



Feline Leukemia



Feline leukemia, also referred to in the veterinary world as FeLV, is a disease that can affect many cats and kittens. FeLV is considered to be a virus that is only spread between cats and cannot be passed onto dogs, humans or other animals. FeLV suppresses a cat's immune system, making them very susceptible to other infections and diseases. Some FeLV positive cats won't show any signs, but most will not thrive and have a poor coat and body condition. Many FeLV kittens do not live past 3 years of age. FeLV is spread from cat to cat through cat bites, mutual grooming and sharing dishes; it can also be passed from a mother cat to her kittens. FeLV is not treatable, but there is a vaccine for it. FeLV can be detected by a simple blood test. To prevent FeLV, have your new cat or kitten tested and vaccinated for it, and don't let them outside where they can come in contact with FeLV positive cats. If you would like more information on FeLV, just ask one of the vets or vet techs.

Natural Disasters and your pet; Are you prepared?

The recent events in Japan following the powerful earthquake and tsunami left us all watching in horror at the terrifying aftermath playing out on TV. This same reality is true for all of the animals involved in the disaster, who are also trying to survive. Here in the Pacific Northwest, we also live in an area prone to large earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters. For this reason, it is a good idea to have an emergency kit for your pet, and also a plan for your pets in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. Don't count on your pet's "ability to survive" as an excuse to leave them behind if you evacuate. If it's not safe for you to be somewhere, it's not safe for your pet either. An emergency kit for your pet should ideally include a week long supply of food and water (and be sure to replace the food every 6 months since even dry food can spoil) and a plastic dish. If your pet is on medication, keep a fresh supply of your pet's meds in the emergency kit. Include a collar and leash, or a carrier for your cat, since even the most well behaved animals may panic in an emergency. For cats pack a disposable litter pan (round cake pans work well) with a bag of cat litter. A small medical kit that should include a roll of gauze, medical tape, towel, tweezers, first aid cream and/or antiseptic spray and hydrogen peroxide. Important documents including an up-to-date vaccine certificate in case you need proof of vaccines to keep your pet somewhere until you can return home, microchip numbers, a list of local shelters and vet clinic phone numbers in case you and your pet are separated, and a list of out-of-state contact numbers of family and friends in case you are not able to be reached. Planning on a safe place to evacuate to with your pet is also a good idea, as many animal shelters will be overflowing and most Red Cross shelters do not accept pets; www.petswelcome.com lists pet-friendly hotels by state that accept pets. If you would like more information on preparing a disaster plan for your pet or making an emergency kit, go to: www.aspc.org and www.healthypet.com for more ideas.



MVVH News

Want to get the MVVH newsletter delivered to your email inbox each month? Well now you can! Thanks to vet assistant Jessica, our clinic computer genius, who recently created a newsletter mailing list. If you are interested, just sign up on our website, www.mountainviewvet.com

We also welcome some new faces at MVVH. Elizabeth (Liz) Nares-Bean is now one of our wonderful receptionists. She shares her home with a large mastiff mix named Azalea, and when she is not at work making us laugh with her awesome sense of humor, she spends her time being a super hero. Brandon Leske has taken on the brave task of being one of the few males at MVVH, as a vet assistant/kennel help. He shares his home with a 1 year old black lab named Titan. He enjoys video games, fishing and hunting when he's not at work. So be sure to extend a friendly paw to both of them next time you are in!

Favorite Quotes

"Dogs have given us their absolute all. We are the center of their universe. We are the focus of their love and faith and trust. It is without a doubt the best deal man has ever made."

~Roger Caras



Breed of the month

Rottweiler



This large and powerful breed was first recognized into the Herding group by the AKC in 1931. This breed has a rich history. The rottweiler's ancestors were used as herding and guard dogs who accompanied the Romans as they marched across Europe. The name "rottweiler" originated from the name *das rote weil*, which means "the red tile", in reference to the red tile walls the Romans used in their bath houses. Over time the Rottweiler lost its popularity, until the Germans brought the breed back from near extinction in the late 1800's, and made it the breed we know today. The rottweiler is a dog that must have proper socialization and training at an early age to make it a good family dog. With proper training it can be used for a variety of tasks including police dog, therapy dog, herding dog and much more. This breed has a strong desire to protect its family, and strangers are not always well tolerated. It requires little grooming for its short coat. It can be prone to some genetic health issues, including hip dysplasia and sometimes bone cancer in the older dogs.

Client Questions:

Is there pet insurance and how does it work?



In today's rough economy, many bills, including vet bills, can be hard to afford. This has left many pet owners wondering if there is pet insurance out there to make it a little easier to deal with vet bills and also make decisions regarding your pets health care.

In the past decade, many different pet insurance companies have been created. However, they are all very different, and do not work in the same way that human medical insurances work. With most pet insurance, you still have to pay your vet bill up front and then fill out paperwork to have the pet insurance company reimburse you their portion. Not every insurance company is the same, so be sure to do your research.

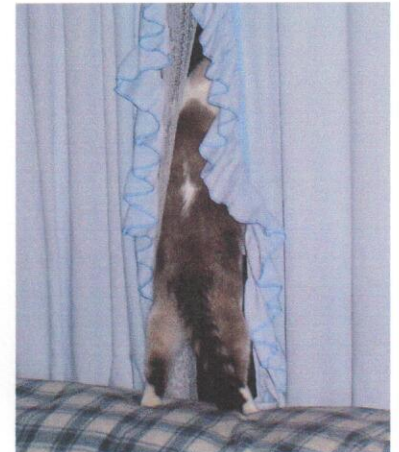
Not every plan may cover preventative care, such as vaccines. Some plans may not cover hereditary conditions prone to some breeds. Be sure to look at a variety of pet insurances before choosing one, to find out which one best meets the needs of you and your pet. If you would like more information on choosing an insurance plan for your pet, ask the receptionist for some brochures on pet insurances.

**Have a question you would like to see answered in the newsletter?
Please submit your question in writing to our Comments Box!**

Pet of the Month

Attention established clients! Enter your favorite photo of your pet for our "pet of the month" contest. Each month the staff will vote for the best picture, and that month's winner will win one bag of lean treats and have its photo featured in our newsletter! Just submit your photo with a brief description of your pet to the front desk.

Rules: Please one photo per pet, contest open to pets who have been seen here for an exam within the last year.



"Pearl" had a rough start in life as a stray kitten with a broken leg, but after having surgery at MVVH, she found a loving forever home with Vicki Barnard, one of our Vet Techs. Pearl's backside is just as cute as the rest of her, as she shows it off while watching the snowflakes outside!

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