

Clinic Connection

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Small Animal Spotlight

OBESITY

As we move into the new year a lot of people resolve to eat right and exercise more. If you are a pet owner, it is important to take a look at your furry friend to see if it needs to get in better shape too. Obesity in pets can cause many problems that lead to a shorter, poor quality life.

To determine if your cat or dog needs to shed a few pounds, take a look at your pet and answer these questions.



- Is it difficult to feel your pet's ribs or spine?
- Is it difficult to see your pet's waist?
- Is your pet's abdomen sagging?
- Does your pet's face look more round with larger cheeks?

If you answered yes to these to these questions, getting your pet back in shape starts with diet and exercise.

Diet

- Feed a low calorie pet food commonly called "Weight Control"
- Feed a set amount of food
- Look on the bag of food for portion recommendations
- Break treats up into a smaller size
- Restrict feeding from the table



Exercise

- Create a daily routine for a walking
- Buy a laser pointer for your cat to chase
- Allow your dog to run off the leash in secure places.

In addition to diet and exercise, a new medication, SLENTROL, can be prescribed to help with weight loss. This additional therapy is very helpful in a home with multiple dogs who do not all need to lose weight.

Remember weight loss is not a sprint. In cats especially, it is critical to plan weight loss gradually over months, and seek veterinary care if significant weight loss happens quickly. For more information visit www.DrWeldys.com

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Dr. Weldy's Associates are online! The website can be found at www.DrWeldys.com, and contains regularly updated information about the clinic and veterinary care for your pet.

Hills/Science Diet is offering a coupon for a **FREE** bag of weight management food for Dr. Weldy's clients, following a physical examination.

Quick Quiz

1. T/F? Obesity shortens a pet's life.
2. What percent of American pets are overweight.
3. T/F? Spaying or neutering your pet causes obesity.

Large Animal Spotlight

Alternative Medicine

Veterinary acupuncture has been in use for thousands of years in some parts of the world. Here in the U.S., it is rapidly becoming mainstream with hundreds of new veterinary acupuncturists graduating from certification programs each year. Acupuncture is not a replacement for conventional medical therapies, but rather a complement to it. Using acupuncture in your dog, cat, horse, or cow can help to relieve pain, increase blood flow to vital organs, and speed nervous tissue healing.



Common conditions that respond to acupuncture:

- Pain management – musculoskeletal (arthritis and injury)
- Skin, eye, and ear disorders – allergies, skin, and ear infections
- Liver and Kidney diseases
- Nervous system conditions – intervertebral disc disease, epilepsy, neurogenic weakness
- Digestive disorders – diarrhea, vomiting, constipation

Veterinary Chiropractic is a holistic approach to many of the health and performance problems of the horse. Chiropractic does not replace traditional veterinary medicine and surgery, but provides an alternative method of care.

Chiropractic adjustments have proven to be invaluable in detecting and treating gait abnormalities and other performance-robbing problems in the athletic horse. It has also been shown to alleviate pain in the back and neck of the horse.

Common conditions indicating chiropractic evaluation:

- Loss or decrease in level of performance.
- Problems or difficulty executing desired movements.
- Behavioral changes (i.e. refusals, cinchy, bucking).
- Gait problems, such as cross-canter, loss of collection, refusal to pick-up lead.
- Injuries resulting from falls, training, or other activities.

Dr. Weldy's offers acupuncture and equine chiropractic therapy.
Call (574) 862-4995 to set up an appointment

Equine

Education Event for Horse Owners

When: 2/20/09 @ 6PM

Where: Wakarusa Library
124 North Elkhart

In our ongoing commitment to you, and the health of your horse, Dr. Weldy's is pleased to be offering Pfizer Animal Health's PreventiCare™ Colic Assistance Plan™.

There will be door prizes and time to ask the veterinarians questions. For further details visit www.DrWeldys.com

Goat GAAAAB

Coccidia are parasites that infect and cause disease in all mammals including humans.

What animals are at risk?

If the number of parasites is low the risk of life-threatening disease is low, however, animals living in a crowded environment especially young lambs and kids are at much higher risk to die from an infection.



What are the signs of coccidia?

One of the first signs is diarrhea containing mucus or blood. Affected animals are typically anorexic, but continue to drink. Weakness, ill thrift, poor weight gain, and poor coat may also be seen. In severe cases, dehydration, weakness, and sudden death occur. A veterinarian can diagnose coccidia with a fecal sample.

How is coccidia managed?

This can be difficult because some animals can carry it without showing signs of disease. The best way is to prevent coccidia is to use a combination of drugs and good management including, decreasing stocking rates, minimizing stress, using clean housing and feed, and properly disposing of manure. Treatment of coccidia is difficult because most drugs prevent coccidia from reproducing but do not kill. Call Dr. Statler at the clinic to develop a treatment and prevention program if you suspect you have coccidia in your herd.

Grooming

Dr. Weldy's will be offering grooming services, starting in the spring. Send us your email address and you will be the first to know when service starts.

February is Dental Month

25% off dental cleaning for the month of February

Announcements

New Addition

Dr. Justin Sellon's wife gave birth to a baby girl, Stella Jane.

Answers to quiz: 1. True 2. 30% 3. False

Hot off the Press

Check out Dr. Smiley's weekly veterinary article in the Sunday edition of the Goshen News

Email

If you have a veterinary question, send us an email at Dr.Weldys@verizon.net