

Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails
Quarterly Newsletter
11/21/98

Hi all. This is the first edition of the Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails newsletter. We'd love feedback on what you think of the letter and would appreciate any suggestions for topics for future letters.

In this brief issue I would like to discuss the Holidays and our pets. As the latter half of November rolls around, the holiday season approaches along with the cold weather. We all become busier and often spend less time with our pets.

The Holidays, Pancreatitis, and Your Pet

For most of us, the holidays are a time when we all over-eat and often gain weight. Besides the potential threat of weight gain of your pet from receiving "human food" over the holiday season, there is also the threat of pancreatitis. Pancreatitis is inflammation and swelling of the pancreas from either over-eating or eating fatty foods. Your cat or dog can not only get a severe tummy ache, but with pancreatitis will often vomit, have diarrhea, and a fever. Pancreatitis is a potentially a life threatening disease.

I know all of you reptile owners are thinking "this doesn't apply to me, reptiles don't like people food." Well, I suggest stopping into Serpentine Motion (on the Ped Mall) and talking to Mike and Cindy who own an Iguana that would do almost anything for a bite of pizza!

It is all right to treat your pet to something special for the holidays. Consider low fat dog biscuits or cat treats, or a new toy as a better and healthier alternative to people food.

For all of the Reptile people out there: make sure your cage is warm enough, that there are no cold drafts blowing through the room, and that the humidity is high enough. A hygrometer can be purchased at most cigar shops to measure humidity. If you have questions about what percentage of humidity your reptile should be at, give us a call.

Pocket Pets: These guys are pretty safe during the holidays and colder months, so no special instructions for you folks. Although for a present, you could add on to their Habitrail!

If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call. Have a safe and happy holiday season!
Sincerely yours,

Jennifer L. Berger, DVM

Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails Housecall Veterinary Service:
Personalized Medical Care in the Comfort of Your Pet's Home.