

# HVAH Newsletter

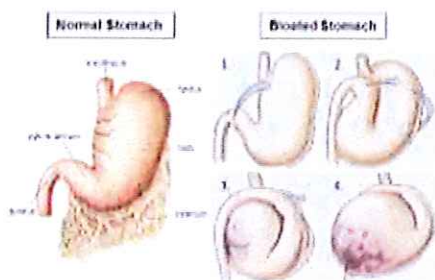
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Hunt Valley Animal Hospital  
11206 York Road  
Cockeysville, MD  
21030

www.huntvalleyanimalhospital.com

410-527-0800  
Fax: 410-527-0041

## Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus...

Also referred to as GDV or bloat. When a dog bloats, his/her stomach fills with air, fluid and/or food. The enlarged stomach puts pressure on other organs, can cause difficulty breathing, and eventually may decrease blood supply to vital organs. Volvulus, known as "gastric torsion", occurs when the stomach twists. This is a life-threatening condition that requires immediate veterinary care. This condition can cause rapid clinical signs and death within several hours. Even with immediate treatment, 25-40% of dogs die from this medical emergency.



The exact cause of bloat is still unknown. There are, however some known risk factors such as rapid eating, eating large meals, overeating, overdrinking, exercise after eating, stress, fearful temperament, trauma, and abnormal gastric motility or hormone secretion. Deep chested breeds are at the highest risk.

General symptoms of GDV/bloat are distended abdomen, unsuccessful attempts to belch or vomit, retching without producing anything, weakness, excessive salivation, shortness of breath, cold body temperature, pale gums, rapid heartbeat, and collapse.

Depending on the dogs condition, x-rays will be taken and the doctor may try to decompress the stomach and relieve gas and fluid pressure by inserting a tube down the esophagus. If the stomach has twisted, emergency surgery is required. There are many complications that can occur both during and after surgery such as heart damage, infection, and shock.

Feeding small frequent meals, restricting exercise prior to or right after feeding, and restricting the amount of water intake could be helpful in preventing bloat.

## "Meet Our Staff" Spotlight is on .... Becky



Becky joined the HVAH kennel team in March 2013, but now focuses her time as a technician assistant.

Becky is originally from Hanover, PA but now lives with her family in Hampstead, MD. Becky has worked on farms since as early as 7 years of age. She loves working with horses, goats, sheep, and cattle. She earned an 8th place regional award for Veterinary Science, a 7th place state award for Veterinary Science, and a 2nd place Agriscience award as part of FFA.

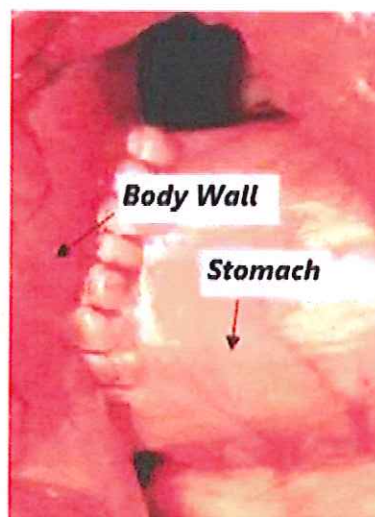
Along with her family, Becky shares her home with 5 cats, "Stewey", "Mort", "S'Mores", "Oreo", and "Angelo". She has 3 dogs, "Ringo", "Morgan", and "Maggie-May", an African Parrot named "Coo-Coo", and a huge fish pond.

Becky would like to major in Animal Science and Biology in college, with high hopes of being accepted into veterinary school to become a veterinarian. She would like to focus on both small and large animals as well as exotics.

Some interesting facts about Becky are: she played field hockey for 7 years until a knee injury ended her playing days. She was the president of the North Carroll FFA Chapter for 2 years. When not working or focusing on school, Becky volunteers at farms to gain needed hours for vet school. Becky, the only red head in her family, has a hidden talent of touching her tongue to her nose.

We are pleased to offer a minimally invasive preventative procedure for GDV here at Hunt Valley Animal Hospital.

Laparoscopic gastropexy is a procedure in which the right side of the stomach is tacked to the right side of the body wall. A small incision is made in the right body wall and a scope is inserted into the abdominal cavity. A laproscopic instrument grabs



the stomach, pulls it to the body wall and then the stomach is sutured to the right body wall.

Some breeds of dogs are

susceptible to GDV and should be considered for preventative gastropexy: Great Danes, Irish Wolf Hounds, German Shepherds, Standard Poodles, and Blood Hounds, however any breed can bloat.

Although the procedure can be completed anytime, most will have the gastropexy completed when spaying or neutering their pet.

The benefits of laparoscopic vs. open surgery is shorter surgery and anesthesia time, less pain, and quicker recovery.

If you are considering laparoscopic gastropexy for your pet or would like to learn more, please call our office to schedule an appointment with either Dr. Frank or Dr. Johnston.

Spring is upon us and so are those nasty fleas and ticks. Stop by and stock up on Frontline Plus or Nexgard to safeguard your pet today!



## Lyme Disease & What You Should Know ....

Lyme disease is one of the most common tick transmitted diseases. Lyme disease is caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi*, a bacteria that is transmitted by deer ticks. Typically, infection occurs after a tick has been attached for at least 18 hours.



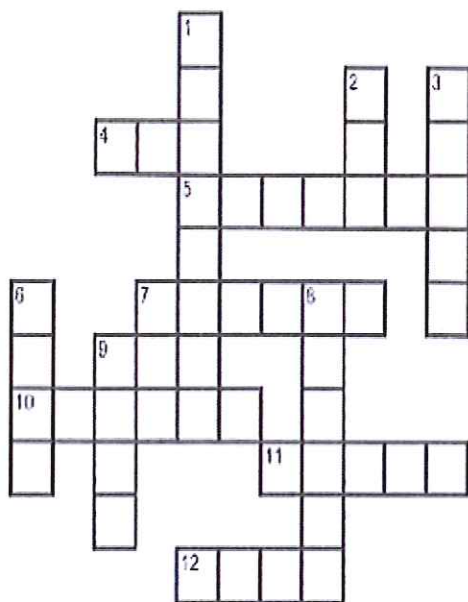
Symptoms of Lyme disease are lameness, stiffness, sensitive to touch, breathing difficulty, fever, lack of appetite, depression, and swollen lymph nodes close to the infection site. More serious complications could damage the kidneys, and even the heart and nervous system.

If you are concerned that your pet may be infected with Lyme disease, consult one of our doctors. After reviewing your dog's health history, a blood test would be completed to diagnose your pet. The condition of the skin near the tick bite area is also an important indicator of your pet's health, notably if the wound is still open or if there are any fragments of the tick body present.

Treatment for this disease is generally a four week regiment of antibiotics. Unfortunately not all symptoms are always completely resolved in some dogs. Sometimes long term joint pain is noted even if the bacteria had been fully eradicated from his/her system.

There are several ways to aide in preventing Lyme disease. There are products available such as sprays, collars, topicals, and chewable's as shown above that kill and repel ticks. Daily grooming and removing any ticks found are equally as important.

## Pet Crossword



### Across

4. Pet with a bark?
5. Small pet that likes to burrow?
7. This pet carries its house?
10. \_\_\_ pig?
11. A fish lives in this?
12. This pet can fly?

### Down

1. House for a dog?
2. Pet with nine lives?
3. You can ride this pet?
6. Indoor home for a bird?
8. This pet lives in a terrarium?
9. This pet lives in water?

## Travel Plans?



Before you leave on your trip be sure to have all your pet's medications filled and vaccines up to date.

Be sure to plan extra stops to give your pet a break and exercise.

Research and locate pet-friendly hotels and restaurants.

Be sure to pack veterinary contact information as well as vaccine history in case of an emergency.

If you are planning to stay in another's home, be sure to ask if there are any potential issues such as allergies or aggressive animals, etc.

If you are traveling by plane, be sure to check the airlines regulations and requirements.

If your pet is not microchipped, we highly recommend stopping in to have him/her implanted with a microchip and registered before you leave!

