



## Demodex



This mite can only be seen under the microscope, but the damage it leaves behind can easily be seen by worried pet owners. Demodex is a mite that lives in the pets hair follicle. While there are many species of demodex mites, most are host-specific, meaning that dogs can not spread it to cats or humans and cats can not spread it to dogs or humans. Puppies and kittens may contract the demodex mite from their mother through the close contact of nursing, but otherwise the demodex mite is not contagious. Some species of demodex mite are considered to be part of the normal flora, however some animals with immune or other underlying disorders will be more sensitive to them. Signs of demodex in pets is generally hair loss or a thin/patchy coat. Demodex is diagnosed by doing a skin scraping to look for the mite on a sample of hair and skin under the microscope. Treatment depends on the pet and how severe the case is and demodex can generally be cleared up but will take weeks to possibly months of treatment.

## What to feed Fluffy

(part 2)

When deciding what food to feed your pet, there is a lot of controversy over whether or not it is a good idea to put your pet on the raw food diet. The raw food diet has many different names, including the B.A.R.F diet (bones and raw food) but the vast majority of veterinarians (including the MVVH vets) and veterinary nutritionists do not recommend the raw food diet. There is no scientific research proving that raw diets are better than commercial diets. Raw diets put your pet at high risk for parasitic infection, bacterial infection, and obstruction from bones getting stuck/splintering inside your pet. Raw diets also increase the amount of bad bacteria in your pets mouth (which can include e.coli and salmonella if on raw food) so anywhere your pet touches with its mouth or drools will also be contaminated, this puts children and immune-compromised individuals at risk. Raw diets lack the proper balance of nutrients your pet needs to thrive, mainly calcium. Even feeding your pet raw bones will not provide the proper levels of calcium, which will lead to thinning of bones and other metabolic diseases. Bones also wear down your pets teeth, exposing the root canals and can also fracture teeth. High levels of fat in raw diets may make your pets coat look glossy for a while, but this will also lead to weight gain. Many people may argue that raw diets are the natural way pets are supposed to eat. However many wild animals, especially wolves, often battle parasitic infections and broken teeth their whole life, and only have a life expectancy of 7 years, compared to the domesticated dog that generally lives much longer and healthier thanks to human caretakers who feed the proper diets!



## MVVH News

The annual MVVH holiday food drive was a great success! With our clients generous donations, we gathered 581 pounds of food and \$274.00 for the Thurston County Food Bank! We also sold 56 raffle tickets for the Godiva chocolate gift basket.

Many of our wonderful clients also brought in lots of tasty cakes, cookies and other goodies along with cards and pictures that adorned our lounge and lobby. So from the MVVH staff to all our thoughtful pet owners, thanks for being the best clients ever!

We also found homes for all the remaining kittens at MVVH that were waiting for their forever families! What more could a kitten ask for then a loving family for Christmas. This leaves us with one cat still searching for her special someone...Mama Zodiac is still waiting for the purr-fect person to go home with! If you'd like to meet her, or would like more information, just ask the front desk!

### Favorite Quotes

"If you would know a man, observe how he treats a cat."

~Robert Heinlein



## Breed of the month

### Newfoundland



This large breed is a member of the working group, and was first recognized by the AKC in 1886. Originating in Newfoundland, this breed was a true working dog, but was mainly bred to be used as a water dog. From rescuing drowning people, to pulling in nets and boats, this dog was a fisherman's best friend. The breed's thick long coat kept it warm in cold waters and icy conditions, and its big webbed paws acted like paddles in the water and snowshoes on snowy marshes.

Today the breed is still used as a water rescue dog, but has become primarily a family dog. Its sweet and docile disposition make it excellent with children. However, be prepared for a lot of fur and drool! The Newfoundland is an intelligent breed and can be easily trained. It comes in various colors, primarily black or brown. It needs to be brushed on a regular basis to keep its long coat from matting, but otherwise requires little grooming.

## Client Questions:

Are hairballs normal in cats and what can I do to prevent them?



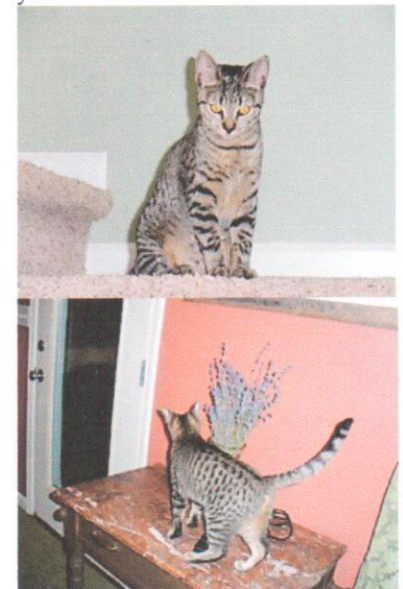
Cats naturally groom themselves by licking their fur with their brush-like tongues. This can lead to the ingestion of large amounts of hair, that can build up and cause issues. An occasional hairball is not a cause for alarm, however regularly vomiting up hairballs can be an issue. Brushing your cat on a regular basis (2-3 times a week) can help reduce the amount of dead hair that your cat will ingest when it grooms itself. Using a hairball preventative paste once a week can help prevent the build up of hair. There are also special foods made to help prevent hairballs. Long haired cats who have serious problems with hairballs and refuse to be brushed can sometimes benefit from a "lion cut" to reduce the amount of hair that can be ingested. If your cat vomits or coughs on a regular basis, without producing a hairball, a trip to the vet is in order to make sure there is not something else going on.

**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.



"Bella" was a kitten orphaned here at MVVH. She was lucky enough to be adopted by the wonderful Bashaw-Williams family, and is loving her new forever home! Congrats Bella!

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