



September/October Mews 2010



I have parasites! What should I do?

Topical:

Advantage: fleas

Frontline: fleas and ticks

Profender: tapeworm, roundworm, hookworm

Revolution: protects against heartworm and fleas, treats hookworms, roundworms & earmites

Oral Rx

Capstar: one day Rx for bad flea infestations

Droncit: tapeworms

Drontal: tapes, hooks and roundworms

❄ Diarrhea ❄

well we have to talk about it...with Duke

Diarrhea can be part of a systemic disease or primary disease of small or large bowel. If it persists for more than 3 weeks it is classified as chronic. This is a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge and needs an immediate thorough and logical workup.

The history is important and includes age, environment, recent travel, past medical or surgical problems, current diet and recent changes, current prescriptions or nutraceuticals. The history may point to **extra intestinal disease, parasites, infectious disease, drugs or toxins**. Additional questions focus on specifics of the diarrhea, such as color, blood, mucus, straining, weight loss, urgency, vomiting or anorexia. This can help pinpoint the region of disease. The physical exam may reveal additional clues. Palpation of the abdomen, general body condition and hydration are assessed.



Diagnostics begin with a **fecal exam** looking for various types of parasites. (Always bring a stool sample to the clinic when your cat is being seen for diarrhea.) In addition to simple flotation techniques **antigen tests** are done for Giardia and if suspected fecal cultures for bacteria and trichomonads can be done. **Blood chemistry profile, CBC, felv/fiv test and thyroid test** (if over 7) should be performed to determine systemic causes or serious complications such as blood or protein loss or pancreatitis and liver disease.

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THE MEWS



If IBD (inflammatory bowel disease) is suspected **cobalamin** levels should be measured (B-12).

Special tests can help diagnose pancreatic insufficiency or pancreatitis.

Imaging may be part of the workup and most often **ultrasound** is the most rewarding for detecting enlarged lymph nodes, masses, intestinal wall thickening, pancreatitis or liver disease.

Aspirates can be performed at this time for cytology. Less common diagnostic methods include endoscopy and exploratory laparotomy. Usually an answer is found with the initial diagnostics and a trial of therapy based on a specific etiology can be started. Sometimes it takes many weeks to balance diet and therapeutics for a resolution of the problem. Next mini mews we will cover some of these treatments (dietary, medical and use of probiotics/nutraceuticals).

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Stay healthy. Eat wisely.

Dr. Thompson invites alternative pets to the practice.

Rabbits, rodents, lizards, turtles and snakes all deserve a proper habitat and veterinary care when they are kept as pets. We encourage responsible ownership and respect for all species. If it's in the wild leave it there but if you have purchased a different type of pet learn to care for it. We can help.

Michele and Megan share some love with a monitor lizard.



THE MEWS



Silver Whiskers?

Yeah Bob I'm beginning to feel the years. I'll be eight in the fall and you're going on ten. We better get the humans to take us to the clinic for a checkup. We 'll get a full blood panel, urinalysis, blood pressure, exam and some sickening baby talk but we can meow and hiss all the way. We want to enjoy our golden years.

**Silver Whiskers Program \$250
with Radiographs \$ 420**

M i c a M a r c h e s i

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Mica was a regal lady whose presence and affection brought our family great pleasure. We miss our conversations in the kitchen when we would come to make coffee. She would entwine herself in our legs purring and meowing....making coffee is just not the same . She lived a long and healthy life until the end when she had severe arthritis. We miss her but are grateful for her long life. The Marchesi family.

