

You're receiving this email because of your relationship with Riverside Cat Hospital. Please [confirm](#) your continued interest in receiving email from us.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



Mews & News

Winter 2009

Greetings!

Welcome to fall! The hectic back-to-school weeks are behind us, and the Holidays are right around the corner. Our feature article this month addresses feline kidney failure, a common ailment amongst our patients. As always, there is the newsletter trivia contest - be sure to submit your guess!

Here's to a happy and warmth-filled holiday season for all of our patients and their families!

We hope that you find these newsletters informative and entertaining. However, if you do not wish to receive these quarterly mailings, simply click on the "unsubscribe" button at the end of this e-mail. We promise that we will never share your contact information with anyone, and will only use your e-mail address to send you these quarterly newsletters, or to contact you about your pet.

As always, we welcome your feedback. If you have suggestions for how we can improve our newsletter, please call or e-mail us. We'd be happy to hear from you!



Spotlight on Kidney Failure

Thanks to advances in veterinary medicine and nutrition, our pets are living longer than ever. With this longevity comes increased numbers of geriatric pets living with chronic illness. Common chronic illnesses in geriatric cats include cancer, hyperthyroidism, diabetes, and kidney failure, which is our medical topic for this newsletter. It can be scary to find out that your cat has kidney failure, but there are many cats living quite comfortably with this common condition.

Symptoms

Cats with kidney failure can display a wide range of symptoms, depending on how advanced the disease has become by the time of diagnosis. Cats with mild or very early kidney failure may not have any symptoms at all. Cats with a moderate degree of kidney failure will display one or more

Volume 3, Issue ii

In This Issue

Spotlight on Kidney Failure

In Memoriam

Staff Spotlight

Newsletter Trivia

Ask Izzy

Contact Us

4632 Okemos Rd.
Okemos, Michigan 48864
phone: 517-347-2287
fax: 517-347-2787

www.RiversideCatHospital.com

e-mail: the.cat.vet@gmail.com

Subscribe to Our Newsletter!

of these classic symptoms:

- weight loss
- increased water consumption and urination (larger volume)
- loss of appetite (eating less than usual, or becoming more "picky" about foods)
- vomiting

Cats with more advanced kidney failure will have progressed to severe weight loss. They may not want to eat at all. These cats may still drink large amounts of water, or they may stop drinking all together. Vomiting and ulcers in the mouth become more common.

Diagnosis

Most cats are diagnosed either in early or mid-stage kidney failure. Less commonly, a cat will progress all the way to end-stage kidney failure before the disease is found. Many cats with early stage disease are diagnosed based on the results of senior screening blood testing, before any symptoms develop. This is ideal, since measures can be undertaken to slow down the progression of the disease early on, and a monitoring schedule can be set up.



Diagnosis of kidney failure requires a blood test, as well as a urinalysis. If kidney disease is diagnosed, other tests may be recommended to evaluate for staging or concurrent diseases. These tests include urine culture, urine protein level, x-rays, or abdominal ultrasound. Cats with kidney failure are also prone to hypertension, so blood pressure testing is typically performed twice yearly on affected cats.

Treatment

It is important to understand that there are no medications that treat the kidney failure directly, nor can we cure or reverse kidney failure. However, we can do things to help slow the progression of the disease and improve a cat's quality of life. There are medications that can help to maintain proper levels of potassium and phosphorus in the blood, as well as medication to help prevent secondary diseases, and improve a patient's appetite and prevent weight loss. Special foods are available that are easier for damaged kidneys to process. Cats with more moderate or advanced kidney failure often benefit from receiving subcutaneous fluids at home. Cats with severe kidney failure must be treated as inpatients.



Monitoring

Since kidney failure progresses at different rates in every patient, cats with kidney failure must be closely monitored. Typically, these cats will come to the clinic once every 3-4 months. Their weight and blood pressure are checked, and small blood and urine samples are collected for testing. Based on the results of these tests, and how the cat is doing at home, adjustments can be made to the cat's medication or feeding plan.

Some cats live quite comfortably for several years or more with mild kidney disease which never significantly progresses. Other cats develop disease that progresses more quickly, over several months. All but the most ill cats can be stabilized and managed after the initial diagnosis.

Tell me more!

For more information, here are a few links to get you started:

- [A cat owner's guide to kidney disease](#) A video series from the Cornell Feline Health Center
- [Feline CRF information center](#)
- [Feline chronic renal failure information center](#)
- [CRF supplies](#) A website with resources for ordering all your cat's kidney failure supplies online.
- [Chronic renal failure library](#) from Veterinary Partner

If your cat has any symptoms of kidney failure (drinking and/or urinating more than usual, becoming more picky with food, losing weight) please call us to set up an appointment for evaluation. If your cat is over 10 years old and has not had senior screening blood testing, now would be a great time to bring him or her in for a screening test. Give us a call to set up an appointment!

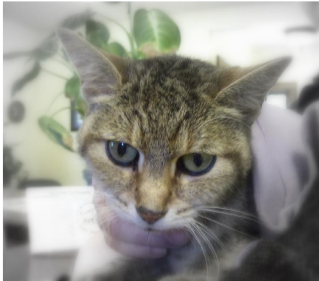
In Memoriam

In remembrance of our feline friends who have passed away in the past 3 months...



*Beatrice P.
Cleo J.
Gracie J.
Chickey E.
Herman L.
Chuck G.*

*Milo J.
Cocoa G.*



*Sneakers G.
Emily W.
J.R. W.
Oliver N.
Fluffy W.
Dewey H.
Spot L.*

Staff Pet Spotlight

Cashew



Cashew is one of a litter of 4 who belongs to veterinary assistant Mary Murphy. He is an indoor cat who loves to wear his harness outside for "walkies". Cashew likes to chase treats, especially when they bounce down the stairs. He also has a "treat ball" that dispenses treats as he rolls it around. Cashew loves to be brushed, and knows how to stay

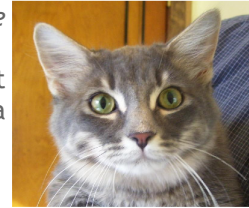


pretty!

Newsletter Trivia



In our last newsletter, we asked "In what year were Siamese cats first brought to the West from Thailand?" The correct answer is 1878, when US President Rutherford B. Hayes received a siamese cat, "Siam", as a gift from the US Consulate in Bangkok.



Congratulations to our winners LeeLoo, Lucky, Neko, and Sammy! Their owners, Jenni and Kevin Harding, answered our trivia question correctly. They won a gift certificate to Soldan's Pet Supplies. Thanks to all who participated!



This month's question:

What part of the cat's body is this??



These pictures are scanning electron micrographs of what part of a cat's body?

The winner of this month's trivia contest will win a Christmas stocking stuffed with goodies for your cats. Treats, toys, tasty tidbits, all that your cat could wish for this Christmas!

Entries may be submitted by [e-mail](#), phone, fax, or snail mail. Be sure to include your name and phone number along with your answer! Please see our contact information at the top of this newsletter. Entries must be received by December 1st, 2009. If more than 1 correct answer is received, the winner will be chosen at random from among the correct submissions.

Ask Izzy



Dear Izzy,
 I hope you will not think this question silly, but I am really worried and need your advice. Yesterday morning, after I ate my breakfast, I was settling in for my morning nap and I found one of my whiskers on the floor! Needless to say, I am shocked! I am only 2 years old, and am not ready to lose my hair or whiskers yet. What can I do?
 Signed,
 A very worried kitty!

Dear Worried,
 Please calm yourself and rest assured that you are not in danger of going bald. It is quite normal for cats to lose the occasional whisker, in addition to normal hair shedding. In fact, we cats will even shed nail husks from time to time. Whiskers do shed occasionally, and they are replaced by new whiskers that will grow out from the root. This shedding phenomenon is normal, and even necessary to maintain a healthy haircoat.

Signed,
 Izzy

[Send Izzy your question](#) today!

The Last Word...



The holidays are fast approaching!

With Thanksgiving only a few weeks away, and Christmas and New Year's following not far behind, now is a good time for a few reminders to help keep your feline companions safe during the holidays.

Remember that cats can have very sensitive digestive systems. It is best not to vary their diets too much, and to stick to a high-quality, preferably canned cat food. During holiday dinners or family gatherings, it may be tempting to sneak your cat a bite of turkey or other tasty treat. It's a safe bet that doing so may cause some problems for your cat, like vomiting or diarrhea. Remember that our cat friends may not have the willpower to resist these appetizing items on their own, so keep tempting foods covered and out of reach of your cat. Certain food ingredients, like chocolate and onions, are toxic for cats.

Holiday plants can also pose hazards to cats. Poinsettia can cause gastrointestinal upset, and mistletoe is particularly toxic. Keep live plants well out of reach of your cats, or stick with artificial decorations. If you put up a live Christmas tree, prevent your cat from drinking the tree water, as dangerous bacteria and mold can cause problems.

Christmas tree decorations and gift wraps and ribbons cause problems every year! Keep a close eye on your cat around the Christmas tree. Avoid using tinsel on the tree, or very tiny ornaments that a cat may swallow. Make sure that your tree is firmly anchored to the wall to keep curious tree climbers from tipping the tree over.

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to the.cat.vet@gmail.com by the.cat.vet@gmail.com.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Riverside Cat Hospital | 4632 Okemos Rd. | Okemos | MI | 48864