

# Hollywood Insider 2016



## Pancreatitis

It's almost turkey day! Can't you just smell the turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, and pumpkin pie? However, we want to warn you about the dangers of letting your pets have these things. All table food is highly discouraged, but we seem to see more of a problem with table food and pets around the holidays.

Pancreatitis is a fairly common ailment in dogs (less so in cats). Most of the time, this disease can be prevented. This article will explain what pancreatitis is, treatment of the disease, and how to help prevent this disease in your pets.

The pancreas is a vital organ in the right side of the abdomen that produces digestive enzymes and hormones such as insulin.

Pancreatitis is the term for inflammation of the pancreas. There are two forms – mild pancreatitis and severe hemorrhagic pancreatitis. When the pancreas is inflamed, some digestive enzymes will leak out into the abdomen, which can affect other organs such as the liver, gall bladder, and intestines.

Clinical signs of pancreatitis include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and fever. Your pet will likely stop eating and will be reluctant to do normal activities because their tummy hurts. Severe pancreatitis that is untreated can ultimately cause death.

To test for pancreatitis, blood work is often required. Our doctors are looking for elevated levels of pancreatic enzymes and elevated white blood cells on blood work to give a definitive diagnosis. Some

dogs and cats will still have normal blood work, however, and the doctor may be able to make a diagnosis based on clinical signs and medical history.

Treatment for pancreatitis depends on the severity of the disease. It can range from simple medications to give at home plus a bland diet for several days, to hospitalization on IV fluids and injectable medications. It can be quite costly in severe cases, which is why prevention is so important.

Some patients develop pancreatitis more often than others, called chronic pancreatitis. It is very important to try to pinpoint what is causing the pancreatitis so that we can try to prevent it. The exact cause of pancreatitis is not known. However, we have found a common factor in nearly all pancreatitis cases – a diet rich in fats. This can be people food, low quality canned dog food, or treats that are very rich. Some dogs and cats seem to be more sensitive than others, and a simple diet change can bring on a bout of pancreatitis.

Therefore, preventing pancreatitis means feeding the right diet. A high quality dog food, such as Royal Canin or Science Diet, and limiting treats to only those approved by your veterinarian, will keep your pet happier and healthier in the long run.

Some pets will still develop pancreatitis even while eating a healthy diet. The cause of this is not known. These cases may require more testing to determine what could be the cause and how it can be prevented. These cases are rare.

Sometimes, one or more severe cases of pancreatitis will leave the pancreas damaged, which can cause abnormal food digestion. There are daily supplements available to help in these cases. If your dog or cat ever develops clinical signs indicative of pancreatitis, it is best to get your pet to the veterinarian as soon as possible! The earlier treatment is started, the better the prognosis!

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, and family and friends come over to enjoy the holidays, make sure everyone knows not to share their plates with the pets! We see most of our pancreatitis cases just after the holidays...coincidence?? Keep your pets healthy and happy this holiday season!

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### The “Bark” Around Town

Upcoming events in November:

#### Hope For Paws:

Nov 3 – Monthly Meeting @ Waskom, Brown & Associates  
5:30 – 6:30

Nov 12 – Petsmart Adoption Event, Youree Drive in Shreveport 10:00 – 3:00

Nov 17 – Chili's Give Back Night 4:00 – 10:00

Nov 26 – Fleur de Lis Arts & Crafts Show 9:00 – 4:00

#### Natchitoches Humane Society:

Nov 12 – Adoption Day @ Tractor Supply 9:00 – 1:00

Nov 12 – Provençal Fall Fest

Dec 3 – Christmas Parade Float

Also we are selling “Split the Pot” Tickets until December 15<sup>th</sup> for “The Animals that Others Forgot”

## Kennel Cough (Bordetella)

You've probably heard the term "kennel cough" before. It is a condition in which coughing is the major clinical sign. The medical term for it is tracheobronchitis, which means inflammation of the trachea and bronchial tubes. All of the inflammation is irritating to the airways, which causes a coughing reflex.

There are several viruses and bacteria that can cause kennel cough. Some of these are adenovirus type-2, parainfluenza, and *Bordetella bronchiseptica*.

Because these agents are infectious and highly contagious, it is often spread within close quarters, such as when dogs are boarding. Hence, it has collectively become known as kennel cough.

Kennel cough is often a mild illness, but can cause a chronic cough, lasting for several weeks.

The cough may be associated with runny eyes and nose, swollen tonsils, wheezing, lack of appetite, and decreased activity. Upon examination, the veterinarian can usually elicit a cough fairly easily by rubbing the dog's trachea.

Kennel cough, once diagnosed, is often treated with antiinflammatories and antibiotics. Most cases resolve fairly quickly with treatment, although some cases require prolonged treatment.

Kennel cough is also preventable! The Bordetella vaccine and DHPPL4 vaccines help prevent all 3 of the factors listed above. We use an oral Bordetella vaccine here at PetStar, which is administered every 6 months. There is also an intranasal Bordetella vaccine

available, and an injectable vaccine. All 3 vaccine types are good vaccines, as long as they are administered by a veterinarian.

If you have ever boarded your pets with us, you know how strict our requirements are for boarding pets. All pets must be up to date on vaccines (Bordetella must have been given within the last 6 months) or else we require having vaccinations updated while boarding with us. Kennel cough is highly contagious, and we must do our job of protecting our boarding patients in every way that we can. Plus it is much cheaper to prevent kennel cough than to have to treat it!



## Service Dogs for Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities present a unique challenge for parents. Specifically, kids with learning disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can present even more unique challenges. When children have ASD, they do not connect well with their environment. Social relationships are challenged and safety is often a huge concern. Children with ASD often appear to live in their own world. Some kids participate in ritualistic and repetitive behaviors, sometimes for hours at a time. Many children with this disability have a strong need for a structured, routine environment because change creates feelings of fear and/or anxiety. Service dogs can help these children by providing companionship and comfort. They can also be trained to interrupt children with ASD from engaging in repetitive behaviors and redirect their attention elsewhere. Additionally, having a service dog can provide parents with a sense of security and help the child become more independent.

When people think of medical service dogs, they usually think of seeing-eye dogs for the blind, or perhaps they think of the therapy dog (please note that a therapy dog is not the same as a service dog). While a visual assistance dog is a service dog, there are many other amazing jobs that these incredible canines can be trained to do.

Most Service Dogs are trained to do various jobs such as:

- Alerting for help
- Alerting prior to a seizure (diabetic, epilepsy and other types of seizures)
- Alerting to a change in insulin levels
- Open/close doors, drawers and refrigerators
- Pick up dropped items
- Assist with mobility issues
- Mitigate the challenges of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)
- Assist the hearing impaired, those with autism and so much more.

A variety of breeds; small and large, are used for service work. These dogs are taught a variety of skills to help expand the independence of the individuals who use them. There are several different types of service dogs. These include Therapy Dogs, Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs, Medical Alert Dogs, etc.

Therapy Dogs help provide affection and comfort for children in hospitals or other facilities. Guide Dogs assist blind children and help them move around safely. Hearing Dogs can help deaf children by alerting them to sounds in their environment. Medical Alert Dogs can be trained to alert when a medical problem arises, to retrieve medications, or be trained to press an alarm to call for help.

Service Dogs are trained and certified by assistance dog organizations and have full public access rights under the ADA law. It takes 6 months to one or two years to fully train a service dog. The duration of the training program is highly individualized. It depends on how quickly the dog can learn, how complex the tasks are, and how much practice the dog receives. They must learn to ignore other people and focus on the child. They will be tested on these skills before going to work. Once trained, service dogs are then given to their family.

In order to be eligible for a service dog, the parents will need to undergo a lengthy application process. They will need references (doctor, personal, and professional), and once approved they will be put on a waiting list. Most of the time, fundraisers must be held in order to raise enough money for the dog. The organization the parents choose to get the dog from will custom train and choose the most suitable dog for the child's personal challenges and environment. When the dog is ready to pair with the child, they will need to stay for three to four days to transition the bond and teach the child how to deliver the commands.

When service dogs are paired with the correct child, they can provide the most important service of all... Love, Affection, Acceptance, and Companionship!

***"When service dogs are paired with the correct child, they can provide the most important service of all... Love, Affection, Acceptance, and Companionship!"***

# Ask the Doctor!

*Q: Can I give my dog's flea and tick prevention to my cat?*

*A: This idea might seem convenient since you already have flea and tick prevention on hand; however, giving a product that is approved for dogs can cause serious side effects in cats. Most flea and tick products have separate dog and cat approved versions for good reason. Most dog preventatives can contain a pyrethrin or higher doses of the medication in the product that can be toxic to cats. Pyrethrin products are very toxic to cats even in small doses and is found in numerous dog approved products such as frontline, Advantage multi, Advantix, Vectra, and many over the counter products. Signs associated with applying or ingesting these toxins include muscle tremors, ataxia, seizures, hyperactivity, excessive salivation, and disorientation among many others. The good news is that this toxin is easily treatable and the prognosis is good. Treatment includes hospitalization with IV fluids, medications to help with the neurological signs and supportive care. If these products are applied to your feline friend, the best thing you can do at home is to wash it off immediately with a soap such as Dawn and bring to your veterinarian for treatment.*

*~Dr. Janie Dufrene*

## Case Story - Flora Hardin

Flora is an approximately 18-month-old female mixed breed dog that was found on the side of the road in Flora, LA and rescued by a wonderful family. They brought her into Petstar Animal Care of Natchitoches to be examined and check a lameness on her left rear leg. Flora would not put any weight on the leg but was otherwise acting normal. Dr. Landry found her to be underweight and have intestinal parasites. She had severe swelling, pain, and a grinding sensation upon examining her left rear leg near her knee. There were puncture wounds on the inside and outside of this region with significant drainage from the inside wound. Bloodwork revealed that she was heartworm

positive and had a mild anemia. Radiographs revealed that Flora had been shot and the bullet had shattered the lower part of her left femur into numerous pieces. Considering the severity of the damage and the open draining tract that increased the chance of infection, amputation was the best option to alleviate Flora's pain.

Dr. Landry performed an amputation of her left femur above the site of the gunshot wound and excised all of the abnormal tissue involving the draining tracts. She had been like this for several weeks as there was abundant scar tissue involved in these tracts. Flora was placed on antibiotics and strong pain medications to help her

recover from the surgery. Everything had healed up great on her 10 day recheck and suture removal. Flora's vaccines were updated and her wonderful new owners are beginning the process of heartworm treatment which involves placing her on Proheart as a heartworm preventive and on Doxycycline, an antibiotic. She will be able to begin receiving the Immiticide injections to kill the adult heartworms two months after her Proheart injection. Flora is now a happy, pain free dog with a great family.



## Photo Showcase!



Katie Grace Cruse



Briggs Teddie



Tango Too Dufrene

*Email your photos to [amber@petstar.vet](mailto:amber@petstar.vet) for your chance to be seen in the next newsletter!*

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Treatment



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## Coming Next Month

**Importance of Spay/Neuter**

**Glaucoma**

**Meet Our Staff**

**Meet the Maine Coon**

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.

## Happy Tails Pet of the Month!

"Spot"

Spot needs a home now! He is a young, small Corgi -Jack Russell mix. Spot is so sweet & is great with kids. Look at that smile! He has some special needs but very feasible.

Please e-mail  
[natchitocheshumane@yahoo.com](mailto:natchitocheshumane@yahoo.com)  
for more information.



## Meet the Manchester Terrier!

The Manchester Terrier originated in England. They were bred to help control rat populations. There are two varieties of the Manchester Terrier – toy and standard.

Manchester Terriers are smart and athletic. They make great watch dogs and are devoted family companions. They require little to no grooming and are known to have little odor.

The Manchester Terrier is highly active and craves attention. With daily activity and love, they

make wonderful pets. They are also great at agility training, if this is something of interest to you.



Photo Courtesy of ePet Health

They are similar to a Min-Pin, but a little more stocky. Their ears naturally stand erect and they have a long tail, unlike the Min-Pin who

has cropped ears and a cropped tail.

### Breed Characteristics:

Life expectancy: 13-14yrs  
Weight: 6-8 lbs (toy), 11-22 lbs (standard)  
Height: 10-12 inches (toy), 15-16 inches (standard)  
Class: Companion  
Colors: brown and tan  
Other Names: Black-and-Tan Terrier