

# Elburn Animal Hospital Newsletter

## Nov. 2018

### Welcome

Hope everyone had a great Halloween! November is "Adopt a Senior Dog Month" and it is also "Diabetes Awareness Month", so we will be covering both topics. If you have any questions or comments or have a topic you would like to hear about please contact our staff at 630-365-9599 or you can contact us via email at [3lburn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3lburn@sbcglobal.net)

### What are the advantages to adopting an older pet?

- 1) When you adopt an older dog you know exactly what you are getting! You know their adult size, their grooming requirements and personality traits
- 2) They are easier to train. They are able to focus better on you and they are calmer than the younger ones. And they love to please you
- 3) They adapt easier to new surroundings.
- 4) They don't require constant monitoring and they make fewer messes! Their teething years are over and they are usually housetrained.
- 5) They generally are very loving. They are content just lying on the floor next to your desk while you work from home or snuggling on the couch next to you while you watch your favorite show on TV.
- 6) They are great companions for those who live alone and for the elderly. An older dog requires much less physical activity than a younger dog, so you can enjoy a slow leisurely daily walk with your adult dog, but pay attention to the breed, a jack Russell or

border collie are pretty active almost their entire life!

- 7) Seniors are usually the last to be adopted at shelters, and their adoption fees are often significantly reduced!
- 8) You may be nervous about adopting an older dog for fear of letting go, but you may still be able to enjoy many years with your pet! But even if it is a shorter span of time, just think of the love you can give them, especially one that has been neglected, it will greatly enrich their life and yours as well!
- 9) Saving an older dog's life offers such emotional return on your investment, you will be rewarded every day that you have with them. So "Save a Life and Be a Hero"!



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### Diabetes in dogs and cats

Diabetes mellitus is the scientific term to describe partial or complete lack of insulin. Insulin is a hormone produced by beta cells in the pancreas and it helps regulate glucose in the body. When insulin production is not adequate, the body is unable to regulate glucose and this can result in hyperglycemia, or abnormally high glucose in the blood.

The number of pets being diagnosed with diabetes is on the rise. It is estimated that 1 in 300 dogs and 1 in 230 cats have diabetes in the U.S.

People get two forms of diabetes: Type 1, or insulin dependent diabetes which results from a lack of insulin production from the pancreas. Type 2 or non insulin dependent diabetes results from the body's production of factors that do not allow insulin to function properly. People with Type 2 diabetes are capable of producing insulin.

Diabetes in dogs more closely resembles Type 1 diabetes in that it results from an inability to produce insulin, most commonly related to immune mediated destruction of the pancreas. Several breeds of dogs have shown a predisposition to this disease including German Shepherds, Schnauzers, Beagles, and Poodles. Diabetes usually most frequently occurs in dogs older than 8 years of age and females are about 3 times more likely to develop the disease than male dogs. Dogs with diabetes must be treated with insulin lifelong.

Diabetes in cats more closely resembles Type 2 diabetes in people, in that it involves factors in the body that make insulin not work as well, resulting in hyperglycemia. Cats differ from people with Type 2 diabetes in that insulin therapy is usually necessary. Like people with Type 2 diabetes, dietary management is an essential part of treating cats with diabetes. In addition, appropriate dietary management and lifestyle changes combined with insulin therapy can result in remission in cats, although remission is often temporary.

### Clinical signs

Animals that have diabetes show signs of increased urination and increased thirst. Many times, the pet owner notices that their normally housebroken dog or litterbox using cat has accidents in the house. Often times, the pet will lose weight, despite being hungry and have a muscle wasting appearance. Cataracts in the eyes are also common especially with diabetes in dogs, but rarely seen in cats.

### Treatment

Treatment for this disease involves insulin injections that are given subcutaneously once or twice a day. The insulin helps regulate the glucose in the system. Once insulin therapy has been initiated, a monitoring protocol should be put into place. Precise protocols vary from clinic to clinic, but typically include the owner keeping track of clinical signs, physical examination, plus some form of assessment of glucose response to insulin.

One of the most common complications associated with insulin treatment is the

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development of hypoglycemia (low blood glucose). Hypoglycemia is a life threatening condition and can happen if too much insulin is given. Signs to look for include lethargy, ataxia, seizure, and coma, though pets can often experience hypoglycemia without overt clinical signs. For this reason, many veterinarians will ask the owner to check the pet's blood glucose at home with a glucometer. This involves pricking the skin to get a small amount of blood that is placed on a strip and then inserted into the glucometer for a reading. With proper care, a diabetic pet can live a normal and healthy life.

**If you have any questions or comments, please email us at [3lburn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3lburn@sbcglobal.net) or call 630-365-9599! If you have a subject you would like covered in our newsletter please let us know!**



We wish everyone a very "Happy and blessed Thanksgiving"!

We will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, but will be open on Friday, Nov. 23rd at 8 a.m.

