



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 6, ISSUE 6 • JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER

FELINE INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE (IBD)

The term *inflammatory bowel disease* (IBD) describes inflammation of the lining (mucosa) of your kitty's gastrointestinal tract. IBD can affect the small intestine (enteritis), the large intestine (colitis), or the stomach (gastritis). The cause of IBD is unknown, but immunologic factors are thought to be a major contributing factor.

Symptoms of IBD include vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite, and weight loss. Vomiting and diarrhea quickly cause dehydration, and if not addressed, can become life-threatening. Kitties who are unable to keep food down may quickly develop a secondary illness, feline hepatic lipidosis (also known as fatty liver disease), which is a serious condition.

When diagnosing IBD, other causes of gastrointestinal distress are typically first ruled out. Diagnostic testing will include a

physical examination and lab work; your veterinarian may also recommend tests for feline leukemia (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency (FIV), a urinalysis, or fecal examinations for parasitic and bacterial agents. X-rays and ultrasound may also be recommended. Ultimately, to diagnose IBD, microscopic examination of small pieces of the intestinal lining (biopsy and histopathology) may be needed.

Although it is not possible to cure IBD, a combination of supportive care and dietary management will successfully manage IBD in many kitties. Supportive care can include steroids to help decrease gastrointestinal inflammation, anti-nausea medications, or antibiotics. Diet plays a crucial role in controlling IBD; we may recommend a hypoallergenic or low-residue diet to decrease stress on your kitty's digestive process. Because the most effective treatment will vary depending on your kitty's symptoms,

we may need to try a number of options to determine the most successful approach.

If your kitty is experiencing any of the symptoms described above, please contact us right away.



SAVE \$100 ON A FELINE DENTAL PROCEDURE!

We're currently offering a fantastic deal on feline dental procedures. **When you book your kitty's dental procedure through the end of June, you'll receive a \$100 discount!**

In past issues of our newsletter we've discussed the importance of regular dental checkups and cleanings to help ensure your kitty's healthy mouth and strong teeth. Regular oral care can help keep your kitty happy by addressing painful dental abscesses, cavities, or toothaches, and can help reduce the risk of serious secondary conditions.

To take advantage of this great offer, please call us at (916) 488-4161 or stop by our front desk to schedule your kitty's dental procedure through the end of June.



JUNE SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Through June 30, **receive \$25 off metabolic testing** when you bring your kitty to the Sacramento Cat Hospital for a wellness exam. Please stop by our front desk for more information.



Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to www.sacramentocathospital.com, or speak with one of our team members.

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