



TANGLEWILDE TAILS

“Your Pet Is Our Priority”

Fall 2016



Doctor's Notes: *How Can Ultrasound Help Your Pet?*

Some canine and feline health issues are complex, and ultrasound can be a painless way to find clues to better address these questions.

Ultrasound uses harmless sound waves to show organs, tumors, fluid and other abnormal anatomy which may not be easily seen on an X-ray. It can be used with X-rays to get more information about a problem, or at other times, it is the preferred tool for finding out what's hiding inside the body.

Here are a few examples of when ultrasound can be very important to a pet's healthcare:



• Cats and dogs with all the signs of frequent or recurrent bladder infections could have a stone or a mass, which is found on ultrasound. X-rays and checking urine would not show a mass, and some stones are not easily seen on X-rays.

• A cat has been vomiting occasionally and losing weight. Ultrasound can show a problem with the pancreas or the intestines, neither of which would likely show up on an X-ray. It can confirm pancreatitis, and sometimes suggest cancer or other disease of the intestines.

• A dog has been drinking a lot, and the blood work shows problems with the liver enzymes. When other tests are still not conclusive, the ultrasound helps define a tumor in an adrenal gland.

Over and over again, we see how ultrasound helps common, but complex, medical conditions receive the care and treatment your pets deserve. We hope to always help a pet stay healthy. But, if things become worrisome, Tanglewilde Veterinary Clinic can help find a diagnosis easier with ultrasound. Please be sure to ask if you have questions about how this can help your pet so you can have good times together for many years.

— Jessica Parkerson, DVM

Puddle Problems

Understanding Canine Incontinence

Dogs who leak urine while walking, wake up in a puddle, or otherwise can't control their bladders are suffering from urinary incontinence—a condition with various causes. The frustration that comes with this condition, both for the owner and the dog, often intensifies the problem: Dogs suffer doubly when they are spoken to harshly or banished from their normal areas for a problem over which they have no control.

The good news is, the right treatment can end or diminish the leaking. Your veterinarian will examine your dog and may perform tests to determine the underlying cause. The most common culprit is hormone-responsive incontinence, a disease most often found in spayed adult and senior females, and more common in large breeds. Medication can help control the incontinence.

If your dog is drinking a lot, and thus producing excessive urine, we look for other signs of diseases that cause thirst. These include kidney and liver disease, urinary tract infections, diabetes, Cushing's disease, and Addison's disease. Certain medications can also cause excessive thirst.

In younger dogs especially, we may look for defects in the “plumbing system” such as the urethral sphincter or the ureters—narrow pathways from the kidneys to the bladder. Depending on the condition, we may recommend surgery or other therapies. In older dogs, incontinence can be caused by neurological and other diseases associated with aging.

There are two important things to do if your dog is suffering from incontinence: DON'T scold or punish for a condition that is not their fault, and DO bring them in for an assessment. We are here to help you and your furry loved one!



Magoo's Mews

Fall and Winter Parasites

Soon the leaves will be turning shades of gold and red, the air will be breezy and the humidity and heat will subside. Those of us who are particularly furry really look forward to those cooler days! These are happy times for our human friends too with back to school days and football season. Unfortunately, they make no difference to the pests that bother us pets.



Did you know fleas and mosquitoes are year-round problems for pets in our area? The climate-controlled environments of our homes and lovely landscaping around our yards allow plenty of prime locations for the life cycles of these insects to persist, even when the weather is more pleasant for outdoor fun. Missing doses or discontinuing heartworm or flea control during the cooler times of year allows opportunity for heartworm to develop in our bodies, and for fleas to colonize and perpetuate their populations inside our homes.

We see pets with preventable parasite problems every day of each season here in our clinic. Please protect your pets from these troublesome and sometimes deadly unwanted guests by consistently sticking with heartworm and flea control, every month of the year. Ask us how we can help make protection easy for you and your pets!

Happy Fall!



Magoo

Special Needs

6 Ways to Keep Your Small Dog Safe

Small dogs provide great companionship. They can also be much easier to care for in a big city, which makes them a very popular pet here in Houston. However, small dogs require extra special care due to their size. Here are some helpful hints to keep your pint-sized pups safe! Watch for these hazards:

- **Being Underfoot** - Small dogs can not only be seriously injured if accidentally stepped on, they can also cause someone to fall. A small bell fastened to their collar can help you be aware of their presence at all times.
- **Poisoning** - Because of their size and proximity to the floor, small dogs are especially vulnerable to poisoning. Be aware of even the smallest bites of spilled chemicals, toxic foods or medications.
- **Falling Objects** - Something that might seem lightweight to us can cause serious damage to a small dog. Make sure items on shelves or countertops are secured.
- **Weather** - Small dogs are easily chilled. It is important to keep them out of drafts and provide warm bedding in the cold AC.
- **Moving Vehicles** - Small pets are difficult for drivers to see; and even bicycles can cause severe injury. Keep your dog on a leash outdoors and ensure that they don't follow you into the garage when leaving the house.
- **Other Dogs** - Some canine breeds have a high prey drive. This means that they instinctively chase and want to capture smaller dogs and pets. Be ready to scoop up your little one at the first hint of trouble.



Call Tanglewilde Veterinary Clinic today at (713) 783-4044!

Diabetes Mellitus

Is Your Dog at Risk?

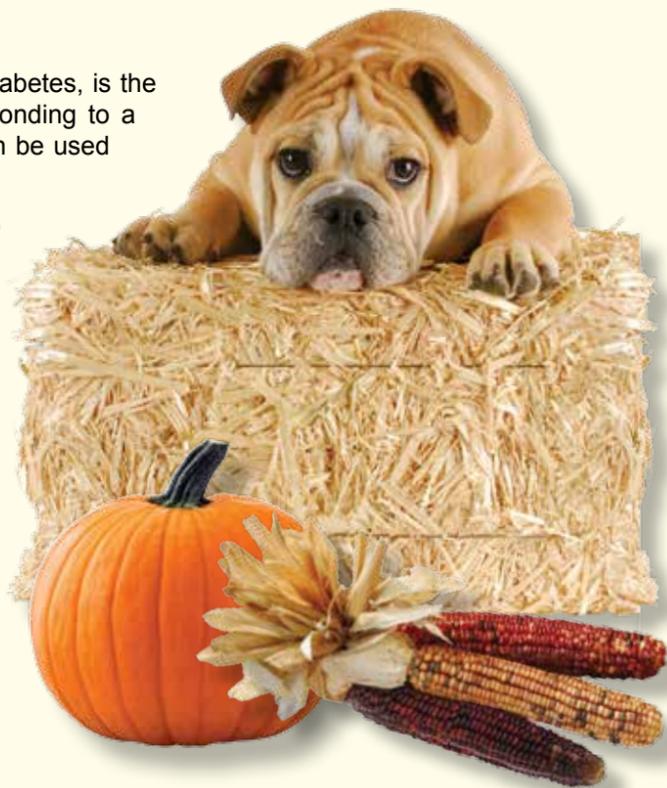
Did you know that 1 in 10 dogs develops a form of diabetes? Diabetes Mellitus, or sugar diabetes, is the more common variety. Diabetes Mellitus occurs when the body stops producing or responding to a very important hormone, insulin. Insulin is responsible for getting sugar into cells, where it can be used for energy.

Both dogs and cats can develop diabetes, and it can emerge at different life stages. Risk factors include obesity, heredity, pancreatitis and corticosteroid administration.

Early signs of diabetes can often go unnoticed, but may be picked up at yearly exams or through routine blood screening. The most common signs noticed at home include increased appetite, unexplained weight loss, lethargy, and increased thirst or urination. The earlier the condition is found, the more likely your dog or cat will be able to respond to treatment and live a somewhat normal life. Complications such as cataracts, blindness, urinary tract infections, kidney failure, and severe liver conditions are more likely to occur if diabetes is left untreated.

The treatment for dogs with Diabetes Mellitus is much the same as for human diabetics: injected insulin in addition to proper diet and exercise. Because the dose of insulin required can often change over time, routine evaluations must be performed to ensure the proper amount is being administered.

A diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus may seem overwhelming at first, but soon you'll find that the adjustments to daily life come naturally. The return of your healthy, happy and energetic pet will be your reward, and we will be here to help you!



Keep Your Canine Protected Year Round – FREE Heartworm Test with in-clinic purchase of 12 months Heartgard and 6 months Nexgard! Great prices and rebates are available too! Please call (713) 783-4044 to schedule your dog's complimentary screening!

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