. Medications like Acepromazine or Alprazolam may be used in these cases. However, those suffering from anxiety in general not specific to certain events can be placed on medications such as Prozac or Amitriptyline which take longer to get into the system, however are safe for daily long term use.

Ask us about a tailored plan for your pets anxiety at your next visit. We are here to help!

## Ask the Vet!

Q: I have heard that the dog flu is now in Louisiana. Do I need to get my dog vaccinated?

A: That is correct. There were two confirmed positive cases of H3N2 canine influenza diagnosed in the Monroe area recently. They were dogs that were thought to be infected by attending a dog show in Georgia. There are two forms of canine influenza, H3N8 and H3N2. H3N2 influenza was originally diagnosed in the Chicago area in 2015 and has spread from there. H3N8 influenza was first diagnosed in 2004 in racing greyhounds in Florida, but there have been occasional outbreaks of this form since then. The clinical signs of influenza include coughing, sneezing, eye or nasal discharge, labored breathing, fever, and lethargy. These symptoms are shared with a variety of other respiratory tract infections that we see more frequently, including kennel cough. Canine influenza is rarely fatal but extremely contagious. Dogs that are immunocompromised or develop secondary pneumonia are more at risk of dying from the flu. Treatment involves supportive care and keeping them isolated from other dogs. The vaccine that we currently have available is against both H3N2 and H3N8 strains. There is an initial vaccine followed by a booster two weeks later. An annual booster is required thereafter. We recommend that any dogs that have frequent contact with other dogs be vaccinated, such as those boarding, grooming, attending shows or dog parks. We will begin requiring that dogs boarded at PetStar Animal Care be vaccinated against canine influenza beginning August 1, 2017. There have not been any documented cases of companion animal influenza being passed to humans but this is being monitored by the Center for Disease Control.  
~Dr. Landry

## Case Story – Kruz And The Baby

Kruz is a 14 month old male intact American pit bull that presented to Pet Star Animal Care on 4/20/2017 for not eating and weight loss for about 2 weeks duration. His owner works offshore and Kruz stayed with a sitter. When the owner returned from work, his sitter informed him of Kruz's clinical signs. On physical exam Kruz weighed 63lbs and had a fever of 103.4 (normal temperature for a dog is 99.5-102.5) He was painful on palpation. Dr. Dufrene asked the owner of living situation and chewing habits. His owner mentioned that he did chew up a blanket that was in his pen but was unaware of anything else that he could have gotten into. We discussed the possibility of a gastrointestinal foreign body and recommend abdominal radiographs. Radiographs revealed mild dilation of the small intestines along with abnormal gas patterns. We also noted a possible

cloth foreign body in the small intestines. Kruz did eat a small amount of food for us during that time. Dr. Dufrene discussed the need for surgery to remove the foreign body along with the risk of a foreign object causing complete obstruction, perforation and severe pain. With his temperature of 103.4, Dr. Dufrene was worried that Kruz was becoming septic from a possible perforation. Gastrointestinal foreign bodies can cause severe pain and can cause a perforation in the intestines which allow intestinal content to leak into the abdominal cavity. This can cause sepsis and make pets really sick. Kruz's owner wanted to try and see if it would pass on its own. Kruz returned 5 days later weighing 59.8lbs, a temp of 104.5 and vomiting. Bloodwork revealed increased WBC and electrolyte abnormalities due to vomiting. Surgery was performed that afternoon. Kruz had multiple areas in his small

intestines that were ulcerated and an area that needed to be removed in a procedure called a resection and anastomosis. The foreign body was in his colon and was removed without incident. Kruz recovered wonderfully.

The object was a rubber baby teething toy with cloth tails. Kruz stayed in the hospital on IV fluids, pain meds and antibiotics. He was monitored for fever, eating, drinking, pain, discharge from incision site and bowel movements. He was discharged 3 days later doing wonderfully. At his recheck appointment 10 days later he weighed 74lbs and had a normal temperature of 101.0. Sutures were removed and he is playing, eating and drinking normally.

Kruz was very excited to visit his friends at PetStar and received a well-deserved belly rub.

## Photo Showcase

Hank Bethard



Katie Grace Cruise



Tango Too Dufrene



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

*PetStar Animal Care  
820 Keyser Ave.  
Natchitoches, LA 71457  
318-352-1164*

*<http://natchitoches.petstar.vet>*

*Like us on Facebook!*

*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 two 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.*

## **Pet of the Month, "Luke and Leia"**

Luke and Leia are littermates and are 8 years old, with an approximate DOB of 2-1-09. Their owner recently passed away and they are in need of a loving home together. They are Doxie mixes, very sweet, and love to snuggle. They are up to date on their shots, spayed/neutered, and great with children, cats and other dogs. They are great on a leash and love to go for walks. A fenced yard and vet reference are required for their adoption along with an adoption fee of \$100.00 for the pair. If interested please send your information to [natchitocheshopeforpaws@yahoo.com](mailto:natchitocheshopeforpaws@yahoo.com).



## **Meet the Devon Rex Cat !**

Emerging in England in the 1960's, The Devon Rex is a uniquely intelligent cat known to be able to not only recognize their name but also their owners name. Characterized by very short but wavy coat, The Devon Rex is active and very people oriented often bring most comfortable close to the head and neck of their humane companion. Their long sturdy legs allow them to be high jumpers allowing them to explore almost any area that will fit them.

Lifespan: 9-15 years,  
Average weight: 8-10lbs



### **Coming Next Month**

**Canine Influenza**

**Flea Control**

**Employee Spotlight**

**Meet The Briard!**