



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8 • AUGUST 2011 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 microscopic changes noted in tissue samples indicate that immunologic factors are 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. Cats unable to keep food down may also develop a secondary illness, called feline hepatic lipidosis (also known as fatty liver disease), which is a serious life-threatening condition.

Typically, as part of the diagnostic process, other causes of gastrointestinal disease are first ruled out. Diagnostic tests may include lab work, physical examination, tests for the feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), 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.

A combination of medical therapy and dietary management will successfully manage IBD in most cats. Because there is no single best treatment, we may need to try a number of options to determine the best approach for your kitty.

Medical therapy may include steroids to help decrease inflammation, anti-nausea medications, gastrointestinal immunomodulators, or antibiotics.

Diet plays a crucial role in controlling IBD, as some cats experience sensitivity to certain foods. We may recommend a hypo-allergenic or low-residue diet to decrease stress on the digestive process.

Although it is not always possible to cure IBD, most often it can be controlled with medication and dietary management. If your kitty is experiencing any of the symptoms described above, please contact us.



FELINE BOARDING AT THE SACRAMENTO CAT HOSPITAL

If you're planning to get away for a summer vacation, we'd like to invite your feline family member to be our guest while you travel. We offer boarding accommodations in a loving feline-only environment. Beds, toys, and fresh litter boxes are provided—along with lots of daily petting and attention from our kitty-loving doctors and team members! All of our feline guests receive daily weight monitoring, monitoring of food and water intake, and twice-daily exercise sessions. We can administer any medication or special foods that your kitty requires.

We can also schedule your kitty's routine or preventive health care needs during their stay. Wellness exams, vaccinations, dental cleanings, and more can be conveniently taken care of while you are away. (Please remember to schedule any exams or special procedures at the time you make your boarding reservation.)

To stay with us, your kitty must have received a wellness exam at the Sacramento Cat Hospital within the past 12 months.

Please see our August special offer for discounted boarding rates through August 31.



FELINE HEARTWORM DISEASE

Mosquitoes are always a potential threat to our feline friends, as they are carriers of heartworms. A single mosquito bite can infect a kitty not only with the heartworm parasite, but also with a bacteria called *Wolbachia*. Kitties infected with heartworm disease may develop HARDS (heartworm associated respiratory distress syndrome), which can be caused by inflammation due to the heartworms or their larvae, and which can lead to sudden death.

Unfortunately, there is no definitive heartworm treatment for cats, so it's important to prevent initial infection. Year-round prevention is important, even for indoor cats, as mosquitoes can enter through window screens and doors.

If your kitty is diagnosed with heartworm disease, we may prescribe medications to control the disease process and address symptoms, Heartgard to prevent additional infection, and antibiotics to treat the *Wolbachia*.

Please see our August special offer which can help prevent heartworm infection.



AUGUST SPECIAL OFFERS FOR OUR READERS

Through August 31, board your kitty at the Sacramento Cat Hospital, where our **regular boarding fee of \$25 a night is just \$19.50 a night**, and includes a free nail trim! (Additional charges apply for dispensation of medications or other treatments while your kitty is our guest.)

Through August 31, receive **\$5 off a 6-pack of Heartgard or Advantage Multi** (with doctor's prior approval, based on you kitty's age and health).

Please ask us 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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