



Introducing Our Online Store!!!

You can enter the store by visiting our web site (www.ovvhpets.com) and clicking the store's link on the left side of the page. The online store's primary purpose at this time is to give our clients the opportunity to buy Science Diet foods and treats, prescription and non-prescription. In addition, though, the store gives you access to many other pet-related items such as:

- ✓ collars & leashes
- ✓ toys
- ✓ carriers
- ✓ nutritional supplements
- ✓ stain and odor eliminators
- ✓ grooming equipment
- ✓ nutritional treats
- ✓ and much, much more!

For our clients whose pets are eating a prescription food, the online store is ideal. You can order any time – day or night – and have the food shipped to your door. There are several shipping options if you need the product right away.

Canine Influenza

The canine influenza virus (CIV) was first detected in racing Greyhounds in several kennels in 2004. Researchers believe it's a mutation of the equine influenza virus. The virus has been causing sporadic outbreaks of canine flu since then. Because it's a new virus, all dogs are susceptible; there is no immunity in the population. Fortunately, a majority of dogs only get mildly ill, and less than 5% will die of the disease.

Common signs of CIV:

- mild fever
- cough
- reduced appetite
- nasal discharge

Uncommon signs:

- high fever
- increased respiratory rate
- pneumonia



A vaccine has been conditionally approved by the FDA and has been available to hospitals since June 2009. Some boarding facilities are requiring the CIV vaccine in addition to the Kennel Cough (Bordetella) vaccine. OVVH has the CIV vaccine, but we generally only give it if a dog's boarding facility requires it. We don't know enough about the vaccine to recommend it to all dogs, and most dogs aren't at risk to develop the disease. To fully immunize your dog, she'll need 2 vaccines 3 weeks apart. If you board your dog, please check with your boarding facility to see if they require the CIV vaccine.

OVVH has made an educational handout about CIV with more details. Please ask for a copy if you're interested.

Weather Tips



Allergy Season...

Autumn is usually a common time that allergies arise in our pets. Following are some signs that may identify that your pet has allergies:

- face rubbing
- feet licking
- butt scooting
- belly scratching
- head shaking
- irritated skin
- areas of hair loss



Please contact us if you see any of these signs!

Arthritis

Cold, damp weather can aggravate arthritis in dogs and cats just as it can in humans. Animals who are overweight or have suffered injuries, such as a bone fracture, may also be more susceptible. If your dog or cat is having trouble standing up or laying down, navigating the stairs, or has started to snap or cry when picked up, we recommend you visit us immediately. Never medicate your pet with human prescriptions or over-the-counter medications without consulting your veterinarian first. One Tylenol tablet can be fatal to a cat.

Cold-Weather Caution



Assess your pet's condition, age, level of exercise and weight and make adjustments for the cold.

Inside pets need less food (to offset a decrease in activity), and outside pets need more (keeping warm requires energy, and food is the fuel). Cold weather is especially tough on older pets -- for the elderly animal, it's not ridiculous to help out by putting a sweater on them.

Holiday Paraphernalia

Electric cords, tinsel, glass ornaments, candles, ribbons, candy... just to name a few... can be dangerous to your pet. Please remember to be careful!



Help for Fearful Patients!



In response to our fearful dog and cat patients, we've been looking for an effective, safe and short-acting sedative that's easily administered. Sedation is best for these types of patients because they're often only aggressive because they're terrified and they feel like they're fighting for their lives. Of course, our goal is not to terrorize our patients, so sedating them is merely in their best interest. We've found an injectable combination sedative which is proving to be very effective. The best part about this drug, called Domitor or Medetomidine, is that it's reversible, meaning we can give an injection of another drug to reverse the effects of the sedative. In this way, we can sedate our fearful and aggressive patient, complete a thorough physical exam/take blood/trim nails/clean ears/take x-rays/bandage legs/etc. and the pet can leave the hospital under its own power just a few short minutes later. Of course, any sedative carries some risks, but in healthy pets, this medication is very safe. It's not to be used if the patient has any sort of heart disease, however. We are proponents of tranquilizing fearful pets because of multiple reports across the US of dogs and cats that have died while being restrained for procedures. It's well-established that when a pet's cortisol level is high, their heart is racing and they're struggling, their heart and lungs are under tremendous strain. This can produce potentially dangerous heart rhythms (arrhythmias), and may be fatal. Sedating these patients is much better for their system than struggling with them.



Tips for Keeping Your Companions Healthy

- ♥ Bring your animal to the vet on an annual basis. Senior animals should be seen every six months.
- ♥ Don't overfeed. Obesity will create health problems and shorten his life span. Your vet should provide an ideal weight for your pet.
- ♥ Provide adequate exercise.
- ♥ Attend to your pet's dental health. Brush her teeth daily and have them cleaned professionally whenever your vet advises it.
- ♥ Vaccinate your pet!
- ♥ Be diligent in controlling fleas and ticks, and keep your pet and his environment scrupulously clean.
- ♥ **Make your pet as much a part of your life as possible, and do all you can to keep him interested, active, happy and comfortable.**

Top 10 reasons dogs were taken to the veterinarian:

1. Ear infection
2. Skin allergies
3. Staph infections/hot spots
4. Vomiting
5. Diarrhea
6. Urinary tract infections
7. Benign skin tumors
8. Eye inflammation
9. Osteoarthritis
10. Low thyroid levels



Top 10 reasons cats were taken to the veterinarian:

1. Urinary tract problems
2. Vomiting
3. Chronic kidney disease
4. Diarrhea
5. Diabetes mellitus
6. Skin allergies
7. Constipation
8. Ear infections
9. Respiratory infections
10. Elevated thyroid levels



Are You Looking for a New Companion Animal?

If so, then visit: www.petfinder.com.

A large number of animal rescue organizations in our area are listed on this site.

You can pick the type of pet you are looking for and search for it in your area! Dogs, cats, guinea pigs and even iguanas are listed on this site.!



Visit us at:
<http://www.ovvhpets.com>

