



Winter 2019 Newsletter

Today's Topics

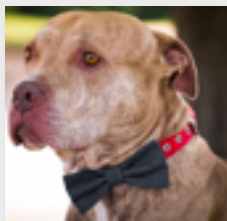
ACVO 2019 Conference



Pet Safety during the Holidays



Case Highlight



Welcome to the Team



ACVO 2019 Conference

The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologist (ACVO) will be hosting their 50th anniversary conference in Maui, Hawaii from November 6th to November 9th. This cutting edge, scientific conference brings together approximately 1,000 veterinarians and technicians who represent the best in veterinary ophthalmology around the world. Dr. McCallum will be attending this conference, but the office will still be open for medication refill requests and appointment scheduling.

Case Highlight: Kaiser

A common problem for our patients are indolent ulcers. Kaiser is a 7 year old American Staffordshire Terrier who was treated on 10/7/19 for an indolent ulcer in his right eye.

Indolent ulcers are spontaneous erosions that occur on the epithelial layer of the cornea, characterized by their slow-healing time. The ulcer can cause discomfort for the patient, as well as put the eye at risk for secondary infection.

We treat indolent ulcers using a burr keratotomy procedure. For this procedure, we sedate our patients using narcotics. Anesthetic eye drops are administered to the affected eye and a diamond burr head is used to gently polish off the entire epithelial layer of the eye. A contact lens is then placed in the eye as a bandage and to aid in comfort. This procedure results in healing of the ulcer for 95% of our patients. Occasionally, indolent ulcers can become a bilateral condition as the other eye has a 50% chance of being affected at a later time.

Holidays: Pet Safety



As the holidays approach, spending time with loved ones becomes a priority, including our pets! During the holidays, humans get to enjoy tasty treats and beautiful decorations, but these delightful holiday staples can pose a problem for our furry family members. Here is a list of common holiday treats and decorations to watch out for:

- **Chocolate:** Toxic to dogs and cats
- **Xylitol (artificial sweetener):** Can cause liver failure and death in dogs
- **Turkey skin:** Can cause pancreatitis
- **Yeast dough:** Can cause painful gas and dangerous bloating
- **Water additives for Christmas trees:** Adding aspirin, sugar, or any other substance to the water for your Christmas tree can be dangerous for pets
- **Tinsel:** Attractive to pets and can cause intestinal blockages if eaten
- **Mistletoe, Balsam, Pine, Cedar, and Holly:** Can be poisonous if eaten

Just remember during the busy holiday season to keep a watchful eye on the food and decorations pets have access to. If you believe your pet has ingested any poisonous substances or shows signs of vomiting, pain, sudden changes in behavior, depression or diarrhea, call your veterinarian or local emergency clinic. Have a safe and happy holidays!

In the case of Kaiser, this was his second keratotomy. Since both of Kaiser's eyes were treated, he will no longer get this type of ulcer ever again. Kaiser is doing great and should make a full recovery!

Welcome to the Team, Rachel & Elizabeth!



Rachel grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and decided to move to California last year to chase her dreams of living on the West Coast. Rachel joins our team with 10+ years as an animal caretaker. Leaving her love of boarding and dog training back in Chicago, she has enthusiastically joined our team to replace the lost interaction.

Rachel attended Arizona State University earning her B.S. in Organizational Leadership. Currently she lives in Palo Alto with her roommate, Kaiser — a 75 lb. red nose American Staffordshire Terrier. In her free time, she enjoys live music, adventuring outdoors and making jewelry.

Elizabeth was raised in Oregon and moved to California for her undergraduate degree. She recently graduated from UC Davis with a degree in Wildlife Biology and a minor in Classical Civilizations. Elizabeth has always loved spending time with animals, and has kept them in her life by volunteering at the Oregon Zoo and researching the effects of bacterial infections and pesticides on Japanese medaka. Elizabeth is excited to join the team and learn more about eye diseases in pets in hopes of pursuing a career in the field of veterinary medicine. In her free time, she enjoys playing tennis, watching movies, and going to the beach.

