

HVAH Newsletter



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Inflammatory Bowel Disease ...

Inflammatory Bowel Disease, known as IBD is a gastrointestinal disease with chronic symptoms causing inflammation of the intestines. The cause of IBD is still unknown, but it is believed there is more than one cause. Sensitivity to bacteria and food allergies are considered to play a huge role in this disease. Food triggers include meat proteins, food additives, preservatives, milk proteins, artificial coloring, and of course gluten (wheat). Many feel that genetics also play a large role in IBD.

IBD can affect both dogs and cats, more so in middle-aged pets, but can occur at any age. Some breeds are more prone to suffering from IBD such as Basenjis, Lundehunds, French Bulldogs, Irish Setters, and the Siamese cat.

Common symptoms of IBD include fatigue, depression, abdominal pain, gurgling abdominal sounds, gas, chronic intermittent vomiting, diarrhea, bright red blood in the stool, weight loss, and distressed coat hair.

Diagnosing IBD is not as easy a simple test. Your pets veterinarian will ask for a detailed history and complete a physical exam in addition to blood testing and a urinalysis. Often the results will be normal, but in some patients anemia and a high white blood cell count may be present as well abnormal levels of liver enzymes and proteins. Fecal tests are generally run to rule out intestinal parasites. Radiograph results are generally normal but the doctor may conduct a barium study for a more detailed evaluation. Barium is given orally to enhance the visibility of the organs while a series of x-rays are taken. As the barium moves through the intestinal tract, abnormalities such as thickness of the intestinal walls may be seen. A follow up ultrasound may be completed to determine changes within the intestinal wall and often allergy testing may be completed to rule out possible allergies.

Although IBD is not a curable disease, it can be a controlled disease as relapses are common. The goal in treating IBD is to lesson the symptoms, and maintain a stable body weight. The use of immunosuppressive drugs and antibiotics are often used throughout the therapy. Pets suffering from continuous vomiting are often placed on fluids to treat or prevent dehydration. A strict diet is key in treating IBD and to aid in preventing flare ups.

"Meet Our Staff" Spotlight in on ... Vince!



We recently welcomed Vince to our HVAH family as our kennel manager. Celebrating his birthday on June 5th, Vince attended Dulaney High School, BCCC, and Coppin, and currently resides in Jacksonville, MD.

Vince is one of five children in his family, four sisters and one brother. His dad is a musician and his mother enjoys spending time with her pure bred Maine Coons and birds. He was fortunate to spend his summers in their motor home traveling cross-country while being accompanied by the three family dogs.

Vince is currently blessed with the love of his 7 yr. old 45 lb. bundle of energy pit bull - Eileen. She is quite the softy, she loves kids & cats, and of course romping in the yard playing ball. Vince also dotes on his super sweet 13 yr. old cat Lonnie who is a big boy, but can still "get it done" outside running around sampling from the wildlife buffet.

Vince has a love for cooking and has quite the reputation for "meat smoking" and a mean BBQ. His free time is also spent hiking and camping with Eileen and his friends. His daily goal is to make at least one persons day better, and hopes to one day own a little house in the woods. What many may not know about Vince is that he primarily watches British TV, he has double jointed thumbs, and at the age of 16 he ran a half marathon up Pikes Peak.

What's my breed???

- * I originated in South Africa ...
- * My Dutch name means "farmer" ...
- * When well socialized I am even tempered and eager to please my family ...
- * I am dominant in nature and very intelligent ...
- * I typically have a life expectancy of 10-12 years ...
- * When I am full grown I will be about 23-28" tall and weigh between 110-177 lbs....
- * I need a lot of exercise & crave companionship ...



Boerboel

Not sure what to get your pet for Christmas?

How about a little pampering with our new Bath Bundle!

Our staff will indulge your pet with a bath ... ear cleaning ... toe nail trim ... and blow dry.

Pets 1 - 40 lbs. = \$50

Pets 41 lbs. and up = \$60!

Pets with thick coats or long dense fur can have a "brush out" for \$10 more.

Give yourself a break and send your pet for a spa day!

Call 410-527-0800 to schedule your pet and be sure to ask for the Bundle!



With the Christmas and New Year's holiday quickly approaching - don't forget to call and make your pets boarding arrangements! Our kennel fills up quickly so call today!

There is no gift more precious than the gift of life. Shelters all over the country are full of loving precious pets looking for their forever home. Opening your heart and your home to a sweet soul that can provide you and your family with the gift of unconditional love and happiness is truly a blessing.

"Saving the life of one animal may not change the world, but the world will surely change for that one animal"

If you are interested in adopting a pet, please contact "Defenders of Animal Rights" at 410-527-1466 today!

As you prepare for the holiday season, please take a moment to remember those sweet faces that currently do not have their "forever home" yet. Our local pet shelter, "Defenders of Animal Rights", goes far above and beyond to help homeless pets. They provide a clean, warm, loving place for those that have fallen on hard times and provide all the necessary treatments to secure their health and well-being. Please consider giving a little holiday cheer to the lonely souls patiently awaiting a new loving family. Please visit <http://www.adopt-a-pet.org/wishlist> to view their "wish list" of products needed, and as always monetary gifts are greatly appreciated. Feel free to drop any donations off at our office and we will gladly transfer them to DOAR.



Now Available ... **12 week** ...
chewable flea & tick prevention for dogs!
Ask our staff for more information today!



BRAVECTO



Holiday Pet Costume Contest

Bring your pet in wearing a holiday outfit, and your pet will receive a "free" toe nail trim and be entered to win the "champion prize"!

Be creative
and festive!

