

THE PAW PRINT

CANINE AND FELINE ALLERGIES

AUGUST 2008

SUMMER SCRATCHING:

WHAT CAUSES OUR FOUR LEGGED FRIENDS TO ITCH!

YOU'VE GOT MAIL:

The Paw Print needs your input! If your pet has an interesting or motivational story, let us know!

We need client letters for our "You've Got Mail" section. You can address it to a certain doctor about a job well done, or to other clients about something you've learned and applied with your own pet. Pictures are welcome.

Please feel free to make suggestions about topics you would like to see in future issues!

JUST THE FACTS:

- Food allergy requires time to develop; most animals have been eating the offending food for years with no trouble!
- It's a good idea to rinse your dog off with a hose after swimming in the lake to help prevent skin irritation.
- Carrots and green beans make good treats for dogs with food allergies.
- We carry a variety of hypoallergenic diets. Hill's Science Diet D/D & Z/D, Blue Buffalo, and Eagle Pack are all available.

One of the most common health issues for pets are allergies. Allergies can be related to fleas, food, or the environment.

Inhalant allergies, or Atopy, is as common for pets as it is for people. It usually produces seasonal itchiness, though after several years, the itchy period can extend. Atopy is associated with irritation in certain parts of the body. In dogs, these areas are: around eyes and mouth, ear infections, "armpits", abdomen, area around anus, and legs. In cats, the allergic pattern may be facial, reflected by hair loss, or show as a rash of tiny scabs in various parts of the body.

Treatment for atopic dermatitis usually starts with a cortisone type medication. Long-acting, cortisone type injections are sometimes used in cats, who are frequently not amenable to taking pills, and dogs with

severe cases. Inhalant allergies can be diagnosed by a blood test.

Another cause of your pet's itching could be food allergies. With these, you see year round problems which show signs mostly around the mouth, ears, and anus.

Common food allergens in animals include protein sources like meat and dairy as well as corn and wheat. Unlike atopy, there is no accurate blood test to determine food allergies. It can be a long process with a lot of trial and error.

A hypoallergenic food is most likely going to need to be homemade or bought as a prescription food. Most grocery store brands contain other ingredients that could invalidate your diet trail.

There are many animals whose conditions improve drastically when taken off of processed food and put on

homemade. These changes may take time to notice or be almost immediate.

Flea allergies are usually diagnosed by observation of the patten of itch and finding evidence of fleas. They tend to be found around the base of the tail and stomach. There are several ways to fight off fleas. Topical, pill, or shampoo products are acceptable and may involve some trial and error.



Pictured here is a variety of hypoallergenic diets & treats that we carry.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE:

DR. CLAUDE SCHUMPERT

Dr. Claude Schumpert graduated from the University of Georgia in May of 1990. He received his undergraduate BS degree in Agricultural Sciences from Clemson University in May of 1986. He grew up in Newberry, SC.

Dr. Schumpert and his wife, Missy, have two daughters, Ashton and Logan. They share their home with

two cats and two Golden Retrievers.

Dr. Schumpert and his family are members of Chapin Baptist Church and are very active in several community organizations. He is currently the acting chair for the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

Dr. Schumpert enjoys softball, golf, and volleyball. He also collects coins and Department 56 - Snow Village.





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T H E P A W P R I N T

DFAH'S 1ST ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL: COME COOL OFF AND MEET OUR STAFF!

Dutch Fork Animal Hospital is having an Ice Cream Social! Bring your friends and family, of the two and four legged persuasion, and join in the fun!

On Sunday, August 17th at Crooked Creek Park in Chapin, DFAH will be providing Marble Slab ice cream, beverages, and lots of goodies and information for your pets. The social starts at one o'clock and is open to everyone. We hope to see a lot of new faces as well as some familiar ones!

Although the ice cream is only

for the people, we will have little treats and snacks available for your pets.

Also joining in the festivities will be Pawsitively Heaven Pet Massage. Owned by Lisa Baldwin, it is a holistic approach to your pet's wellness care. She uses a combination of traditional massage, acupressure, positional release, healing touch, and animal communication.

Lisa will be providing a demonstration of some of her techniques as well as plenty of in-

formation for those that are interested.

Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions about this event! Remember to get there before it melts!

I need more filler! Help!

