

DOGBITS

MAY 2008

Gulliver's Doggie Daycare



Gulliver's Corner

Happy May!!!! Everyone is so happy to have the pools back, the umbrellas and shades to nap under and long comfortable days of outside play! I have been hanging out in the big yard with some great friends, like Maddie Coppersmith and Cannon P. We like to chat through the fence with the little dog crew, I like the fuzzy guys like Pepper and Joy. From the top of our pyramid we can watch all the action in the goofy group, some newer faces are in there too, like Blaze and Odin. There is never a dull moment around here!

Cushing's Disease

Cushing's disease, or hyperadrenocorticism, is a disease found in people, dogs, and cats, and is caused by an excess of cortisol in the body. Most commonly found in older dogs, it is often mistaken for the aging process itself.

The pituitary gland produces ACTH (adrenocorticotrophic hormone) which is released into the bloodstream and stimulates

the body's two adrenal glands located next to the kidneys, to secrete glucocorticoid (cortisone-like or cortisol hormone) into the bloodstream. Secretion is increased during stress, helping the body to cope with infection, pain, surgery, trauma, and cold temperatures. The pituitary gland increases and decreases secretion of ACTH depending on the levels in the bloodstream. When the levels of ACTH in the blood stream are high enough, a feedback loop tells the pituitary gland to stop production. With Cushing's disease, this feedback loop is damaged for one of three reasons: a pituitary tumor, an adrenal tumor, or because of veterinary interference (medications, usually allergy related.)

The average canine Cushing's patient is approximately 10 years old. Although all breeds are at risk, some dogs reported at a greater risk of developing Cushing's include: Yorkies, Bostons, Poodles, Boxers, Dachshunds, German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, Labs, and terriers in general.



Dogs typically display symptoms after 6 or 7 years of age. Direct symptoms may include, hair loss, excessive eating, excessive drinking, excessive urination, lethargy, distended abdomen, diabetes, seizures, and pancreatitis. An indirect symptom of the disease is the disappearance of previous inflammatory conditions. Dogs with chronic allergies or arthritis may appear better due to the increased doses of cortisone their body is producing.

Treatment for Cushing's varies depending on the type of the disease. Treatments include surgery, chemotherapy drugs such as Lysodren or Ketoconazole, or the drug Anipryl can be used to combat pituitary-dependent Cushing's. Left untreated, Cushing's disease will progress and an increase of cortisol is immunosuppressive. Dogs with Cushing's may develop infections, hypothyroidism, pancreatitis, diabetes, seizures, hypertension, heart failure, liver failure, or kidney failure. With treatment the symptoms of Cushing's can fully resolve over the course of 4-6 months. Most Cushing's disease cannot be cured, but quality of life can be improved and extended. Dogs are more comfortable after the disease is under control and may live happily for years.



Gully News

Gulliver's is appearing in the Burlington Parks and Recreation **Kid's Day Parade!!!!** Saturday, May 17th at 9:30 from Main Street. to Union Street on Burligton!!! Look for the Purple Bus!!!!

Now taking sign ups for **summer Agility and Obedience**. Get your name on the list by calling 860-1144, emailing Amanda@doggiedaycare.com or let us know in person. Sessions are 6 weekly hour long classes. The cost is \$80. Dates and times will be posted in the lobby and at www.doggiedaycare.com. Everyone on our list will be called with dates and times, and to confirm attendance.

Tails from the Goofy Group

HELLO! Things are getting hot around here, if you are a husky☺ But that's ok, our thick double coats actually help us to stay insulated from the heat and sun. The guys at highest risk for heat related problems are the short nosed pups. Boxers like Pow, Pugs like Gordon and bully types like Lexi can have difficulty regulating body temperatures with their short faces. Their thin coats offer them little protection from the sun and the heat. Black dogs like Gully heat up in the sun like new pavement. Long coated breeds that are given a summer buzz cut may be happier not dragging around all the extra fur, but watch that it is not so short that it exposes their skin to the sun, which can cause sunburn and dry skin. No one wants to be hot and uncomfortable, make sure there is plenty of water, shade and air flow for your pup at all times. I will be getting all that and some air conditioned relaxation here at Daycare this summer. The greatest part is that I get to share it with all my best friends!