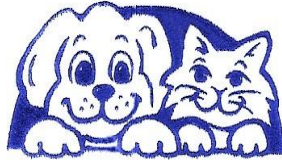


# PARKSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL e-NEWSLETTER

Kaye Wigginton, D.V.M.  
Rita Ruple, D.V.M.  
Sandy Krall, D.V.M.  
Meghan Mahanay, D.V.M.



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WELCOME to the 33rd edition of the PARKSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL monthly e-Newsletter

June 2011, Vol. 4, No. 6

Look forward to health care tips and information, services available for your pet; product rebates/promotions and much more, coordinating with the Parkside Animal Hospital website: [www.parksideanimalhospital.com](http://www.parksideanimalhospital.com)

## New additions to the Parkside Animal Hospital staff:



**Meghan Mahanay, D.V.M.**



**Angie Perry, RVT**

**Dr. Meghan Mahanay** is a 2010 graduate of St. George's School of Veterinary Medicine. She spent her clinical year at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. In May of 2011, she completed an internship at a small animal emergency/critical care medical clinic. She has a special interest in small animal internal medicine and surgery. Dr. Mahanay received her B.S. in Animal Science from Tarleton State University in 2004. She was raised in the Mid-Cities area and is an alumni of Richland High School, class of 2000. Dr. Mahanay lives in North Richland Hills with her cat Sydney, lizard Stubby and her golden retriever Bristo. In her free time she enjoys the outdoors, scuba diving, camping, going to the theater, dog training and spending time with her family and friends.

**Angie Perry** was born and raised in Oklahoma and completed a BS in Zoology at the University of Oklahoma in 2003. She also obtained an AAS in Veterinary Technology from Oklahoma State University in 2005 and went on to become an instructor in that program. She has been a Registered Veterinary Technician in Oklahoma since 2005 and is looking forward to pursuing the same credentials in the state of Texas. Angie resides in Fort Worth with her Shih Tzu Weegie. She enjoys working with her sorority, singing and spending time with her friends and family. She is excited about working at Parkside Animal Hospital and is looking forward to getting to know all our wonderful clients and their pets.

**We welcome Dr. Mahanay and Angie to the Parkside Animal Hospital staff.**

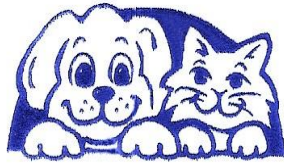
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Seen recently at Parkside Animal Hospital:



Olivia Fred Ginger Trevor Alyeska LOA OneSpot & NoSpot



Tiger Foxy Lady Icabod Cuddles Jasmine Maestro



Cody Pixie Bernie Rachael Rex Riley



Marley Yogi Mini Tina Sugar Oreo

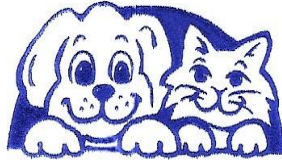
Pets with LOA preceding name are available for adoption via Little Orphan Angels Rescue: [www.littleorphanangels.org](http://www.littleorphanangels.org)

**SUMMER HEAT ADVISORY**  
**July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday concerns for your pet**  
**Alert: illness linked to chicken jerky consumption**

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## HEAT STROKE

Heat stroke is a very serious condition that requires immediate medical attention. Once the signs of heat stroke are detected, there is precious little time before serious damage – even death – can occur. Minutes count here.. you may have less than one hour from initial symptoms to death.

**DOGS:** Dogs do not sweat through their skin like humans. They release heat primarily by panting and they sweat through their foot pads and nose. If a dog cannot effectively expel heat, the internal body temperature begins to rise. Once the dog's temperature reached 106-degrees, damage to the body's cellular system and organs may become irreversible. Unfortunately, too many dogs succumb to heat stroke when it could have been avoided. Learn now to recognize the signs of heat stroke and prevent it from happening to your dog.

**Signs of Heat Stroke:** The following signs may indicate heat stroke in a dog:

- **Increased rectal temperature** (over 104-degrees requires action; over 106-degrees is a dire emergency).
- **Vigorous panting**
- **Dark red gums**
- **Tacky or dry mucus membranes** (specifically the gums).
- **Lying down and unwilling (or unable) to get up**
- **Collapse and/or loss of consciousness**
- **Thick saliva**
- **Dizziness or disorientation**
- **Seizures or vomiting**

**What to do if you suspect Heat Stroke:** If you have even the slightest suspicion that your dog is suffering from heat stroke, **you must take immediate action, GET YOUR PET TO A VETERINARIAN ASAP.**

1. First, move your dog out of the heat and away from the sun immediately.
2. Begin cooling your dog by placing cool, wet rags or washcloths on the body, especially the foot pads and around the head.
3. **DO NOT use ice or very cold water or over-cool the pet!** Extreme cold can cause the surface blood vessels to constrict, preventing the body's core from cooling and can actually cause the internal temperature to further rise. In addition, over-cooling can cause hypothermia, introducing a host of new problems. When the body temperature reaches 103-degrees, stop cooling. **IMPORTANT:** do initial cooling then bring pet to a veterinarian immediately. If you can cool the pet while someone is driving you to the vet, so much the better. Minutes count here, it may make the difference in your pet surviving or not.
4. Offer your dog cool water, but do not force water into your dog's mouth.

**Call or get to your vet right away..** even if your dog seems better. Internal damage might not be obvious to the untrained eye, so an exam is necessary and further testing or support may be recommended.

### Tip: recruit others to help you:

- ask someone to call the vet and notify them of circumstances (so they can be prepared when you arrive.
- ask someone to drive you and pet to the veterinarian
- while others help you cool your dog.

(continued)

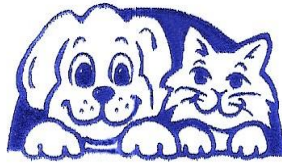
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**Preventing Heat Stroke:** There are ways you can prevent heat stroke from happening in the first place.

- **NEVER leave your dog or cat alone in the car** on a warm day, regardless of whether the windows are open. Even if the weather outside is not extremely hot, the inside of the car acts like an oven.. temperatures can rise to dangerously high levels in a matter of minutes.
- **Avoid exercise on warm days.** It is best not to run, jog or exercise your pet between 8am-8pm during the summer. If the sidewalk/pavement is too hot for you to stand on barefoot, think what it is like for your pet. When outside, opt for shady areas. Limit time out to potty and monitor your pet carefully for signs of heat stress.
- **Keep fresh cool water available at all times.** Place several water bowls in shade as they heat quickly in direct sun, and sun/shade patterns shift multiple times during the day.
- **Certain types of dogs are more sensitive to heat/humidity** – especially obese, elderly or already stressed dogs and brachycephalic (short nosed) breeds like Pugs and Bulldogs. Dark coated dogs, dogs with long or heavy coats or coats that are matted are extremely vulnerable. Use extreme caution when these dogs are exposed to heat and humidity.
- **BRING PETS INDOORS.** Heat and humidity can combine to dangerous levels even when temperatures are in the 80's. When temperatures are greater than 85-degrees F and pets are not used to such temperature, pets are particularly vulnerable to heat stroke.

Some dogs can recover fully from heat stroke if it is caught early enough. Others suffer permanent organ damage and require lifelong treatment, Sadly, many dogs do not survive heat stroke.

## **Prevention is the key to keeping your pet safe during hot weather.**

**CATS:** Heat stroke is more commonly discussed in dogs, but cats can be affected too. Your pet can't tell you they're not feeling well, but they definitely can show you. Early symptoms of heat stroke and the accompanying dehydration for cats includes:

- **Panting**
- **Anxiety**, possibly demonstrated by pacing
- **Increased heartbeat**
- **Respiratory distress or hyperventilation** (breeds with flat noses may exhibit distress earlier because of compromised airways).
- **Dark red gums**
- **Lethargy**
- **Increased internal body temperature** – your cat's internal temperature should be between 100.5-degrees and 101.5-degrees F. A temperature of 104-degrees or more is a definite warning sign.

## **How to Help Your Cat Avoid Heatstroke:**

You can help your cat survive extremely hot weather by keeping pets indoors in a cool interior room. Rubbing them down with a damp towel will help, so will immersing their feet in a tub of cool water. Wrapping a cold compress under the cat's neck will also help cool him off.

Make sure your pet has several bowls of cool water available. It doesn't hurt to drop an ice cube in once in awhile not only to cool the water, but to pique kitty's interest in drinking. Strangely enough, cats affected by external heat may refuse to drink water, exacerbating the problem of dehydration.

If your cat exhibits any of the signs above that lead you to think you pet is suffering heat exhaustion, wrap him with cool (NOT ICY!) wet towels, then get him to the veterinarian immediately. This is a serious, potentially fatal condition.

**Be aware of your pet's condition on sweltering summer days.**

**If you have any doubts at all, get your pet to the veterinarian immediately.**

**DO NOT WAIT FOR SYMPTOMS TO WORSEN.. minutes may make the difference in survival.**

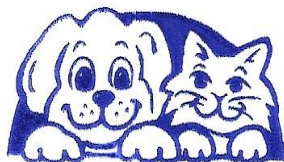
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**Alert from the American Veterinary Medical Association shared as customer service and awareness by the veterinarians at Parkside Animal Hospital:**

## Remain vigilant for illness linked to chicken jerky treat consumption

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association notified the AVMA on Wednesday that several veterinarians in Ontario have reported dogs with Fanconi syndrome-like disease associated with the consumption of chicken jerky treats manufactured in China. This mirrors the [incidents reported in the United States in 2007](#) and investigated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The AVMA has not received any recent reports from U.S. veterinarians about potential toxicities from chicken jerky treats, and we cannot determine at this time whether this problem has recurred or is ongoing in the U.S., or if it is isolated to Canada. There have been no recalls of any chicken jerky treat products associated with the Canadian complaints, and we are unaware of the brand names of the products involved.

We advise U.S. veterinarians to remain vigilant and [report to the FDA](#) any cases of Fanconi syndrome-like disease that may be associated with the consumption of chicken jerky treats. Canadian veterinarians are urged to contact CVMA Member Services to report any suspected cases.

Dogs affected with this syndrome usually have a history of vomiting, lethargy and anorexia. A review by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine of the 2007 cases stated that blood chemistry in many cases revealed hypokalemia and a mild increase in liver enzymes. Blood gas analysis indicated acidosis, and urinalysis consistently showed glucosuria and granular casts. Fanconi screens on urine were positive. At the time, the ACVIM recommended treatment consisting of supportive care, electrolyte supplementation (including liberal potassium supplementation) and blood gas monitoring.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> of JULY, INDEPENDENCE DAY ..a dangerous, scary time for pets!

Independence Day, our nation's birthday, symbolizes freedom and independence, but sadly it brings the wrong kind of freedom and independence for many pets. Animal rescue organizations report that in reaction to the fireworks, more companion animals escape their yards and homes on July 4<sup>th</sup> than on any other day of the year.

Days leading up to and days after the Fourth can also be dangerous, because of folks setting off their own fireworks or firing guns. Following are tips on keeping your dogs and cats safe during the week of Independence Day celebrations.

- **DO NOT TAKE YOUR PETS ALONG TO FIREWORKS DISPLAYS.** These are not fun for most pets, they are terrifying, confusing and painful moments for your beloved pet.
- **BRING YOUR PETS INDOORS BEFORE FIREWORKS DISPLAYS BEGIN.**
- Make sure your pets have access to their favorite 'safe place' (crate); best if it is in an **INTERIOR**/enclosed room with **NO WINDOWS**, where pets may 'hide' if they need to.
- Turn a radio or TV on so there is normal background noise.
- **MICROCHIPS are the BEST ID.** Many pets panic with the noise and concussion of fireworks and pull out of their collars and run away in confusion and fear.. leaving collar ID and tags behind.
- **DO NOT LEAVE PETS OUTSIDE** and **DO NOT TETHER OR CHAIN** pets. In their panic; many pets injure themselves thrashing against restraint. **BRING YOUR PETS INSIDE** to a secure, quiet room.
- Make sure all windows and are closed securely. **DOGGIE DOORS SHOULD BE LOCKED.** Window/door screens will not hold a terrified pet, running in a panic. We have seen them run through glass windows.
- **DO NOT TRUST A FENCE** to hold a pet outside. Many dig under or climb over to escape
- **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET IN A CAR:** heatstroke and death are likely as partially open windows do not provide sufficient relief from the building heat and your pet may be stolen.
- If you know your pet is distressed by loud noises like thunder or fireworks, **CONSULT WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN** the week prior to the 4<sup>th</sup>, for ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety your pet will experience during fireworks displays.
- If you are traveling over the holidays and plan to leave your pet in someone's care; make sure your care-taker has specific plans in place to help safeguard your pet. Better yet, have your pet boarded by professionals who are aware and prepared to deal with the danger this holiday brings to many pets.

If you are hosting holiday celebrations, make sure your pet has no access to alcoholic beverages, glass containers, or any "people food"; unused or spent fireworks. Serious health consequences may result, possibly death; in addition to an untimely visit to the Emergency Hospital. Love your pet? Keep 'em safe!

**HAVE A FUN, SAFE and HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!**

**Smiling faces... caring hearts**

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