



Hip Dysplasia



Hip dysplasia is a term for badly formed hips. Ideally the head of the femur should sit in the hip socket and fit nicely like a puzzle piece. In pets with hip dysplasia, the "puzzle pieces" don't match up and cause a painful degenerating condition. Hip dysplasia is caused by genetics, meaning that if your dog's parents had hip dysplasia, more than likely your dog will develop it too. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) is a non-profit organization that screens breeding animals for hip dysplasia by evaluating x-rays and rating them to see if animals are likely to pass on bad hips; if so, they should not be bred. Any dog (and some cats!) can get hip dysplasia, but it is more common in large breeds that are often over-bred, such as German Shepherds, Labradors, Golden Retrievers and Rottweilers. Dogs with hip dysplasia will show increased difficulty getting up and moving/running, and may avoid playing. Hip dysplasia can occur at any age, and is diagnosed with an x-ray. Treatment can involve pain meds/glucosamine/fish oil, water therapy, or even reconstructive surgery, depending on the severity of the dysplasia. Avoiding hip dysplasia means checking the OFA status of the parents of a purebred puppy before you buy it, and otherwise monitoring your dog for any signs of pain when running/playing or getting up.

Keeping your pet safe this Halloween



Every kid's favorite holiday is quickly approaching, but it can also be a very dangerous time for your pet! Sugary treats and other Halloween trademarks can leave you with a less than sweet vet bill. We all know that chocolate is bad for pets, but did you ever wonder why? The answer is theobromine, a compound found in chocolate that can cause a variety of symptoms when ingested by your pet. Theobromine is found in different levels in different types of chocolate, the worst being baker's chocolate, which contains 8-10 times the amount found in milk chocolate! Caffeine is also found in chocolate, and is another dangerous ingredient for your pet to ingest. A type of artificial sweetener, Xylitol, can also be toxic to your pet. It's often found in sugar-free gum, candies, baked goods, and even toothpaste. Open flames from candles inside pumpkins can be enticing to many curious cats or dogs, and can lead to more than just a burned ego. Toxicities aside, many pets can be easily frightened by many costumes and decorations on Halloween, and run away...or worse, attack the costumed strangers knocking on the door! So play it safe this Halloween, keep the pets confined inside the house, and out of the candy stash. Besides...chocolate wasn't meant to be shared anyhow!

MVVH News



It is with a sad heart that we had to say goodbye to one of our clinic cats recently. Dodger, the large brown tabby (with the thinner stripes) passed away in September from cancer. He originally came to us in 2004 as a kitten who just never got adopted. In 2007 he was diagnosed with a Mast Cell Tumor and had to have his toe amputated. He had been doing well until earlier this year when we discovered he had suddenly relapsed and it had spread. After having a major surgery recently to try to slow the spread of the cancer and make him more comfortable, he did better on chemo before suddenly taking a turn for the worse. Dodger will be remembered as the trouble maker with a sweet side, who was always up for a cookie and a chair ride.

Favorite Quotes

"The soul is the same in all living creatures, although the body of each is different."

~Hippocrates



Breed of the month West Highland White Terrier



The West Highland White Terrier, more commonly called the Westie, is a dog with a name longer than it is! This small but spunky terrier was first recognized by the AKC in 1908 as a member of the Terrier group. Originating in Scotland, it was first called the Potalloch Terrier, then changed to the Roseneath Terrier, before it became known as the West Highland White Terrier in 1909. It is said that Westies are white so that when working in the brush they could not be mistaken for a wild animal. Bred to hunt vermin, it is now more commonly kept as a companion dog. Its smart and confident terrier nature makes it excel in the show ring and other events such as agility and obedience. Its white coat needs to be trimmed and groomed regularly to keep it looking nice. It should stand 10 inches at the shoulder, making it a good size for a small living space. It can be stubborn so early training is ideal. This breed can also be prone to dental issues, skin problems and liver disease.

Client Questions: What does a Vet Tech do?



Many people have heard of the term vet tech, but few know what they actually do! To be a Licensed Vet Tech (LVT), you have to graduate from an accredited Veterinary Technology college program, usually getting an Associates Degree in Veterinary Technology. Then after passing the National and State tests, you are considered a Licensed Vet Tech. We are also required to get a certain amount of continuing education in order to renew our license each year. LVTs are trained to work on small/large and exotic animals (cats, dogs, horses/livestock, birds/exotics) but can do additional training to work on wildlife, or go into a specialty field. LVTs generally work at vet clinics, but can also work at zoos, wildlife rehab centers, research facilities, and more! MVVH currently has five LVTs. The LVTs are responsible for anesthesia induction and maintenance, patient recovery, dental cleanings and dental x-rays, IV catheter placement, blood draws, lab work (fecals, urinalysis, cytology, blood work, etc.), x-rays, placing bandages, triaging emergencies, assisting doctors in surgery...and much more! We take pride in our profession and in making sure your pet receives the best care possible. The third week in October is National Veterinary Technician Week, so be sure to hug a vet tech next time you're in!! Or better yet, maybe just hug your pet and thank a vet tech.

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.



"Flisa" is a 13 year old Yorkie mix who enjoys following her owner everywhere and car rides. This cute and fluffy pup makes her home with the Brentlinger family.

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