



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

YOUR DOG'S EYES & WHAT THEY REVEAL

According to iridology, our health is revealed in our eyes. Christine Agro, a master iridologist, has identified the following three constitutional types in dogs: Nervous sensitive dog – this dog's eyes may reveal lines called “nerve rings” around the iris. These lines indicate stress on the nervous system. This dog would tend to be demanding, bossy, controlling, hard working and enjoys a schedule with clear commands

Immune reactive dog – this dog has a white halo or ring around the iris indicating an irritation to the nervous system which may be from an overload of internal and external stimuli. These dogs are overenthusiastic and have difficulty differentiating between threatening and non-threatening situations.

Emotional body dog – this dog has a series of flower-like markings around the iris. This dog is a natural born healer and is tuned into the emotional energies of those around him. He sometimes has difficulty letting go of the energy he comes into contact with and can be easily overloaded. He may be clingy, possessive, destructing, snappish or depressed.

RAISIN TOXICITY

Recently, we have been reading more and more about raisins and grapes being toxic to dogs. Depending on the size of the dog and the amount eaten, reactions may range from vomiting, diarrhea, shaking through to more serious reactions like kidney failure. As few as 7 raisins or grapes may be toxic according to Poison Control centers.

It is not known exactly what causes the toxicity at this point, but it is advisable to avoid giving your pets raisins or grapes in any amount.

BRINGING AN OUTDOOR CAT INSIDE

Once a cat has been an outdoor cat, it is possible to make them an indoor cat with some patience and perseverance. Doing this gradually will avoid making the cat whiny and miserable. It will be beneficial in the long run because outside hazards (anti-freeze, wild animals, cars, etc.) can shorten the lifespan of your cat.

If you are planning to bring a cat inside, here are some tips from Animal magazine:

Set up a sturdy scratching post or cat tree to allow the cat to stretch and sharpen its claws on something other than your furniture. Sisal rope or a rough textured substance will be the best choice.

Plant cat grass indoors in a sturdy pot or specially designed container for your cat to nibble on. Organic oat grass, wheat grass or catnip are best. Not only does grass provide fiber to help hairballs pass, but it also provides chlorophyll and other nutrients.

Provide a sunny spot for your cat to sleep. Cats enjoy basking in the sun outside and will also enjoy a windowsill or other spot in your home.

A nice cat bed in your cat's favourite sleeping spot will provide comfort, especially in those winter months.

Play regularly with your cat with interactive toys. Cats outside are much more active and living inside may lead to obesity in some animals.

Hang a bird feeder or two outside a window where your cat can watch. This way your cat can safely "stalk" the birds. You may hear some interesting chattering as your cat enjoys birdwatching.

Some companies make outdoor enclosures for cats that allow access to the fresh air without free run of the neighbourhood.

We would like to add that using Bach flower remedies can help animals adapt to new situations. Ask us about a custom remedy for your cat.

POSITIVE PHRASES WORK BEST_When talking to your pet, saying "this won't hurt you" or other phrases containing don't, can't or won't may have the opposite effect on your pet. Rather than calming, the pet may pick up on our stressed out energy and immediately know that something not so desirable is going to happen.

Instead of what you don't want, say what you do want. An example is "you will be safe" or "please stay down off the furniture"

Luring your pet with a treat and then giving a pill, or harsh discipline is a no-no. Use treats as a positive reward only.

FATTY LIVER DISEASE IN CATS

Fatty liver disease can result from poor quality food high in carbohydrates, or in some overweight cats who have not eaten in a few days.

Fat can accumulate in the liver and interrupt the normal functioning of the organ. The build-up of fat & other toxins in the liver then makes the cat even less willing to eat. The cat may become very sluggish and show signs of jaundice (yellow colouring in the eyes & skin).

Once your veterinarian has examined and diagnosed your cat, high quality, easily digested food along with lots of fluids is the first step. Milk thistle tincture can be administered in order to cleanse and re-generate the liver. The cat's blood should be re-tested to determine when the liver function has returned to normal

This disease was at one time fatal, but improved knowledge has led to higher success rates in treating these cats resulting in a return to good health.

In good health, Mike, Lee, Jayne & Moxy

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