



## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

### IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

As the colder weather approaches, we see a higher incidence of urinary problems (bladder infections, etc.) in our pets.

With the dropping temperatures and increasing dampness, the energy that nourishes the kidneys and bladder is challenged. When this happens, some pets start to urinate more frequently and may develop other symptoms (blood in the urine, etc.)

Also with the onset of colder weather, some pets will show increasing stiffness in their joints, weakness in their hind ends and reluctance to get up and moving.

Natural supplements can help both of these problems. If your pet is experiencing any of these issues, we can recommend something that would be suitable and safe for your pet.

### NICE WARM BEDS FOR YOUR PETS

We have noticed our pets starting to seek out a warmer spot to sleep – in front of the heat vents when the furnace has been on or up on a bed or furniture rather than on the floor. Some of their beds that haven't been used all summer are being slept on again.

We stock high quality beds for both cats and dogs in various styles and colours. These beds have removable covers and are machine washable. Some have a protective coating that repels water, odour and bacteria.

## BETTER HYDRATION EQUALS BETTER HEALTH

The importance of adequate water in the human body translates to our pets also. Most pets will drink adequate amounts of water, but what can you do if your pet does not drink much and is prone to urinary infections or crystals/stones in the bladder?

1. give your pet purified water (Brita filter, reverse osmosis water, etc) rather than tap water that contains chlorine which turns some pets off of water
2. change the water once or more daily
3. wash the water bowl out with soap and rinse well before refreshing the water each day
4. use a ceramic or metal bowl instead of plastic that tends to pick up odours over time
5. use a water dispenser that filters, oxygenates and cools the water
6. do not allow your pet to drink out of the toilet (bacteria can lead to illness)

## EARLY SPAY/NEUTERING & BLADDER PROBLEMS ?

We heard recently from one of our previous customers that a well respected veterinarian in the U.S. had spoke of a link between spaying animals early (before 12 months of age) and increased urinary problems.

The theory is that spaying at the usual age of 6 months stops the urinary tract from reaching full development. Because of this, narrowed urinary passages can trap bacteria, crystals and small stones and lead to chronic bladder and kidney problems.

Apparently, some dog breeds are more affected than others (this particular incident was a miniature schnauzer). This was the first we had heard of this theory, but perhaps we will hear more about it in the future.

## EPA EVALUATING FLEA & TICK PRODUCTS

The Environmental Protection Agency is looking at data regarding flea & tick products, especially the spot-on products. This includes both over the counter products purchased at pet supply stores and at veterinary clinics.

This study began in April after about 44,000 potential incidents were reported to the agency in 2008. The adverse reactions ranged from skin irritation to seizures, and in some cases, death.

At this time, no products have been recalled but the EPA will be monitoring the issue. Meetings involving representatives from the pet industry, the EPA, the US Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada are ongoing. Depending on their findings, recommendations regarding labeling or the cancellation of certain products may occur.

In good health, Mike, Lee, Jayne & Moxy

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